

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN GETS LIFE FOR MURDER

The North West High Court sitting in Vryburg sentenced Ohentse Kentsemotse to life imprisonment for the murder of Golebamang Patricia Oepeng.

On 03 February 2015, the deceased was at home with some of her villagers in Phaposane near Ganyesa. Kentsemotse entered the residential premises of the deceased. Apparently, one gentleman who was seated outside informed the accused that the deceased was inside the house.

After the accused entered the room where the deceased was, an argument ensued. It appeared that the accused had locked himself and the deceased inside the room. After sometime, there was quietness from the house and the accused then emerged with a knife in his hand full of blood. The police were called to the scene, and upon arrival, they found the accused person with a blood-stained knife still in his possession. The deceased was certified dead at the scene with twenty three (23) stab wounds all over her body.

The accused was convicted of murder after he initially pleaded guilty, but, his plea of guilty was altered into not guilty by the court after he disputed having any intention to kill the deceased. The state led evidence in court that offence was premeditated or planned because the accused had a knife in his possession when he went to the place of the deceased. The state further stated that upon his arrival at the deceased place, he realized that the deceased was not alone in the premises, and to avoid being stopped or disturbed he locked himself and deceased in a room to execute his plan.

During aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Pitso Sebothe argued that during this unfortunate incident the accused and deceased were no longer staying together and the deceased was attacked while at her place where she supposed to be safe. He further stated that prior to the incident the deceased was subjected to some

form of abuse, hence the deceased's efforts to obtain a domestic violence interdict against the accused on 02 February 2015. The accused and deceased had two minor children, who since the incident were in the custody of the department of social development. The accused has shown absolutely no remorse and he committed what can be described as cruel and barbaric.

When delivering the judgement, Judge Samkelo Gura stated the attack on the deceased was merciless, and must have shocked the deceased's relatives and members of the community where the deceased resided. The offence of murder is prevalent, especially where you find a man killing a woman simply because he is jealous that the woman ends their relationship. The accused was married and should have been loyal to his wife.

The DPP: North West, Advocate Johan Smit SC congratulated Advocate Pitso Sebothe on the good work done.

Kind Regards,

Frank Lesenyego

Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West

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