

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 28 AUGUST 2017**

**RE: YOUNG MAN SENTENCED TO NINE LIFE IMPRISONMENT TERMS FOR RAPE**

Today, Mbudzeni Christopher Nematili (25) of Ha-Mangilasi village was handed nine life sentences for nine counts of rape, fifteen years' imprisonment on each of the two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances and six years' imprisonment on each of the three counts of housebreaking with intent to rape by the High Court sitting in Thohoyandou.

The offences were committed between 22 September 2012 and 21 December 2012. The accused would break and enter the homes of victims and rape them, armed with two big knives. He was terrorizing victims staying with their mothers or grandmothers in Ramukhuba and Dzwerani Villages in the Vhembe district.

The accused used to cover his face with a balaclava and the victims could not identify him. He was placed at the scene of crimes by DNA results. He pleaded not guilty and was found guilty as charged on 23 August 2017.

In aggravation of sentence, the State Prosecutor, Advocate Nnyambeni Nekhambele, argued that the accused was not remorseful, some of the victims were under the age of 16 years and that they were raped more than once in a violent manner. He further submitted that the accused should be removed from society and be kept in prison for life.

The court indicated that the accused is a real terror to women in the community. It further stated that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances justifying deviation from the minimum sentence.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi - Dzhangi**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo**

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