

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 27 JULY 2015

RE: LIFE SENTENCE FOR BRUTAL KILLING

North West High Court sitting in Mogwase, sentenced Eduard Pretorius to life imprisonment for the murder of Maria Ntogi Mathe. The 34 year-old from Swartruggens, unlawfully and intentionally killed Maria Ntogi Mathe by assaulting her with sharp object.

On 24 January 2014 the accused was at Theo's Sport Bar in Swartruggens. The deceased also arrived. He then approached the deceased on several occasions indicating his desire to sleep with her. They both went outside the bar and argument ensued. The accused came back, bought a beer and left the bar. They were later seen leaving the place together in the early morning hours of 25 January 2014.

When the accused arrived at home, his clothing and shoes were covered in blood. He said he was involved in a fight at Borelelo. He had a cut on his finger and a scratch on his arm. The accused handed the knife in his possession to his brother. His brother cleaned the blood-stained knife. He was arrested and made confession to killing the deceased and disguised the death as a sangoma ritual. The mutilated body of the deceased was discovered on 26 January 2014 with some of the body parts missing.

The court expressed shock about the senseless killing of the deceased and how the accused had no appreciation for human life. The NPA welcomes this judgement and also congratulates Adv Cain Nontenjwa for the job well done. The NPA reaffirms its commitment to the war that it has declared against all perpetrators of violence against the vulnerable.

Kind Regards,

Frank Lesenyego
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