

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 23 AUGUST 2019**

**RE: PAIR SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR THE MURDER OF  
ANNATJIE MYBURGH**

Last week, the Mpumalanga Division of the High Court sentenced Selby Mabila and Paul Mathebula to life imprisonment each, after they were found guilty of murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and kidnapping of Annatjie Myburgh.

In June 2016, Myburgh was reportedly missing and investigations revealed that she was hijacked while leaving her home in White River. A search took place over three days and eventually her lifeless body was discovered in the bushes near the Numbi Gate of the Kruger National Park. Her vehicle was found abandoned at Kabokweni. Both suspects were eventually arrested after their cell phone signals and fingerprints placed them in the deceased's vehicle and at the crime scene.

During a lengthy trial, both accused denied their involvement in the matter. They told the court that they were job hunting during the time of the incident. Advocate Cornelia Harmzen led evidence of a medical doctor that showed that the deceased was assaulted before she was murdered. She further led evidence of finger prints and shoe prints that were found on the scene where she was hijacked as well as cell phone evidence. They were found guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, the state addressed the court that the accused committed serious offences. She also argued that the deceased lost her life in a gruesome manner and therefore the minimum prescribed sentence must be imposed.

Before handing down the sentence, Judge Annemarie Van der Merwe took into account the impact that the violent murder had on the family of the victim and their personal circumstances. She sentenced both accused to life imprisonment for murder, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, and another 8 years for kidnapping. She

ordered the sentences in count two and three to run concurrent with the sentence in count one, the effective sentence being life imprisonment.

The NPA is satisfied with the sentence.

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