

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 14 OCTOBER 2016**

**RE: HUSBAND GETS 24 YEARS FOR KILLING HIS WIFE**

On 11 October 2016, the Limpopo High Court sentenced Isaac Maimela (30) to 24 years imprisonment for the offences he committed on 08 November 2014 at Moletjie village. The deceased, Thelma Ranoto (29), was married to the accused but leaving separately in their parental homes respectively.

The deceased left her place of work to her home but she never reached her homestead. The body of the deceased was later found in the veld the following day by members of the community. The police and the family of the deceased were alerted and they went to the crime scene together with the accused. The accused was travelling in his aunt's motor vehicle.

The police investigated the whereabouts of his own motor vehicle and eventually located it at Glasfit in Polokwane. The damaged window was seized by the police as an exhibit and after further investigations they realized that the door panel of the accused's motor vehicle had a bullet hole. The interior of the accused's motor vehicle was also wet, indicating that it had been washed probable in the early hours of the morning. The police opened the door panel and found a fired bullet stuck inside the front passenger door. The accused then handed over his legal fireman to the police which was under the driver's seat. The application of the blue star chemical also assisted the forensic investigators to find further blood stains in the motor vehicle.

The ballistic expert positively connected the fired bullet found in the accused's motor vehicle with the firearm belonging to the accused. The blood stains found in the motor vehicle of the accused also matched the blood sample of the deceased. The shattered

passenger door window was also found to be consistent with a defect caused by a fired bullet. The state successfully proved its case beyond reasonable doubt against the accused person, by leading the forensic evidence of the Forensic experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory.

He pleaded not guilty and exercised his constitutional right to remain silent. The accused was accordingly convicted as charged.

Advocate Trott Mphahlele argued for the accused to be sentenced to life imprisonment in terms of Section 51 (1) of Criminal Law Amendment Act 105 of 1997. However, the court found that there were substantial and compelling reasons justifying a deviation from the prescribed minimum sentence. The accused was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment for the count of murder and 4 years for the count of defeating the ends of justice. The sentences will run concurrently.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi- Dzhang**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo**

**Enquiries: [mmalabi@npa.gov.za](mailto:mmalabi@npa.gov.za)**

**074 823 3603**