

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2018**

**RE: BOYFRIEND SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER**

The Thohoyandou High Court Sentenced Edward Ngoben (29) of Senwamokgope village to life imprisonment for murder of his girlfriend.

The court heard during trial that on 13 August 2017 the deceased arrived at the accused grandmother's homestead at night half naked saying she was being assaulted by the accused who had bitten her nose. The accused grandmother hid the deceased in the bathroom and locked her but the accused arrived shortly and started searching for her until he found her, after breaking down the bathroom door. The accused assaulted her further using an iron rod, planks and fists until she collapsed. She died in hospital on the following day.

The state called the grandmother as the only eye witness. She claimed to have memory loss in respect of the incident. The state made an application to declare her a hostile witness and they relied on a written statement made to the police by her during investigation were she had witnessed the killing of the deceased.

In his defence, the accused denied any involvement in the offence. The court rejected his version and found him guilty.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Absah Madzhuta referred the court to the photo album which showed the gruesome manner in which the deceased was killed. He emphasised that the accused had attacked a vulnerable woman who deserved his protection before asking for the imposition of the mandatory life sentence.

Acting Judge Nair Desmond agreed with the state's submissions and remarked that the pictures were something he had not seen before and depicted the accused as a cruel being. He sentenced him to life imprisonment.

The DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga commended the Investigating Team and advocate Madzhuta for their persistence in ensuring that the accused is duly punished for the senseless killing of a woman.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi**  
**Regional Communications Manager**  
**DPP: Limpopo**