



## **PRESS RELEASE – ABDUCTION CASE MEDIA ADVICE**

The NPA wishes to advise the general public and interested stake holders that the case involving 13 young women who were kidnapped in 2022, came before the Lusaka High Court on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023.

The matter is a case of Gender Based Violence and may prove to be traumatic for the victims and/or their families. The NPA urges our respected media houses to exercise ethical journalism in relation to the case, through the use of pseudonyms and responsible reporting. We also caution the general public against the publishing of misinformation and sensational content, which may result in the re-traumatization of victims and their families.

In this regard the NPA would like to highlight the provisions of Section 84 (5) of the **Children’s Code Act of 2022** as follows:

*(5) In any proceedings concerning a child, whether instituted under this Act or any other written law, a child’s name, identity, home, last place of residence, school or the particulars of the child’s parents, photograph, depiction or caricature of the child shall not be published or revealed in any publication, report or otherwise.*

*(6) In this section, “report” includes a law report.*

*(7) A person who contravenes subsection (5) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.*

Section 38 of the **Anti-Gender Based Violence Act, 2011** states:

**38.** *(1) A person shall not publish a report of proceedings under this Act, other than criminal proceedings, except with the leave of court.*

*(2) Where a person reports proceedings under subsection (1), the person shall protect the identity of the complainant and any witness to the proceedings.*

*(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) commits an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand penalty units or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or to both*

The NPA will not hesitate to invoke the provisions of the aforesaid law to **any** person that will contravene the Law as provided.