

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: 16 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER

Last week, the Ladysmith Regional Court sentenced Funga Zakhele Khumalo to 16 years imprisonment for the December 2018 assault and murder of his girlfriend in the Entshele area in Ezakheni.

On the day of the incident, the accused got into an argument with his girlfriend over the whereabouts of his cigarettes. He proceeded to assault her. Being physically challenged, she had restricted movement of the left side of her body and was therefore unable to escape his wrath. Family members, including the accused's mother tried to intervene but they eventually left for fear of also being assaulted.

The deceased succumbed to the injuries inflicted on her by the accused and was found dead the next morning.

In court, Regional Court Prosecutor Ashina Devi Singh led the evidence of the accused's mother and uncle who testified on behalf of the state. A pathologist also testified on the wounds sustained by the deceased.

The accused was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for assault and 15 years imprisonment for murder. The sentences will run consecutively, thus resulting in the 16 years imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu commends the successful prosecution. She said, "The rate of femicide in South Africa has reached an alarming rate and it is our duty as the NPA to ensure that these matters are addressed and the perpetrators brought to justice. Congratulations to the prosecutor and the team on a job well done."

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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