

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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**RE: YOUNG MAN SENTENCED TO THREE LIFE SENTENCES FOR RAPE
& MURDER**

Last week, the High Court sitting in Thohoyandou sentenced Lutendo Maano Ratshinyiwaho (26) to three life sentences for two counts of rape and murder, 15 years imprisonment on each of the two counts of house robberies and eight years imprisonment for attempted murder.

Ratshinyiwaho used to terrorize his victims in Tshilungoma, Mbilwi and Tshififi villages. In respect to count 1 and 2, the accused met his victim during the day, produced a knife, dragged her to the bush, raped her and stabbed her to death. The other two counts of rape also took place during the day at their respective homes. He would enter their homes and ask for water to drink. When the victims entered inside the house, the accused followed them, produced a knife and raped them.

The accused pleaded guilty as charged. He was placed to the scene of crimes by DNA results.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Nnyambeni Nekhambele led the evidence of one of the victims of rape and the elder sister of the deceased. He submitted that one of the victims sustained serious injuries and she is unable to do domestic chores. It was further submitted that she is still experiencing pains caused by the attack. He submitted that the accused should be removed from the society and be kept in prison for life.

Advocate Nekhambele further submitted that the accused be declared unfit to possess a firearm and that his name be entered into the National Register of Sex Offenders. The court indicated that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances justifying deviation from the Minimum Sentence Act. The court sentenced the accused to three life

sentences which were ordered to run concurrently with other sentences. The accused will serve effective sentence of life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga commended the good work done by prosecutor Nekhambele.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang

Regional Spokesperson: DPP-Limpopo

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