

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 08 April 2016**

**RE: TRIO GET LIFE PLUS 20 YEARS**

Bongani Lucky John Manyathi (28), Mandlenkosi Zamokwakhe Jobe (41) and Inderesan Maistry (47) were sentenced to life and 20 years imprisonment in the Durban High Court today for the robbery with aggravating circumstances, kidnapping and murder of a Durban woman in 2014. Accused 2 received an additional 2 years imprisonment for unlawful possession of a firearm.

The deceased, Soraya Naidoo, was the wife of accused 3 and they lived in Merebank in the greater Durban area. At some time prior to the offence accused 2 and 3 met and conspired to have her killed. Accused 2 then enlisted the assistance of accused 1 and another man, Sifiso Joyisa to kill the woman for a fee.

On the evening of 17 February 2014, accused 1 and Joyisa (who was armed with a firearm) were dropped off by accused 2 at the deceased's house. They then entered the house and threatened the occupants, demanding the deceased's car keys and cell phone. They took a TV set and the deceased's handbag and cell phone. She was forced into the car and the men drove off. Her body was found the next morning in Umbumbulu. She was strangled and stabbed multiple times.

Shortly after the offence, Joyisa pleaded guilty and implicated his co-accused. He was sentenced to 40 years imprisonment.

Senior State Advocate, Nadira Moosa led evidence of cell phone records that showed the men had consulted each other around the time offence. Further, several witnesses testified that the accused had worked together to orchestrate the offence.

All three accused were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 5 years imprisonment for kidnapping and life imprisonment for murder.

The sentences for kidnapping and robbery will run concurrently with that of life. Accused 2 was sentenced an additional 2 years for the firearm related offence.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, advocate Moipone Noko: "We are very pleased with the conviction and sentence of the accused. It is an appropriate sentence that sends a message of zero tolerance to lawlessness, thus deterring would-be offenders. The unfortunate loss of life is regretted."

Kind Regards,

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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