

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MURDERERS SENTENCED FOR EMMANUEL SITHOLE'S MURDER

Three men convicted for the murder of Mozambican national, Emmanuel Sithole were sentenced by the Johannesburg Magistrates Court yesterday.

Mthinto Bhengu and Sifundo Mzimela were sentenced to 17 and 10 years direct imprisonment respectively for murdering Sithole in full view of the residents of Alexandra, a crime that was captured by a journalist who was covering another story in the area.

The sentencing of the third accused, who was a minor during the commission of this offence, was postponed for a period of five years provided that the minor submits himself to supervision and monitoring by a probation officer and must successfully complete all programmes that seek to deal with his behaviour as recommended by the probation officer.

State Advocate Jacob Tloubatla argued for a custodial sentence in respect of Bhengu and Mzimela, he also urged the court to accept the recommendations of the probation officer to postpone the passing of sentence in respect of the minor, arguing that he deserved a second chance as his prognosis for rehabilitation was positive. In any case the minor was convicted of less serious offences of common assault and theft.

The court found that the murder of Sithole was not premeditated therefore the mandatory life sentence was not applicable. However it found that a minimum sentence of 15 years was applicable and because of the gravity of the offence it actually increased the sentence in respect of the murder charge to 17 years for Bhengu (who was the one who stabbed Sithole) whilst Mzimela was sentenced in accordance with his role during the commission of the offence.

The NPA strives to fulfil its prosecutorial mandate and will stop at nothing to uphold the right to life.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw

Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng

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