

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 09 JUNE 2017

RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR SHOOTING PASSENGER

Isaac Malatjie (30) was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Thohoyandou Local Division yesterday after being convicted of murder, unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition.

The 30 year-old deceased, Pharaoh Tshepo Hlongo was in the company of his girlfriend and a friend when he was killed. On 29 April 2016 the deceased's girlfriend, Tintswalo Ngobeni, hired the accused's motor vehicle to go and fetch the deceased from a certain tavern at Nwa-Marhanga village. The deceased and his passengers knocked on the bakkie's roof for the accused to stop his vehicle because he was driving recklessly at a very high speed. The accused stopped his car on the side of the road and asked what was going on and the deceased explained that they were feeling unsafe because of his reckless driving.

At this point, he produced his unlicensed firearm and shot the deceased three times and drove away, leaving behind the severely wounded deceased and his girlfriend including other passengers on the scene.

He then died several days later due to injuries he sustained during the shooting. The accused was after 20 days arrested. His firearm was also linked to other criminal offences which were committed in the Maake Village.

The accused through his attorney pleaded guilty in terms of Section 112 (b) of Act 51 of 1977 on the charges and he was subsequently convicted.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Absah Madzhuta called the father of the deceased who testified about the pain and loss suffered by the whole family. He emphasised that the accused action robbed the family of the father and the bread winner.

The court found that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances existing in favour of the accused for the court to deviate from imposing the prescribed minimum sentence in terms of Act 105 of 1997. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, 9 years imprisonment for unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition. The presiding officer ordered that the sentences run concurrently.

Kind Regards,

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