

# 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: 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

**RE: MAN SENTENCED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS FEMALE EMPLOYER**

On Friday, 08 November 2019, the Tsomo Regional Court sentenced Zuko Mdingi (28) to an effective 15 year-imprisonment term for the murder and robbery of his employer, following a salary dispute. The court sentenced Mdingi to 15 years for murder, 10 years on a charge of robbery with aggravating circumstances and five years for theft. The court ordered all the sentences to run concurrently with the murder sentence.

Evidence presented in court is that Mdingi was employed as a livestock herder and caretaker at a property belonging to the deceased, Xolisa Makalima (49), who stayed in another property of hers at the same village of Mbeveni in Mthwaku area in the district of Ngqamakwe.

On the evening of 27 May 2018, Mdingi went to where Makalima stayed to get his salary but she told him she did not have the money. It is then that Mdingi drew a knife and stabbed the woman before strangling her with a rope. Thereafter, he took her car keys, 3 cell phones, R60 in cash and clothes belonging to her son.

He left to his hometown of Mbizana, where he was arrested, following the discovery of his employer's lifeless body. The cell phones he had stolen were recovered from him, with conversations between him and a *sangoma* on WhatsApp. In the messages, he disclosed how he killed the deceased and was asking the *sangoma* to help him evade arrest.

The killer initially pleaded not guilty, but changed his plea to that of guilty when he was confronted with the overwhelming and incriminating evidence by prosecutor Ayanda Nkumanda.

The NPA welcomes the sentence

**Luxolo Tyali**

**Regional Spokesperson**

**Eastern Cape**

**Tel: 047 501 2630**

**Fax: 047 501 2652**

**Cell: 073 555 9292**