

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 09 MARCH 2018**

**RE: DUO RECEIVE HEFTY SENTENCE FOR MURDER AND RAPE**

The North West High Court sitting in Mogwase convicted Joseph Mashava and Munyarazi Chimuya for murder, rape, housebreaking with intent to commit an offence, robbery with aggravating circumstances, possession of unlawful firearm and possession of unlawful ammunition. They were sentenced to combined four life imprisonment terms and 52 years.

On 29 January 2017, at around 22h00, the two accused persons visited the house of the deceased and his wife Johanna Van Heerden at their old mining house in Rustenburg. The deceased heard a dog barking outside and he went to investigate. He came across the two accused who assaulted, shot and killed him. Thereafter, they knocked forcefully at the house and Van Heerden did not open the door. They then broke the window. The other accused entered through the window to open the door. They pulled the deceased inside the house and after, held Van Heerden at gunpoint and demanded money and other valuable items. They threatened to kill her just like her husband if she refused to cooperate. She surrendered to them, they took turns on raping her and they took everything in the house.

Police detectives got information alleging that the two accused committed these offences. After the police arrested them, the two accused took them to all places where they hidden those valuable items belonging to the victim. They were further linked through DNA in respect of rape.

During aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Siphiwo Jika argued that the accused committed serious offences and carefully planned their robbery by carrying the firearm to the scene. He further stated that after killing her husband and taking her valuable items, they further humiliated Van Heerden by gang raping her. He further

stated that the accused pleaded not guilty and failed to take responsibility of their actions.

When delivering the judgement, Judge Tebogo Djadje stated that the accused inflicted trauma and pain to the victim by brutalising her husband. The accused were not even remorseful. The judge sentenced the accused to combined four life imprisonment and 52 years.

The DPP in North West, Advocate Johan Smit SC congratulated Advocate Sipiwo Jika on a job well done.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Frank Lesenyego**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West**

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