

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 31 JANUARY 2016**

**RE: RHINO POACHER GETS 28 YEARS**

On 25 January 2017, the Nelspruit Regional Court sentenced Simon Ngomane (35) to 28 years imprisonment for trespassing, illegal hunting of rhinos, theft of rhino horns, and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

The accused in this matter is a traditional healer and is one of the three who was shot and arrested following a shootout with rangers in the Tshokwane area of the Kruger National Park on 11 December 2011. Rhino horns were found on the scene during the time of the arrest. Two of his accomplices escaped to Mozambique.

The bail against the accused was refused as the state believed that the accused might flee the country. During the trial, Advocate Isabet Erwee led evidence of rangers, ballistic reports for the firearm that was used during the incident, the recovered rhino horns as well as the DNA report.

Handing down the judgement, Magistrate Andre Geldenhuys stated that crimes committed were motivated by sheer greed hence he sentenced the accused to 28 years direct imprisonment.

Welcoming the sentence, the DPP in Mpumalanga, Advocate Sibongile Mzinyathi applauded the work done by Advocate Isabet Erwee and the team with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded poachers.

Kind Regards,

**Monica Nyuswa**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga Satellite Office**

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