

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: BISHO HIGH COURT SENTENCED A MAN TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT & 15 YEARS FOR POSSESSION OF UNLICENSED FIREARM AND ROBBERY WITH AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Bisho High Court convicted and sentenced a man accused of murder, possession of unlicensed firearm and robbery with aggravating circumstances to life in prison and 15 years and 5 years for possession of ammunition respectively.

It is alleged that the deceased's wife (a social worker) approached the accused, who was a traditional healer to kill the deceased as they had ongoing marital problems.

Initially this was going to be done by way of using traditional medicine "MUTI" but when this plan failed they agreed that the deceased will be shot and killed and the accused was going to be paid a sum of money for the "job". On 05 February 2013 the deceased's wife lured him to a bushy area where the accused pretended to be hitch hiking and there the deceased was shot and killed and his cell phone taken.

The deceased was left in the bushes and was discovered the following morning by community members. The accused pleaded not guilty and the matter went on trial.

The challenge in this matter was that there were no eye witnesses and the case was based on circumstantial evidence, confessions, a pointing out, evidence of cell phone records, evidence of the reconstruction of the scene of crime, ballistic evidence and DNA evidence.

The deceased's cell phone and firearm was found in possession of witnesses who testified they got them from the accused shortly after the murder. The deceased's wife who pleaded guilty on the murder and was already sentenced to 18 years imprisonment, testified as an accomplice witness against the present accused and this was after much convincing by the state to do so.

Despite the accused being a first time offender and twenty four (24) years old at the time of the offences, the court ruled that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances present and sentenced the accused as stated above. Advocate Charlene Coetzee represented the state. We applaud her for a job well done.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes this successful prosecution.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Grahamstown, Bisho, PE, EL & Queenstown
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