

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 14 JUNE 2016**

**RE: 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR KILLERS**

Celani Mnyaka (25) and Vusumuzi Sakhiseni Gcwabaza (38) were each sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in the Pietermaritzburg High Court yesterday after they pleaded guilty to the murder of Buzani Zondani Makhanya last month.

Both accused and the deceased lived in the greater area of Kranskop. Sometime prior to the incident, the father of accused 2 passed away. This accused suspected the deceased, his distant relative, of practising witchcraft on his father, thus leading to his death. He conspired with his co-accused to kill her.

They armed themselves with a firearm and went to the deceased's home on 19 April 2016 where they shot her and she died as a result of a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Frank van Heerden told the court that the attack on the deceased was planned and premeditated. He asked that the court send a clear message to the community and would be offenders that this type of conduct is unacceptable and perpetrators will face the might of the law.

The NPA welcomes this sentence. This sentence serves to reiterate our stance that crime will not be tolerated.

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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