

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 14 June 2016

RE: MURDERER SENTENCED TO FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT

The Limpopo High Court convicted Thomas Kgathola from Lebowakgomo on a count of murder. The court sentenced him to 15 years imprisonment last week Thursday.

On 19 September 2004, the deceased, Thabo Benneth Makhura was killed by the accused, who was his stepfather. The neighbours heard that the child was crying during the night of 18 September 2004, the same night they alerted the sister of the accused. The following day the sister arrived in the house and found blood on the bed and on the floor. The police were called and the accused and the child were nowhere to be found. The accused was later arrested on 24 December 2015. The accused voluntarily made the pointing out and led the police to where he buried the body of the deceased. The remains of the deceased were found under a grave of stones. The DNA of the mother of the deceased was taken to compare the DNA of the deceased and the results were positive.

He pleaded not guilty, however, he asked his sister who reported the case to the police to forgive him. The accused testified that he was given liquor with 'muti', thereafter, he did not recall what happened. He acted alone to commit such offence.

Advocate Nozizwe Molepo led evidence of four witnesses and hearsay evidence in terms of section 3(1)(c) of Act 45 of 1988. Advocate Molepo further argued for the imposition of the prescribed minimum sentence. The court rejected the version of the accused as blatant lies and accepted the evidence of the state and commended the sister who assisted the police. The court sentenced the accused to 15 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the DPP Limpopo, Advocate Ivy Thenga commends Advocate Molepo and the investigation team for their work and dedication in ensuring that justice is served.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo

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