

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 30 NOVEMBER 2017**

**RE: MAN SENTENCED FOR LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER OF HIS RELATIVE**

Isando Rivimbi (32) was yesterday convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment by the High Court, sitting in Thohoyandou.

During trial, the court heard that on 09 July 2016 at Hlanganani, Rotterdam village Rivimbi and his friend met and hatched a plan to kill his aunt, an 82 year-old woman, whom they suspected of causing illness to his father through witchcraft and sorcery.

Inspired by the suspicion, they proceeded to the deceased's homestead and called her to follow them to the accused's homestead to see the accused's ailing father. The deceased innocently followed them. Upon arrival, she was led into a room where the accused grabbed her and held her hands whilst his friend was cutting her throat with a knife. Her lifeless body was loaded onto a wheelbarrow and dumped at the local cemetery.

The next morning the deceased's body was found and one of the neighbours informed the community members that she saw them coming to the deceased's homestead to fetch her. The accused was apprehended and handed to the police. Community members regrettably killed his friend when they captured him.

Rivimbi pleaded not guilty and was subsequently found guilty as charged.

During sentencing, the state prosecutor, Advocate Wendy Nekhavhambe, argued that the crime was a carefully planned act as the accused had a journey from Gauteng to Hlanganani. She said he had sufficient time to reflect and ponder his actions. She further reasoned that, the accused took his time to accomplish his mission. During aggravation, Advocate Nekhavhamb emphasised that the deceased was a defenceless octogenarian

who deserved special protection from the accused. She lamented that the accused was callous and merciless upon his own relative.

The court agreed with the state' submissions and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment plus three years for defeating the ends of justice. The court ordered the sentence to run concurrently.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi**

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