

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FALSE DREAM TO BE A RAP STAR ENDS IN MURDER AND A LENGTHY IMPRISONMENT TERM

The Western Cape High Court sentenced a 22 year-old man to 37 years direct imprisonment after he suffocated and bludgeoned his employer in a gruesome robbery and murder that took place in the quiet coastal town of Pringle Bay. Western Cape High Court Judge, Monde Samela handed down the sentencing yesterday.

The court sentenced Martin Mncube to 15 years direct imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances and 22 years direct imprisonment for the murder. The court ordered the robbery with aggravating circumstances sentence run concurrently with the sentence imposed on the murder charge. That means, the accused is sentenced to an effective 22 years direct imprisonment.

Farah Thompson, 53, employed Mncube as a general worker at her house in Pringle Bay. She trusted him so much that she would leave him alone to look after her house but on 13 August 2017, he repaid back that trust by robbing and killing her. He arrived at her house and used the toilet and while she was heading towards the door to open it for him, he grabbed her from behind around her neck and threatened her not to make noise. He dragged her to the toilet he previously used, took out a duct tape he had brought in a backpack and wrapped it around her mouth and her legs. He took out a chain from the garage and use the two padlocks he brought to chain the deceased around a chair he also brought to the toilet.

He then demanded to know whether she had a safe in the house. He then took her handbag, took out bank cards and demanded her pin number. She gave it to him. She begged him not to continue with his actions promising to help him. He decided to wrap her nose, mouth and her face with ten scarves in order to gag her. As he was about to leave, he took an artwork and hit her several times leaving the artwork with blood. He

felt her pulse and found none. He also took her laptop, tablet, cell phone, her vehicle registration papers, a Honda Jazz, a BMW X3 vehicle and a gas pistol. He attempted to drive away with the BMW X3 but he couldn't start it. He drove off with her Honda Jazz vehicle. Her body was discovered the next day.

He collected his girlfriend and cousin brother. They went on a drinking spree. He withdrew R4 000 from her account in two instalments. He crashed her vehicle on his way to Hermanus and damaged it beyond repairs. In his plea explanation, Mncube says he robbed his employer because he had a dream to be a rap artist in Cape Town and have his own album.

But Advocate Sabata Choane wanted none of the latter explanation as he told the court that instead of travelling to Cape Town to pursue his rap start artist dream, the accused went on a drinking spree with his girlfriend and cousin brother. "This accused committed these offences out of greed. It is clear from the accused that the robbery was planned, what is not clear though is why the accused chose the deceased as his victim and why the deceased had to die. Robbery with aggravating circumstances and murder are two serious crimes that an individual can commit against another. Farah Thompson was a beloved mother, sister and loving wife when the accused ended her life. Her family describes the deceased as a kind person and request this honourable court to impose what they call a maximum sentence. It is submitted that the crimes committed by the accused can only be justified by the proportional sentence of life imprisonment for murder and 15 years imprisonment for robbery," he argued.

The court saw differently and found mitigating factors which included the accused's age.

Kind Regards,

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