

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 19 AUGUST 2015

RE: BASIMANEBOTLHE JOHN MOTSEOTHATA SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS

Basimanebotlhe John Motseothata (27) was effectively sentenced to 23 years imprisonment by the North West High Court on murder, housebreaking and robbery, theft and escaping in custody charges. He was sentenced to 21 years for murder, 12 years for housebreaking and robbery, 10 years for theft of motor vehicle and 5 years suspend for 3 years for escaping while in custody. The court ordered that 12 years for housebreaking and robbery and 10 years in respect of theft of motor vehicle run concurrently with 21 years of murder.

The deceased in this matter stayed at a plot in Ottoshop. On 05 October 2014 she came back to find house robbery in progress with culprits still inside. She entered her house through a broken window and she was brutally assaulted by the accused. A number of valuable items were robbed from the house and her car which was parked outside was also taken.

The said vehicle was later involved in an accident and accused claimed that it belonged to his uncle and undertook to fix damages caused by the accident. The accused was linked through the fingerprints and DNA which placed him at the scene of crime. He further made a statement to the magistrate outlining how the offences were committed. A number of items which were robbed from the scene were recovered from the accused. The Doctor indicated that the cause of death was consistent with throttling.

The court stated that the accused could have easily overpowered the deceased, tied her and took whatever he wanted instead of murdering her. The person's home is her sanctuary where she is supposed to be safe, it was emphasised. The commitment that we must fight crime and keep our streets safe seems to be poignant because the streets are becoming safer than our homes. The court further said the war is moving into the holiness of our homes. It further stated that the deceased had two previous convictions

of housebreaking and was not remorseful and ready for rehabilitation despite that the courts were previously lenient on him. It was further stated that unfortunately life is lost and no sentence can ever bring back someone's life, therefore the court must impose stiffer sentence that will serve as deterrence.

The NPA congratulates Adv Ditaba Rantsane for a job well done and also welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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