

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 31 AUGUST 2017

RE: 18 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR A MURDERER

On 16 August 2017, the Limpopo Local Division sitting in Thohoyandou convicted and sentenced Rofhiwa Given Nevhulamba (29) a resident of Muswodi Dipeni in the district of Mutale to 18 years imprisonment for Murder, 10 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances, eight years imprisonment for illegal possession of unlicensed firearm and five years imprisonment for illegal possession of ammunitions. The sentences will run concurrently with the sentence of murder charge.

The court heard that on 17 October 2014 the accused with another person robbed the victim, an Ethiopian national of his money and a Nissan 1400 bakkie. The victim was shot and died on the scene. The deceased was found the following day. His Nissan bakkie was found in the shack belonging to the mother of the accused on 23 October 2014. When the police confronted the accused and other three male persons they ran away and community members gave chase and apprehended them. The accused claimed that the bakkie belonged to him; about the firearm he said he had hidden it under the mattress. The police searched inside the house but could not find the firearm. Later, it was found in the toilet pit after the accused's mother was confronted.

The accused pleaded not guilty and denied all the allegations. The State Prosecutor, Advocate Zwodangani Mabodi argued for a conviction relying on the circumstantial evidence based on the doctrine of recent possession of the robbed bakkie of the deceased.

Advocate Mabodi argued for minimum sentenced to be imposed but the court deviated from life imprisonment because of his youthfulness, the period he spent in custody and that he was handed to the police by his mother.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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