

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

RE: 25 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER

Yesterday, the Pietermaritzburg High Court sentenced Sinethemba Mgqozana to 25 years imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to the murder of Thembalipheli Ngoduka in July this year.

The accused resided with his partner and their two children in the same compound as the deceased, in the Ismont area near Illovo. The accused and the deceased worked on the same sugarcane plantation.

At some point, the accused assumed that his partner was romantically involved with the deceased. This angered him and he decided to kill the deceased.

On the day of the incident, the accused went to the deceased's room armed with a bushknife, which he used to hack the deceased. The accused then fled the scene.

In aggravation of sentence, Senior State Advocate, Candy Kander mentioned that the accused had an option of leaving his relationship but instead opted to kill the deceased in such a brutal manner. His selfish actions resulted in both families losing their breadwinners (with the deceased's death and the accused going to prison). The state also handed in a victim impact statement compiled by the accused's wife and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Babongile Chuene.

In the statement, the woman mentions that she had relied on the deceased to assist her when the accused would beat her. She added that the accused's incarceration meant that she and her children would have to rely on state grants to survive.

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu applauds the sentence and conviction, commending all officials involved in the finalisation of this matter.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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