

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 18 April 2016

RE: LIFE AND 15 YEARS FOR TRIO

Nkululeko Mkhize (24), Nhlanipho Anele Sikhonde (26) and Mxolisi Philani Zwane (26) were each sentenced to life and 15 years imprisonment in the Durban High Court today for the robbery with aggravating circumstances and murder they committed in May 2012.

The complainants and the deceased were in their Amanzimtoti home on the evening of the incident. The accused and a fourth other person (armed with a firearm) entered the property and held them up at gunpoint. The accused got into the complainant's car and were driving away when the deceased ran after the vehicle. The firearm was discharged resulting in the deceased sustaining a gunshot wound to the head. By this time the car had crashed into a wall and the accused fled the scene on foot.

In aggravation of sentence, senior state advocate Mahen Naidu led the testimony of the deceased's father, Stephan Ansley Coetzee. Coetzee told the court that his son, who was 23 years old, had qualified as an engineer just 6 months prior to his death. He added that the deceased was in the top 3% of people with the highest IQ in South Africa. Coetzee also told the court that the horror of his son being killed in his presence had adversely affected his health, forcing him to leave work.

The accused were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for robbery and life imprisonment for murder. The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko said she is very pleased with both the conviction and sentence in this matter.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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