

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: 20 YEARS FOR MURDER

On 11 September 2015, Mandla Mabuza (20) and Lindokuhle Khumalo (20) were each sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in the Vryheid Circuit Court after they pleaded guilty to the murder of Thandazile Mpunzi in the Phelendaba area, near Ingwavuma on the KZN north coast.

In their pleas, the accused mentioned how they killed the woman after their co-accused Bhelukufa Gumede told them he needed the body of an albino female. He made them believe that 'muthi' mixed with the body parts of a person with albinism would make them rich.

Mpunzi was born with albinism and she was in a love relationship with the fourth accused in this matter. The men conspired that the fourth accused would arrange to meet her at a designated spot where they would kill her. They told Gumede of their plan and he gave them some muthi which he alleged would make them strong to carry out their plans.

On 14 August, the deceased was lured to the area where the men strangled her. They then phoned Gumede who told them to hide the body. They all later returned to the scene where Gumede removed some body parts. The body of the deceased was transported in Gumede's vehicle to his home where it remained. He gave them money to buy alcohol which would allow them to sleep without thinking about what they had done.

Senior state advocate, Julius Mxolisi Khathi from Pietermaritzburg DPP Office, told the court that the crime committed was a serious and heinous one. While these accused pleaded and were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment each, the third accused, Bhelukufa Gumede pleaded not guilty and will reappear in court on 13 October. The fourth accused who is a minor will appear in court every 2 weeks.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN Adv Moipone Noko hopes this sentence serves to re-affirm the NPA's stance on crime. "The killing of another person can never be warranted and offenders will be duly prosecuted", she said.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara
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