

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 2021**

**RE: MAN WHO KILLED GIRLFRIEND AND SET HER ALIGHT SENTENCED**

A 29-year-old man, Mpho Thobane was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by the Johannesburg Magistrates' Court earlier today.

Thobane was found guilty of murder. His girlfriend, Viwe Dalingozi (32) succumbed to severe burn wounds at a Johannesburg hospital in November 2018 after Thobane doused her with petrol and set her alight in her flat.

On the day of the incident, the couple had an argument about Thobane seeing Dalingozi with her ex-boyfriend and homeboy. Thobane waited for her to fall asleep and poured her with petrol and set her alight.

State Prosecutor, Welcome Madela, presented a Victim Impact Statement compiled by the Court Preparation Officer, Brenda Lindiswa Tyukala, who is based in the Eastern Cape where Dalingozi's family stays.

Her uncle, Fezile Dalingozi, detailed the psychological trauma and financial loss suffered by the family. "Her mother and two brothers' health deteriorated and were diagnosed with depression and anxiety as a result of this gruesome incident. The trips to Johannesburg before and after her death proved to be very heavy on the pocket of our poor family. Having seen her in that state continues to be traumatic for the mother and the entire family," read parts of the statement. He continued to explain how the family noticed that Dalingozi's elder brother suffered mental disturbance as a result of losing his only little sister.

Madela argued that Thobane has shown no remorse and that the family will never see their loved one again. "The images of their loved ones' last days will stay with them for a lifetime. It is the duty of this court to instil public confidence in our criminal justice system by imposing a sentence indicative of the commitment of the justice system in dealing with gender based violence," he said.

The court said that gender based violence is prevalent in South Africa and that society is dependent on the criminal justice system for protection. "The community deserve to live

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

in a better world, a world in which the life of a female is valued by all," said Magistrate Hombakazi Thwele. She also found factors such as that Dalingozi died at the hands of her lover, who was supposed to protect her and that she died at her place where she was supposed to feel safe, as aggravating enough to impose a sentence in excess of the minimum prescribed sentence of 15 years.

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