

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 12 APRIL 2019**

**RE: LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR NEPHEW WHO MURDERED UNCLE**

A merciless nephew who murdered his uncle in Denver Hostel in Johannesburg will serve life imprisonment after the High Court in Johannesburg sentenced him to life plus five years in jail on 11 April 2019. Judge Ramarumo Monama sentenced Nhlakanipho Mdlalose (28) for charges of murder, assault and defeating the ends of justice.

On 26 March 2017, Mdlalose, his uncle, Thulani Buthelezi and others were playing a game of cards at the hostel. A fight broke out between Mdlalose and his uncle. Mdlalose then went to his place of residence and fetched a knife to stab his uncle on the body and face. The 28 year old was apprehended by the hostel's Induna (supervisor) who handed him to the police.

In aggravation of sentence, State Advocate Solomon Sinthumule argued that the only suitable sentence the accused deserves is life imprisonment. During trial, evidence was led about the character of Mdlalose, who, unprovoked, would go into the hostel and assault people. The right to life is protected by the constitution and courts have an obligation to uphold the supreme law of the country by ensuring that those who undermine such rights pay the price.

In handing down the judgement, Judge Monama held that, although the accused is a first time offender, evidence before the court demonstrated that he is a violent individual and that society needs protection from such individuals. The court considered that the accused was not remorseful and therefore found that the prospects of rehabilitation were slim.

The NPA is duty bound to promote the right to life of all citizens and together with its partners in the criminal justice system, will continue to advocate for justice.

Kind Regards,

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