

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: YOUNG MAN GOT SEVEN YEARS FOR MURDER

Yesterday, the Limpopo High Court in Polokwane sentenced Lucky Ratshilingana (17) to 10 years imprisonment, three of which were conditionally suspended.

The conviction followed upon his plea of guilty for the gruesome murder of his grandmother Victoria Ratshilingana (69) which shook the township of Nkowankowa in 2016.

During the plea proceedings, the court heard that on the morning of the incident Ratshilingana entered the bedroom of the deceased and attacked her whilst she was packing her clothes. The deceased was stabbed with a knife and pushed down to the floor. A piece of cloth was stuffed into her mouth and a panga was used to hack her head and leg. An electric hand drill was also used to drill a hole on her forehead. The deceased lifeless body was left wrapped in her room.

Neighbours later discovered the brutal killing and the police were alerted. After two days, the accused was arrested in possession of bank cards and cellphone belonging to the deceased.

The accused pleaded guilty and the court found him guilty as charged.

During sentencing, the State Prosecutor Advocate Calvin Chauke submitted that it was aggravating for anyone to be killed in that heartless and gruesome manner. Further, he said the murder was premeditated in that the deceased was unarmed and helpless in her home. Advocate Chauke emphasised that the only appropriate sentence was imprisonment for a midterm. He explained that although the offence was serious the accused's tender age could not be ignored and recommended a term of eight years.

The court agreed with the state and sentenced him accordingly.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the Director of Public prosecutions, Advocate Ivy Thenga had this to say, "this sentence will send a clear message that youthfulness will not stop the strong arm of the law".

Kind Regards,

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