

Murder of 92 year-old gogo: MEC Dhlomo pleased that Kwadambuzza suspect is still state custody

20 January 2019

KZN Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has welcomed the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court decision to keep under state custody a 41 year-old man who is charged with murdering his 93 year-old grandmother and eating some of her organs at KwaDambuzza.

Grandmother Judith Ndlela (92) was stabbed to death, allegedly by her grandson on 07 February 2019. It is alleged that the murderer then cut pieces of her flesh and ate them. He was arrested shortly afterwards.

Although court proceedings were interrupted by load shedding yesterday, the suspect appeared before court today. The case, which was described by the court as sensitive, was postponed to 20 February 2019 to allow the suspect to secure legal representation.

Speaking outside court today, in his capacity as both Health MEC and chairman of the KZN Men's Forum, Dr Dhlomo said: *"We've been following this case since the day it happened. The suspect was admitted to one of our facilities. I then pleaded with the doctors to take blood samples to check what drugs this person had been using, because it is unheard of for a person to behave that way. It can't be a normal behavior firstly to kill someone, and then go on to take their organ and eat them. We were therefore happy when the doctors agreed to support that plea.*

"As the provincial chairperson of the Men's Forum, we want to give the message that we do have men who care. We also condemn men who behave in this way, whatever the circumstances. We are happy that the suspect is kept in custody until the 20th of February for bail application, and we think that is fair because the community out there is angry. His life is also in danger, so keeping him in prison is the right thing to do."