

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 09 NOVEMBER 2020**

**RE: BOYFRIEND PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDER**

The Durban High Court sentenced Mhlonishwa Ezra Mkhize of Umlazi to 20 years imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to the murder of his partner, Thokozani Happiness Myeza, in March 2016.

The state accepted Mkhize's guilty plea after careful consideration. In his plea, Mkhize said he was in a relationship with Myeza since 2012 and they had a five-year-old child together. Their relationship became strained and often separated but got back together.

The evening before the incident, Myeza had come over with their child. An argument broke out regarding his phone calls. They physically fought and then she told him the baby was not biologically his. He said he got enraged and looked around for a weapon. He saw a container filled with petrol and went to fetch it. She ran out of the house, he followed her and doused her all over her body. He then set her alight.

On hearing her screams, people started gathering and he heard them saying that he should be caught and assaulted. He fled the scene. He evaded the police for three years until he was caught in September 2019.

Prosecutor, State Advocate, Gugu Xulu, handed in a victim impact statement compiled by Myeza's mother and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Thandeka Nadi Ngcobo.

Buyile Myeza mentioned that her daughter was killed in a brutal and horrific manner. She said she will never be able to forget the sight of her daughter covered in flames.

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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