

# Self-confessed MNR bandit sentenced to death

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A SELF-PROCLAIMED MNR bandit was yesterday sentenced to death after the High Court in Harare found him guilty of murder with actual intent and was given a total of 42 years in prison on charges of attempted murder, rape and armed robbery.

Samuel Tozoon Tambudzayi Mucharima (36) was last Thursday convicted on charges of murder, attempted murder, rape and two counts of armed robbery by Mrs Justice Gibson sitting with assessors Mr Jack Wood and Mr Stan Chunga.

Mucharima was sentenced to death on the charge of murder. He got 12 years for attempted murder, 10 years for rape and 10 years on each of the two counts of armed robbery.

Mrs Justice Gibson, however, ordered that his prison sentence on other charges should run concurrently with the 12-year sentence for attempted murder.

Passing sentence on Mucharima, the judge said the court had found no extenuation in Mucharima's case.

The court had found that while it was true that there was a shortage of food and clothing in Mozam-

bique, Mucharima stole from people in Chipinge who were in no better position than he was.

"In this case, the accused is a Zimbabwean who opted to remain in Mozambique when the situation had permitted him to return home.

"If he was in need of food and clothing, nothing would have stopped him from returning to Zimbabwe," she said.

All the times when Mucharima stole from people, he used threats to subdue any form of resistance from his victims.

"The accused was armed with offensive weapons and perpetrated his acts of banditry which were carefully planned and executed.

"Fear in his victims was not only instilled by the weapons they carried but by their number. The acts of banditry were designed to subdue any resistance by the victims," said the judge.

After the death sentence was pronounced, Mucharima said: "If the court has found me guilty of murder, it has not treated me fairly."

Mucharima was then reminded by the judge that he had an automatic right to appeal against both

conviction and sentence.

On November 24 1987, Mucharima crossed into Zimbabwe armed and in the company of another man. They set a hut ablaze in Mabeye village in Chipinge.

When their victim tried to flee, Mucharima shot him on the thigh and at close range, shot him in the stomach. The man did not die.

Mucharima and his companion looted their victim's home and force-marched two of his three wives, carrying the looted property, to Mozambique.

On their way, they met Cde Mathias Ndlovu whom they shot at close range. He died instantly.

After crossing into Mozambique, they raped the two women and told them to go back and inform the Zimbabwean soldiers that they (women) had been abducted and raped by "Matsanga" (a local name for MNR bandits).

The following year, Mucharima crossed into Zimbabwe with 12 armed men on November 29.

They robbed Mucharima's first cousin, Cde Simbanayi Hanyani, and two other villagers, Cde Freddy Kumbula and Cde Joel Kumbula.  
— Ziana.