

# Media Statement



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**TO : ALL MEDIA**

**DATE : 08 NOVEMBER 2017**

**RE : WIDOW AND HITMAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR MURDER OF HUSBAND**

Last week, the Mthatha High Court, sitting in Ntabankulu, sentenced Lungiswa Mngqinya (35) and Zanoxolo Isaac Mzimani (29) to life imprisonment after the court found them guilty of murder and conspiracy to murder Fanele Mngqinya last year.

Evidence is that, during April and May last year, Lungiswa, of Firstgate Locality in the area of Mvuzi in Mount Frere, approached her friend to organise somebody to kill her husband. Indeed her friend introduced her to a traditional healer Thobani Jovula who demanded a sum of R12 000 for his services. Lungiswa paid an amount of R3 000 to Jovula but he did not carry out the murder as agreed.

At the end of October 2016, Lungiswa made another approach to Mzimani to kill her husband, a retired police officer. On 01 November 2016, she paid Mzimani an amount of R2 500 and he hired a vehicle that he used to travel to the home the deceased shared with his wife. On their arrival at the Mngqinya homestead, he phoned Lungiswa who came with the deceased's firearm and showed the hitman where the deceased was sleeping. Mzimani killed the sleeping husband, who had already been disarmed by his wife, by strangling him with a belt.

Police investigations led to the wife and the hitman, and the wife confessed to the killing of the deceased. However, during trial, the wife denied making the confession but the court found it admissible. State Advocate, Luvuyo Pomolo led the evidence of the traditional healer who was initially approached to kill the deceased, as well as the evidence of the driver of the vehicle that the hitman hired on the night of the murder. The court found both of them guilty as charged and accordingly sentenced them to life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Luxolo Tyali**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha**

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