

# Depressed man unfairly hanged

Sowetan - pgs 2-05/06/18 - NWS p 5 - p 22

Suspect held for killing of granny goes to court.

By **Boluwale Tubohla**  
North West Correspondent

Lloyd Nkgotho, 25, was killed in a mob justice attack after he was accused of killing a 75-year-old granny in a village near Zeerust, North West.

Now, two months after his murder, police have arrested a man they believe was behind the death of Keitumetse Nkgotho. She was not related to Lloyd.

Keitumetse's body was found in a pool of blood at her home in Gopane on March 16.

At the time, residents said footprints at the crime scene led them to Lloyd's house.

Family members also said a pair of trousers and a pair of shoes with blood stains were found on him. The community then took Lloyd and beat him up before giving him a rope to hang himself.

Yesterday, members of his family, who said they had been living with the shame and guilt that Lloyd had committed the crime, asked for his killers to be punished harshly.

His sister Abueng Nkgotho told Sowetan her brother was killed like a dog. Although Abueng admitted to her brother's troubles with the law before his killing, she said he had changed his ways following the death of his parents.

She said Lloyd suffered from depression and would have not known what he was being attacked for at the time.

"He was in and out of hospital. He was mentally not OK. He obeyed every instruction people gave him," Abueng said.

"He did not deserve to die like that. I want to open a case against all community members who had done this to him because they killed him without having any evidence."

Police spokesman Brigadier Sabata Mokgwabone said the case against seven people who were accused of Lloyd's murder was postponed to July 6 and all the accused were out on R1 000 bail each.



Lloyd Nkgotho was killed in a mob justice incident. /SUPPLIED

Mokgwabone said police were still investigating allegations that when Lloyd was killed, police were on the scene and failed to arrest members of the mob.

"Even if the police were there, there was always going to be a need for assessment of the situational appropriateness," he said.

Lloyd's uncle, Frederick Nkgotho, said at first they believed that his nephew could have killed the granny as he was troublesome. He said his nephew was in jail in February last year, for robbery, when his mother died. "His father died in November last year after suffering depression."

Frederick said even though he could not do anything about the death of his nephew, he believed those who killed him must face the might of the law. "Yes, he was naughty but it looks like he was not the one

who killed the granny. Those who killed him must be punished," he said.

Frederick said his nephew's funeral was painful, with police monitoring the situation after the community told them that they did not want him to be buried in the village.

Provincial commissioner Lieutenant-General Baile Motswenyane said the incident should serve as a caution to members of the community about how taking the law into one's hands could result in the deaths of innocent people.

The suspect in the granny's killing is expected to appear in the Lehurutshe Magistrate's Court tomorrow.



**“It looks like he wasn't the one who killed the granny”**

# POLICE BEAT ME FOR NOTHING - THAPELO

## I want justice for what they did

By DULILE SOWAGA

THAPELO Masilela claimed he was assaulted by cops for no reason.

The 30-year-old from Senthumole squatter camp in Reagle, North West said he was on his way to work last Monday when he ran into an angry group of cops.

He told *Daily Sun* he wasn't aware there was a service-delivery protest in nearby Reagle kasi.

"The cops asked me where I was going because there was a violent protest in the area," said Thapelo.

"They then started kicking and punching me before throwing me into the back of the police van.

"They drove with me to one of the intersections where residents had been burning tyres.

"The cops said I was one of the people who burnt the mayor's house. I didn't know anything about the protest.

"They made me stand next to a burning tyre while kicking and punching

me.

"They then pushed me into the fire and I landed on my hands."

He said he managed to escape the brutality by running away.

He was badly burned and called his mum to get a car to take him to hospital in Swartuggens, where he spent a day.

Thapelo later opened a case of assault against the police.

"Had I known that there was a protest, I would have stayed home," he said.

Thapelo said he wanted justice and would be able to identify some of the cops who attacked him.

North West police spokeswoman Sergeant Kelebogile Moleko said: "The assault case was transferred to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate for investigation."

**Thapelo Masilela says he was on his way to work when the incident took place.** Photo by Dulile Sowaga



## Double tragedy as dad ends life

A two-year-old girl was killed, allegedly by her own father, 25, who then took his own life, in Moshawane near Mahikeng, North West police said yesterday.

Police spokesperson Sergeant Kelebogile Moleko said information available was that the man took his daughter from the mother for a visit on Sunday.

"It is alleged that the father stabbed the baby several times with a knife and hanged himself with a chain. They were both found dead at approximately 2pm on Sunday, June 3, 2018," Moleko said.

The police were informed about the incident and a case of murder and inquest have been registered for investigation. - ANA

The Citizen - 5/06/17 - pg 7 - News - ANA