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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 03 DECEMBER 2019

RE: 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR POLICE CONSTABLE CONVICTED OF ROBBERIES AND MURDER

Austine Reynold, a Constable with the South African Police Service, was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment in the Durban High Court yesterday for the murder and three robberies he committed in January last year.

The offences took place when the accused used his service pistol to randomly rob people in Umbilo area. The accused entered the home of the first complainant, Ebuka Ezionwu and robbed him at gunpoint of his money and cell phone. He then robbed the deceased, Okoli Chukwuebuka Emmanuel who was also on the premises, taking his cellphone and cash as well. The deceased was killed during the robbery.

On fleeing the scene, the accused bumped into the third complainant, Mandy Mbambo. He pointed the firearm at her and stole her money.

In court, State Advocate Krishan Shah led the testimonies of the complainants who identified the accused as the perpetrator.

The accused was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for each count of robbery and 25 years imprisonment for murder. The court ordered the sentences for count 2 and 4 and 10 years from count 1 run concurrently with the murder count, resulting in the effective 30 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Natasha Kara

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