

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

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

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 27 September 2016

RE: TRADITIONAL HEALER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT PLUS FIVE YEARS

The Thohoyandou Local Division sentenced Vhusiwana Nelson Baloyi, a traditional healer, to life imprisonment for the ritual murder of Mercy Ndou (33) and five years for robbing her cell phone. The 50 year-old man from Guyuni, unlawfully and intentionally killed Mercy Ndou by cutting parts of her body while she was still alive.

On 27 May 2014 the deceased left her place of residence at Shayandima location. The mutilated body of the deceased was discovered on 15 June 2014 with some of the body parts missing by a herd boy who was looking for cattle. The boy alerted the community and the police were called to the scene. The accused was later arrested on 1 July 2014 at Ethwathwa in Gauteng after the cell phone of the deceased was traced by the police. The accused failed to explain his possession of the phone.

Throughout the trial the accused indicated that he was forced to be at the scene of crime to throw divination bones to make sure that everything is in order. According to the accused he only witnessed some people known to him cutting the deceased body parts.

During sentencing the state submitted that the accused is a wolf in the sheep's skin who took the deceased to the slaughter house with the latter suspecting nothing as she trusted him as her traditional healer. Advocate Makhera also mentioned that cases involving ritual murders are always difficult because the perpetrators planned carefully and it is not easy to get the witnesses to testify in court because they are intimidated and sometimes eliminated to prevent them from implicating the murderers.

The court expressed shock about the senseless killing of the deceased and how the accused had no appreciation for human life.

The NPA welcomes this judgement and also congratulates Advocate Ratshilumela Makhera for the job well done.

Kind Regards,

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo