

# PRESS RELEASE



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: 02 JULY 2020**

**RE: MAN SENTENCED TO 24 YEARS FOR MURDER OF GIRLFRIEND**

The Limpopo High Court sentenced Matome Floyd Seliti (29) to 24 years imprisonment for the murder of his girlfriend yesterday.

This is after he pleaded guilty to murdering of his girlfriend, Mamphoto Clara Machaka at West Phalia Village on 5 April 2018.

The accused and the deceased had a five year old daughter. The deceased terminated the relationship and the accused refused to accept this.

On the night of the incident, 15 April 2018, the deceased met the accused and apparently asked for money to pay school fees for their daughter. The accused did not have money and the deceased decided to go to the tavern to borrow money from her friend.

The accused did not like the idea of borrowing money from her friend. He then assaulted her several times with a hammer on her head. The accused took the deceased mobile phone, a pair of sandals and a handbag with contents.

The accused borrowed a pik and shovel from his friend and dug a shallow grave at the grazing fields. He buried the deceased and went home. The following day, a shepherd discovered the body of the deceased.

The state held a pre-trial conference and it was indicated to the accused that the state has a watertight case against him as he was connected to the case by amongst other things, a confession, DNA, pointing out, and direct evidence. This prompted the accused to enter into a plea and sentence agreement with the state.

The accused pleaded guilty to murder, robbery aggravating circumstances, and defeating the course of justice. The prescribed minimum sentence for the murder conviction is life imprisonment. However, there were substantial and compelling circumstances justifying that the accused receive a lesser sentence.

State Advocate, Calvin Chauke submitted to the court that the sentence is justified because the court should sentence the accused having due regard to the prescribed sentence of the Minimum Sentences Act; that the offense is one of gender-based violence which is prevalent in the country and that the accused buried the deceased in a shallow grave.

In terms of the plea and sentence agreement, the accused was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment for murder, 11 years imprisonment for robbery, and 2 years imprisonment for defeating the course of justice. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

**Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo**

[mmalabi@npa.gov.za](mailto:mmalabi@npa.gov.za)

**0748233603**