

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 2020

RE: MURDERERS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Yesterday, 24 February 2020, the Sterkspruit Regional Court sentenced Kwanele Ralekoa (22), Moeketsi Moletsane (24) and Abongile Hlutyana (35) to life imprisonment after convicting them on a charge of murder.

The incident occurred on the night of 13 April 2018 in Khiba village in the district of Sterkspruit. According to evidence presented in court, the deceased entered a tavern carrying a knife and attacked a man by the name of Orlando, who was friends of the three would-be killers. Orlando survived the attack but sustained minor stab wounds. After the attack, the deceased fled the tavern but the three men ran after him, grabbed him and assaulted him. He managed to escape, jumped over the fence and ran to safety at a nearest homestead. The three men followed the deceased to where he was hiding and further assaulted him until the owner of that homestead intervened and took the injured man into his house. The trio left, but came back, and kicked the door open, pulled him outside and further assaulted him with unknown objects, and stabbed him to death.

During trial, the state presented evidence of the eyewitness who was at the tavern when the assault on the deceased started, the owner of the homestead to which the deceased ran to seek refuge, as well as eyewitnesses who saw the three men pull and assault the deceased from the house he had made his refuge. The convicted murderers denied ever assaulting the deceased but their versions were rejected by the court, which found that they acted in common purpose as proven by the state.

In sentencing, the court concurred with the state that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment.

Welcoming the sentence, Director of Public Prosecutions, Barry Madolo commended Advocate Loyiso Methuso, for the state, as well as investigating officer Sergeant Sibusiso Vundisa for managing to ensure that justice is done under trying circumstances, where a crime was committed in the dark, with most witnesses having been under the influence of alcohol.

Luxolo Tyali
Regional Spokesperson
Eastern Cape
Tel: 047 501 2630
Fax: 047 501 2652
Cell: 073 555 9292