

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 11 APRIL 2019

RE: KILLER BOYFRIEND SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS

A boyfriend who killed his live-in lover and buried her body in a shallow grave, was yesterday, 10 April 2019, sentenced to an effective 15 years imprisonment by the Virginia Regional Court after he pleaded guilty to murder and defeating the ends of justice. Magistrate Sonwabo Mgudlwa sentenced Tebello Paleli (24) to 15 years for murder and three years for defeating the ends of justice.

In a plea agreement that was read to the court by his legal representative, Paleli, from Meloding Township in Virginia, stated that on 30 May 2018, he had an argument with his girlfriend, Difedile Annah Thupudi (23) after accusing her of cheating on him. A fight ensued between them and he bumped the deceased's head against the floor before strangling her.

Upon realising that she is dead, he dug up a shallow grave and buried her body. Police got a tip off of the body being buried in a shallow grave. They dug up the body a day after he buried it. Paleli admitted to the police that he murdered the deceased and buried her body.

State Prosecutor, Ramontseng Lekhetho told the court that despite the accused pleading guilty and not wasting state resources, he must be punished severely for his crimes because he has robbed the family of the deceased of a daughter.

"Even though he has pleaded guilty he must be punished for his evil deeds. His actions robbed the family of the deceased of a daughter. The accused should know that murder is a not a solution to solving disputes of this nature", said Lekhetho.

Magistrate Mgudlwa accepted the accused's plea of guilt as he had admitted to all the elements of both offences and found him guilty as charged. He subsequently sentenced

him to 15 years for murder and three years for defeating the ends of justice. Paleli will effectively serve 15 years imprisonment after the magistrate ordered the sentences to run concurrently. He was also declared unfit to possess a firearm.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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