

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: 30 YEARS FOR MURDER AND ARSON

Layton Bhekhe Khumalo was sentenced to an effective 30 years imprisonment in the Ntuzuma Regional Court last week for the May 2015 arson and murder he committed in the Amatikwe area in Inanda.

The deceased, who was blind and an amputee, was the granny to the accused's girlfriend. His girlfriend and her siblings lived with their granny. Prior to the incident, the accused had quarreled with his girlfriend regarding one of their three children. This angered the accused and he armed himself with a firearm and proceeded to the granny's home. There, he shot the granny in her mouth while his girlfriend managed to escape by jumping through a window. The accused then set the house alight. The fire gutted the entire house causing all the contents to perish. The granny died three days later in hospital.

In court, Regional Court Prosecutor Kaystree Ramsamujh led the evidence of eight witnesses, including a pathologist and a fire expert. Ramsamujh told the court that the deceased was defenseless and vulnerable. She had physical challenges and could not resist or escape from the accused at the time he barged into her home. He was cruel and callous, with no motive to kill the deceased.

A victim impact statement compiled by the deceased's child and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Xolile Mzobe was handed in to the court in aggravation of sentence. In the statement, the child reported that the family is struggling without the deceased as she held the family together with a firm hand and they relied on her state pension as well.

The accused was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for murder and 10 years imprisonment for arson. The court ruled that the sentences run consecutively, thus resulting in an effective 30 years sentence.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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