

AN INVESTIGATION INTO RITUAL MURDERS IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF THE  
LIMPOPO PROVINCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

By

Alunamutwe Enos Rannditsheni

Submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

In African Studies

In the School of Human and Social Sciences

University of Venda

Promoter: Prof M.A. Masoga

Co-Promoter: Prof. A.H. Mavhandu-Mudzusi

2015

UNIVEN LIBRARY

Library Item : 20152358



## ABSTRACT

Despite the condemnation by various groups in a society, ritual murder remains a challenge in the Vhembe District of the Limpopo Province in South Africa. For the past twenty years of democracy, 117 cases of ritual murders have been reported in the Vhembe District. The purpose of the study was to investigate ritual murders in the Vhembe District with the focus of developing a contextual relevant training manual to address ritual murder. The study was conducted in two phases. The first phase was situational analysis focusing on investigation of ritual murder in Vhembe district using Interpretative Phenomenological Design. Individual interviews and Focus group discussion were conducted with participants who met selection criteria. Following Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis framework, four super-ordinate themes emerged: Motives for ritual murders in the Vhembe District, factors which make the Vhembe District a good area for ritual murders, the impact of ritual murders in the Vhembe District and current interventions to address ritual murders in the Vhembe District. In second phase, the results from phase one were integrated with the super ordinate themes from literature review and theoretical framework to develop a training manual model to address ritual murder in the Vhembe District. The development of the structure and content of the training manual was guided by community change process.