Lagos ‘handled 4, 035 rape, child abuse cases in one year’

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Lagos ‘handled 4, 035 rape, child abuse cases in one year’  
  
Lagos State Government handled 4, 035 cases of rape, child abuse, sexual assault and abuse, defilement, divorce, matrimonial issues and child custody and maintenance in the last one year, Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Mr Adeniji Kazeem said yesterday.  
  
It said it would prosecute perpetrators of domestic violence no matter how highly placed they may be.  
  
Kazeem was briefing reporters at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre in Alausa, Ikeja, on the activities of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) in the last one year. He said the agency handled 192 cases.  
  
Of the 192 cases, 89 were domestic violence, 62 defilement, 18 rape, six attempted rape, 10 child neglect and seven child abuse. Ninety cases are pending in court.  
  
Kazeem said the government has zero-tolerance for domestic violence and child abuse and would not relent until they are curbed.  
  
He said agencies of government, including DSVRT, Office of Public Defender (OPD) and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), have been mandated to ensure that perpetrators of these acts are brought to justice and victims are given succour.  
  
“As regards provision of shelter for victims, the Ministries of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and Youth and Social Development and their strategic partners have played key roles in ensuring that victims are evacuated to a safer environment of shelter homes.  
  
“All the victims of sexual assault received medical attention from Mirabel Centre and state hospitals, and so far, 50 of such cases have been charged to court,” he said, adding: “As we all know gender violence, violence against children and all forms of inhuman treatment against the less privileged have been very critical issues for Governor Akinwunmi Ambode. Right from when he was sworn in, he has said that these are issues he would pursue with passion and diligence. He has since then given support to the DSVRT, OPD and related agencies including the police to fight this scourge in other that it should be eliminated.  
  
“Let me sound a note of warning here that no matter how highly placed you are in the society, if you commit any domestic violence crime, Lagos State will go after you and prosecute you in court.”  
  
He said the DSVRT would on Friday hold a free clinic for victims of domestic violence, rape at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa Secretariat. The victims can seek counselling with trained professionals via 08137960048.