

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 18 May 2015**

**RE: PAROLEE GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER**

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Thursday, 14 May 2015 the Pietermaritzburg High Court sentenced Bongani Enock Nxumalo (51) to life imprisonment for the murder of Albertina Thandi Mlambo earlier this year.

The accused and the deceased had made contact with each other via WhatsApp whilst the accused was in prison. At the time he was serving an 8 year sentence for attempted murder for an attack of a previous lover. Although he was set to serve his sentence till 2018, he was granted parole in October last year. This was when the deceased allowed him to come and live with her and her 14 year old daughter at their home in the Mpembeni area on the KZN north coast.

Then, in February this year, the accused noticed WhatsApp messages on the deceased's phone where she was communicating with other men. Angered by this, he convinced the deceased that she needed to perform a cleansing ceremony and lured her to a nearby bush. He was armed with a bush knife and carried a container of water.

Whilst the deceased was kneeling down, the accused struck her several times with the bush knife and fled the scene after hiding her body under some shrubbery.

Advocate Frank van Heerden argued in aggravation of sentence that the accused had clear intentions to kill the woman as he had taken the concealed bush knife along. Advocate van Heerden also led the testimony of the sister of the deceased. The woman told the court that her family was devastated by the loss of her sister as she was the bread winner of their family and they were now struggling financially.

The presiding officer told the accused that he was a danger to women and described the killing as undignified and horrific, saying that "the deceased was chopped like a piece of wood."

The National Prosecuting Authority accepts this sentence and we hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded individuals.

Kind Regards,

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