

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 15 NOVEMBER 2018

RE: FATHER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDERING HIS DAUGHTER

The Western Cape High Court has sentenced Ntuthuzelo Mayekiso to life imprisonment after the state successfully argued for the court to use its discretion and go beyond the prescribed minimum sentence. Mayekiso, 25, has been convicted of the murder of his 14 months old daughter, Lindokuhle Kota. The child's mother left the child in the care of the accused who had just been released from jail. Her reasoning was for them to bond. Although he denies that he harmed the child, she had severe internal and external injuries which include brain injury, blood in her eyes and lungs, cracked spine and wounds on various parts of her body.

It is the second murder he has committed in his short life. He committed his first murder and rape at the age of 14. In addition to that, he has a previous conviction roll that runs from 2007 until 2015 which include, rape, murder, theft, possession of stolen property and damage to property.

He was released from prison on 09 February 2017 and three months later he murdered his daughter. The law dictates that a first time offender for murder must be sentenced to a period of no less than 15 years and a second offender to an imprisonment period of no less than 20 years.

Advocate Nokuzola Mbewana argued that due to the seriousness of the crimes and the victim, it will be an injustice to give the accused a lesser sentence than life imprisonment. "The state is of the view that a minimum of 20 years and a maximum of 25 years in terms of the Criminal Law Amendment Act will not be appropriate considering merits and demerits of this case. It is apparent from the longlist of previous convictions that courts have imposed all options of sentences. It does not seem any of the sentences previously imposed assisted the accused to rehabilitate as he reoffended. The state

submits that the accused is a candidate to be removed from society permanently. The court as the upper guardian of the children must send a clear message to offenders and would be offenders. The state submits that life imprisonment will be an appropriate sentence," she argued.

Throughout the trial, the accused refused to take any responsibility for the injuries and her murder. On the evening of the murder, he claims to have used button, tik and dagga. He also blamed the mother of his late daughter who is now pregnant with their second child.

Under cross examination by Advocate Mbewana, he responded: "Had she did not dump the child with me on 29 April 2017, I would not have ended up here."

The NPA welcomes this sentence as it successfully argued for the court to go beyond the prescribed minimum sentence and ensure a harsher sentence was handed down to the accused.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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