Lagos records over 10,000 domestic, sexual violence cases

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The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team stated that it has handled 10,007 cases of domestic and sexual violence involving men, women and children from May 2019 to August 2021.  
  
The state Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Moyosore Onigbanjo (SAN) made the disclosure on Wednesday at a media parley.  
  
He stressed the need to continuously prosecute perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence in the state.  
  
“Between the period of May 2019 to August 2021, 4,150 cases of domestic violence; 177 cases of rape; 255 attempts to commit rape or sexual assault; 246 cases of sexual assault by penetration or threat; 877 cases of separation, neglect of children, and custody of children; 436 cases of child abuse; 271 defilement cases; 454 cases of child labour; and 148 cases of sexual harassment or molestation were handled by the state through the Domestic Violence and Sexual Response Team,” Onigbanjo said.  
  
The Commissioner stated that, since May 2019, the DSVRT had received about 150 new cases monthly, adding that the state also witnessed an increase in reports of cases from other states, mostly from Ogun and Oyo States.  
  
“In the past two years, a total of 526 cases occurred outside Lagos. Such cases are promptly referred to the relevant agencies in their respective states.  
  
“The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team which was conceived in September 2014 is in alignment with the ‘THEMES’ Agenda of Governor Sanwo-olu’s administration, particularly, the pillars of health, education, security and good governance,” Onigbanjo said.  
  
The Commissioner noted that the achievements of the Ministry of Justice stem from the Directorate of Public Prosecution, which had secured over 365 convictions for various sexual offences.  
  
“To ensure that survivors are able to access care at all levels, the Team partnered Ford Foundation in building the capacity of designated private hospitals in order to provide sexual assault management services to survivors.  
  
“The DSVRT Team also partnered with various institutions such as the Office of the Commissioner of Police, the Office of Education Quality Assurance, the Lagos State Teaching Service Commission, the Joint European Union Funded Spotlight Initiative, and the King’s Club Project, amongst others, in a bid to proffer better solutions and promote the awareness of domestic and sexual violence in the state,” the Commissioner said.  
  
While speaking on the outlined activities to commemorate Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month, Onigbanjo said the programme would run for a month with the unveiling of #TeamAlausaPurpleCampaign, a community engagement in view of the number of cases being reported.  
  
He added that the Safeguarding and Child Protection Day would be commemorated while ending the month-long programme with a commendation night.  
  
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