

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 24 MAY 2021**

**RE: COURT GIVES SKUKUZA POACHER 25 YEARS**

The Skukuza Regional Court sentenced to 25 years imprisonment a 34-year-old man from Mozambique, Solly Ndimba for poaching related offences.

Ndimba pleaded guilty to the offences and was subsequently convicted of trespassing in the Skukuza National Park, contravention of Immigration Act, possession of prohibited obliterated firearm, possession of ammunition, illegal hunting and killing of rhino. Ndimba was also found in possession of an axe.

Ndimba, together with his accomplice Lucky Sibuyi were arrested in September 2014 around Lower Sabie section by the rangers.

Sibuyi pleaded not guilty as a result the state applied for a separation of trial and his hearing is set down for 25 May 2021.

The state prosecutor, Abednigo Mgiba addressed the court about the impact of rhino poaching on the environment. He said poaching affected the environment by depleting certain species of animals which can cause animals that are endangered to become extinct arguing for a suitable sentence.

The magistrate, MJ Ngobeni sentenced Ndimba to three years imprisonment for trespassing, one year for contravention of Immigration Act, five years for possession of prohibited obliterated firearm, three years for possession of ammunition, 12 years for illegal hunting and killing of a rhino and another year for possession of an axe.

The court ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

The NPA welcomed the conviction and sentence.

**Monica Nyuswa**

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