

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 26 MARCH 2018**

**RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER**

The Limpopo High Court sitting in Thohoyandou sentenced Mathivha Phathutshedzo (31) of Tshikundamalema village to life imprisonment for murder and a further eight years for house breaking with intent to rob and robbery.

The court heard that on 17 December 2015 the accused went to the homestead of an elderly woman, broke the door and forced his way into the house. The woman was alone at the time as her son was out to spend the night with the accused's mother.

He strangled the woman and robbed her of R1000-00, which she had kept in her purse. The accused left her for dead and proceeded to a local tavern where he bought alcohol and partied with friends. A week later, he was arrested and then charged.

In his defence, he denied any involvement in the offence. With the help of witnesses, the court rejected his version and found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Ratshilumela Makhera submitted that the murder was premeditated and was made worse by the fact that it was a gruesome attack on a vulnerable elderly person who was defenceless. Advocate Makhera emphasised that the deceased was attacked in her sanctuary where she least expected to be attacked. He asked the court to impose the mandatory life sentence.

Judge Nare Kgomo agreed with the states' submission and sentenced him to life imprisonment plus eight years for house breaking with intent to rob and robbery.

The DPP, Advocate Ivy Thenga commended the investigating team, state witnesses and advocate Makhera for their persistence in ensuring that the accused is duly punished for the senseless killing of the old woman.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang**  
**Regional Spokesperson- Limpopo**  
**074 823 3603**  
[mmalabi@npa.gov.za](mailto:mmalabi@npa.gov.za)