

# 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: 08 JUNE 2017**

**RE: LIFE & 35 YEARS FOR MURDER AND ROBBERY OF FARMER**

Rodgers Sphamandla Ndlovu (27) was sentenced to life and 35 years imprisonment in the Durban High Court today after being convicted of housebreaking, robbery with aggravating circumstances, murder, unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition.

The 80 year-old deceased, Paul Hyett Sheperd lived on his farm, 'Misty Ridge' in the Tongaat area for the past 52 years together with his 78 year-old wife. In June last year, the accused together with some assailants planned to rob and kill the deceased. They armed themselves with tools and weapons including a bush knife and burrowed under the electric fence on the property. They broke into and entered the house where they demanded money from the deceased's wife. They then attacked the deceased, severely assaulting him.

They stole a firearm, cell phone and cash. The deceased was taken to hospital where he eventually succumbed to his injuries and died a few weeks later.

The Senior State Advocate, Khatija Essack led the testimony of a witness that was with the accused prior to the robbery. She also led evidence that the accused was found in possession of the deceased's firearm and cell phone.

A victim impact statement compiled by the deceased's son and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Xolile Mzobe was handed in to the court. In the statement, the man tells of the trauma his family has been through since the incident. He talks about his father's brutal assault and how his mother's physical and mental condition has significantly deteriorated.

The accused was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, 5 years imprisonment for housebreaking, 15 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances and

15 years imprisonment for the unlawful possession of the firearm and ammunition. The presiding officer ordered that the sentences run consecutively.

Welcoming the sentence, the KZN Director of Public Prosecutions Advocate Moipone Noko said, "This sentence is very welcomed and really appropriate. It is so unfortunate that the life of an elderly and vulnerable person was snuffed out in such a brutal and cowardly manner."

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

**Enquiries: [nramkisson@npa.gov.za](mailto:nramkisson@npa.gov.za)**

**0716700229**