

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 04 JUNE 2021**

**RE: EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR GIRLFRIEND'S MURDER**

The High Court of South Africa: The Mpumalanga High Court sentenced Kevin Mdhlovu (23) of Agincourt near Mhala to 18 years imprisonment for murder of his girlfriend Nokubonga Zandile Mbatha.

Mdhlovu was convicted of murder after he pleaded guilty to assaulting Mbatha with an amplifier on her head in February 2019. He was further convicted of defeating the ends of justice.

In his plea explanation, Mdhlovu admitted that he was in a love relationship with Mbatha since 2012 and had two children together. On the day of the incident, Mbatha visited Mdhlovu in his place of residence travelling all the way from Gauteng Province. An argument ensued after it appeared that Mbatha had another affair.

This angered him as he felt disrespected and humiliated. He then took an amplifier of his sound system and hit Mbatha on her head, she fell on the ground and died. He then locked her in the house and left her lifeless body in the said room for three days unattended. On the fourth day, Mdhlovu took the deceased body and bury it in his yard. Four months later, he handed himself to the police which resulted to him confessing and pointing out the body of the deceased.

In aggravation of sentence, the state advocate, Zwelethu Mata requested the court to take into consideration the nature of the offence Mdhlovu is convicted of, being femicide. Mata stated that the society require protection from the courts from people like Mdhlovu in order to gain confidence in the criminal justice system. He said, Mbatha was 21 years of age at the time of her death and still had life ahead of her. He added that when the crime was committed, Mbatha was defenseless and unarmed therefore a suitable sentence must be imposed to deter future offenders.

Acting Judge, Johanna Mthimunye remarked that killing of intimate partners is a serious problem in our country. She sentenced Mdhlovu to 15 years imprisonment for murder and 5 years imprisonment for defeating the ends of justice. The court ordered two years of the sentence imposed in respect of count 2 to run concurrently with the sentence imposed on count 1, the effective sentence being 18 years imprisonment. The NPA welcomed the conviction and sentence.

**Monica Nyuswa**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mpumalanga**

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