

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 28 MARCH 2017

RE: POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

A 39 year-old former police officer, Sehume Walter Motswiri was sentenced to life imprisonment by the North West High Court after a conviction of murder, kidnapping, malicious damage to property and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

These offences were committed on 22 August 2009 as a result of a love triangle where the accused identified vehicle belonging to his girlfriend being driven by the deceased. He then followed it to the house of the deceased where he discovered that she was also in the house. He became angry and assaulted her. He further took out a knife and slashed the four tyres of the vehicle belonging to the deceased, Poposi Richard Molokoane. Two days later the accused who was a police detective attached to the stock theft unit in Lehurutshe called the deceased to the police station. The accused alleged that the call was related to a stock theft case opened against him. The deceased went to the police station as per instruction of police detective. He was arrested and handcuffed by the accused without any reasons. He was never seen again until his decomposed body was discovered on 08 September 2009 at a place called Nietverdiend area.

The accused did not deny that he was around Nietverdiend area with the deceased, according to his statement. During aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Baitse Lekoma-Chulu argued that during this unfortunate incident the accused was no longer a boyfriend of the lady in question. She further stated that the offence was carried out in a calculated and premeditated manner. The deceased who was a law abiding citizen was lured to the police station under disguise that he was wanted for questioning for stock theft unknown to him. She stated that because it is premeditated murder life imprisonment would be appropriate.

When delivering the judgement, Judge Maleshane kgoele said this was the most disturbing and horrendous offence she ever presided over, "as a police officer it is your

duty to protect and serve civilians in a professional manner instead of respecting your oath as the officer of the law you abused state resources for your own personal reasons."

The Director of Public Prosecutions in North West Province, Advocate Johan Smit SC congratulated Advocate Baitse Lekoma-Chulu on an excellent job.

Kind Regards,

Frank Lesenyego

Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West

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