

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 07 OCTOBER 2019**

**RE: LIFE BEHIND BARS FOR STABBING GIRLFRIEND TO DEATH**

The Limpopo High Court sentenced Elmon Mekencele Malangane (35) from Mopani district to life imprisonment on Monday, 07 October for fatally stabbing his lover. He was earlier convicted of the killing of one Melita Jane Shikati, his erstwhile girlfriend.

According to evidence led in court, on 28 April 2018 in the morning, Malangane left his girlfriend at their homestead to attend a funeral in the village. On his return later, the girlfriend was nowhere to be found. He unsuccessfully tried to trace her in the neighbourhood until he proceeded to her parental home, where she still could not be found. He then became angry and promised her relatives and friends that he will kill her should he find her. He also threatened to kill one Patience Mukansi, a friend to his girlfriend whom he accused of leading her astray.

Later that evening when the girlfriend returned, the accused found her in their room and stabbed her several times with a knife. She died moments later at the scene. The post-mortem examination showed she was stabbed 14 times.

In mitigation of sentence, the accused testified that he regretted his actions and that he was remorseful. He also asked the court to consider that he was a first time offender.

In aggravation, the state called the younger sister of the deceased, who told the court that they do not accept the accused's apology as in their view it was not sincere. She also said that the accused has brought agony upon the deceased's three children who must now face life without their mother.

State advocate Mashudu Mudau submitted that the offence was calculated and gruesome before submitting that there are no substantial and compelling circumstances warranting a deviation from the prescribed minimum sentence.

Judge Kganyago agreed with the state's submission and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment.

The NPA condemns any form of abuse and/or violence against women.

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhangi**

**Regional Spokesperson**

**DPP Limpopo**