

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 01 JUNE 2016

RE: FIFTEEN YEARS FOR KILLING OWN BROTHER

On Wednesday (25 May 2016) the Ngcobo Regional Court convicted and sentenced 28 year old Yanga Tolbadi to fifteen years imprisonment for the murder of his elder brother Kunene Tolbadi in August last year.

According to evidence presented in court, the murderer stole sheep wool from the neighbourhood and hid it at the home he shared with his brother at Masonwabe Township in the district of Ngcobo. When he could not find the wool, he suspected his brother of having stolen it. At about 13h00 on August 2015, Yanga confronted his brother about the disappearance of his stolen loot but the deceased denied any dealings with the wool, which angered the killer. He took out a dagger knife, stabbed the deceased once on his upper body and thereafter, packed his clothes and ran away but police caught up with him and he was promptly arrested, with the dagger knife still in his possession.

During the trial, Yanga pleaded not guilty claiming that he stabbed the deceased in self-defence as he had been cornered against the fence at their home and there was no one to help him. However, regional court prosecutor Loyiso Methuso led evidence of an eyewitness, presented statements made by the murderer during his arrest and the results of the post-mortem. The court was critical of the killer's evidence as he was clearly exposed to be a dishonest witness during cross-examination by the state and his evidence was rejected.

Methuso convinced the court that, even though the accused was a first offender, there were no substantial and compelling circumstances for it to deviate from the prescribed 15-year prison term.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will deter other would-be murderers.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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