

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: YOUNG MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR MURDER OF HIS CHILD

Kamogelo Collins Mashabela (20) was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, 10 years imprisonment for attempted murder and another 10 years for arson in the Limpopo High Court yesterday. In March 2019, Mashabela killed his 2 year-old child and burnt his ex-girlfriend. The incident occurred in Ga- Kgari village in the Sekhukhune area.

Mashabela had a love relationship with the mother of the deceased, which she terminated during October 2018. Prior to the offence, a state of enmity existed between him and his ex-girlfriend because she has left him.

During bail proceedings, Mashabela pleaded not guilty to all the charges and denied ever committing any offence. He submitted an affidavit to support his bail application and told the court that the complainant was a suicidal person and she is the one who burnt the house down, which led to the death of their baby. The state handed in a J88 which showed that he had burn wounds on his feet at the time of his arrest.

During the trial, Mashabela submitted his plea explanation and told the court that on the day of the incident, he gained access into his ex-girlfriend's home while the family was fast asleep. He then went to the ex-girlfriend's bedroom and throttled her. He went further to douse the complainant and the bedroom with petrol set the house on fire, burning the child to death. The ex-girlfriend managed to escape through the window, with burns to her body. The court found him guilty as charged.

In aggravating of sentence, Advocate Calvin Chauke asked the court to impose life imprisonment sentence as the accused has brutally killed his own son whom was supposed to be protected by him. The court agreed with the state and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment for the count of murder and ordered that all sentences run concurrently. He was further declared unfit to possess a firearm.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Limpopo welcomes the sentence and condemns violence against women and children.

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhang
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