

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 14 MARCH 2019

RE: PIET RETIEF MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR MURDER

The Piet Retief Regional Court sentenced Thulane Pelusa (30) of Phola Park after he was convicted for the murder of Siyabonga Nkambule at a tavern in Hlalaningenkani.

The court heard that, in March 2018, the deceased and the victim were in a local tavern and had a dispute. The accused disappeared and came back with an axe and hacked the deceased to death. The community alerted the police about the incident and the accused was arrested.

During trial, Regional Court Prosecutor Marlin Cairncross, led testimonies of two witnesses who were with the accused when the incident happened; who told the court that the murder was preceded by an earlier argument between the accused and the deceased. A pathologist's report was presented and it confirmed that the deceased died because of the injuries he sustained.

The state argued that a minimum sentence be imposed as the accused's actions clearly demonstrated that he had a direct intention to kill the deceased. The court concurred with the state and rejected the accused's version. Pelusa was sentenced to life imprisonment for premeditated murder.

The NPA lauds the good work by the team in ensuring that the deceased's family got justice.

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga Satellite Office

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