

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 05 APRIL 2017**

**RE: FOUR ACCUSED GIVEN HEFTY SENTENCES**

The North West High Court sentenced Mohammed Dikhuu, Thabo Mokiti and Michael Kenosi for the murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances of Zhihua Chen. Mohammed Dikhuu was sentenced to 24 years for murder and 9 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, Thabo Mokiti received 23 years for murder and 8 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances while Michael Kenosi was sentenced to 22 years for murder and 8 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

On 19 January 2015, the four accused met with the deceased, Zhihua Chen at his One Stop Liquor Store. He was attacked, robbed and his hands were tied. They then took him to his room at the back of the business premises where he was further assaulted with hammer on his head and the body.

The accused fled the scene taking valuable items such as laptops, iPhones, alcohol to the value of R16 361.00 and cash of R8 200.00. Chen succumbed to injuries inflicted by the accused and was found dead on his bottle store the same day. The accused were arrested after they were linked through the informer and finger prints to the crime.

During the trial Dikhuu, Mokiti and Kenosi pleaded guilty to the murder of Zhihua Chen and robbery with aggravating circumstances while Alex Tjempi pleaded not guilty. The trio were then sentenced. The state made an application for separation of trial for accused no 4, Alex Tjempi. He faced murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and house breaking with intent to rob. Both Kenosi and Mokiti who are Tjempi's co-accused testified that he took part in the murder and robbery of Chen.

During aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Phendulwa Zondo argued that the deceased was attacked at the comfort of his place and was assaulted with hammer. He further stated the offence was committed by a group of persons acting in

execution and furtherance of common purpose therefore life sentences will be appropriate.

The court found the trio guilty of murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and house breaking with intent to rob Zhihua Chen and received hefty sentences. Tjempi was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances and 3 years for house breaking with intent to rob.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the DPP; Advocate Johan Smit SC congratulated Advocate Phendulwa Zondo for her diligent work.

Kind Regards,

**Frank Lesenyego**  
**Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West**  
**078 801 5756**