

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 01 AUGUST 2017

RE: KILLER SENTENCED TO LIFE

The killer of three Arosi family members, Maqawe Lungu (20), was last week sentenced to an effective life imprisonment term after he was convicted on three counts of murder by the Mthatha Regional Court. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for each of the premeditated murders of Lindiwe Arosi (52) and her daughter Thandokazi Arosi (20) and 18 years on the count of murder of Lindiwe's son Buntu Arosi (25). The court ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

Evidence presented in court was that Lungu's brother died earlier last year and he believed that Buntu was responsible for his death. On the evening of 19 June 2016, Lungu armed himself with an R5 assault rifle and went to the Arosi homestead in Mhlaka street, Waterfall Location in the district of Mthatha. At about 20h00 Lungu arrived at the Arosi homestead and found the gate unlocked, and when he got inside the house he shot randomly at the four occupants in the house without saying a word, instantly killing three. One person escaped unharmed during the assault.

Lungu pleaded guilty but his plea explanation that he was provoked into committing the triple murders was rejected by the court. Regional Court Prosecutor, Wanda Quluba objected to the killer's plea explanation on the grounds that it is inconsistent with the evidence contained in the docket and the court agreed. Had the court accepted Lungu's plea explanation, he would have been convicted for a lesser charge of murder, not premeditated murder, and he could have escaped with a lighter sentence.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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