

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 08 JULY 2016

RE: KILLER SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS

Yesterday, the Butterworth Regional Court sentenced 24 year old Sibongile Ntsabo to eighteen years after he was convicted of murder, committed two years ago.

According to evidence presented in court, the deceased, Sandile Mtshotsha, was a councillor for the traditional council of Nywarha Locality in the district of Dutywa. Two weeks before his killing, he had taken part in the traditional council's leadership that administered corporal punishment on Ntsabo. The council had then found Ntsabo guilty of attempting to strong-arm a local girl to be his girlfriend. On the evening of 30 March 2014, Ntsabo was walking with a group of soccer players from a soccer practise when they came across the elderly Mtshotsha herding his cattle home. Ntsabo then informed the group that the deceased had "showed off" by assaulting him at the traditional council and he needed to be taught a lesson. He then attacked Mtshotsha with a dagger-knife, stabbing him 30 times and killing him instantly.

During the trial, Ntsabo pleaded not guilty, claiming self-defence alleging that the elderly man had tried to attack him with a knobkerrie. However, the evidence of eye-witnesses, including some of those who were part of the group walking with Ntsabo from the soccer practise, sealed his fate and the court found him guilty and accordingly sentenced him.

The NPA welcomes these sentences and Director of Public Prosecutions in the Eastern Cape Mthatha Division, Advocate Barry Madolo commends Regional Court Prosecutor Luyanda Gobingca for ensuring that justice is served.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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