

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

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**RE : BLOEMFONTEIN MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR CULPABLE
HOMICIDE**

A 35 year-old man from Bloemfontein was yesterday sentenced to 10 years imprisonment after he was found guilty of culpable homicide and violation of a corpse by the Free State High Court. Judge AJ Chesuwe sentenced Godfrey Maphobole to 10 years for causing the death of his wife and burning her body in November 2015.

The court heard that Maphobole had banged his then 26 year-old wife, Thulani Gqamane's head against a wall after a heated argument on the night of 27 November 2015 at their home in Langenhoven Park. Maphobole walked out of the house as the deceased collapsed. He came back a few hours later to find her dead on the floor.

Maphobole put the deceased's body in his car and drove to his hometown of Winburg. He kept the body in the boot of the car until Sunday morning when he took the body to a dumping site after buying petrol at a local filling station and burnt it. The petrol was in a five litre container.

He set the body of the victim on fire at a Winburg landfill site. Some of the homeless people residing near the landfill called the police upon discovering the body in flames. Maphobole had poured petrol over the body and set it ablaze.

In court, Maphobole's lawyer, Johan Nel, requested the court to sentence the accused to a non-custodial sentence because he has shown remorse and has never been on the wrong side of the law before the incident. However, State Prosecutor, Advocate Sophie Giorgi requested the court to sentence the accused to direct imprisonment because he burnt the body of the wife he claimed to love like trash.

“This kind of behaviour should not be condoned. The whole of South Africa is against domestic violence hence we have campaigns such as 16 Days of Activism Against Women and Children. Disposing the body is an aggravating circumstance and the court should impose a sentence that will deter others from committing the same crime,” said Giorgi.

Judge Chisiwe concurred with the state prosecutor and subsequently sentenced Maphobole to 10 years for culpable homicide and three years for violation of a corpse. Maphobole will effectively spend 10 years in prison after the judge ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

The NPA welcomes this sentence.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

083 699 5900

pshuping@npa.gov.za