

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 18 OCTOBER 2017**

**RE: MEN GOT 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ROBBING A FARMER**

The Limpopo High Court sitting in Thohoyandou sentenced Rudzani Makhaya (31) of Mphego village and Ndinannyi Maduka (29) of Maniini village to 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances and 10 years for unlawful possession of illegal firearm. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

During trial, the court heard that on 24 June 2015 both accused went to the complainant's house during the day where they tied her hands, cut her on the wrists with a knife and further threatened her with a firearm. They then ransacked the house, took her laptop, cell phone, cattle medicines and two rifles. The complainant was a cattle farmer. The following day the accused were found in possession of the items and were arrested.

Both accused pleaded not guilty and the court found them guilty as charged. In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Wendy Nekhavhambe said that the crime had a negative impact on the complainant who had to relocate from her place of residence following the crime. She added that the complainant was treated for anxiety and depression whilst the community also suffered when the complainant's employees lost their jobs when she relocated.

During sentencing, the court agreed with the state that there is no reason to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence and it found that the aggravating circumstances outweighed the mitigating factors and sentenced the pair to 15 years.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Mashudu Malabi- Dzhangi**  
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