

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FORMER POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER

The Western Cape High Court has sentenced 38 year- old former police officer, Lindani Nakani to life imprisonment after convicting him on a charge of premeditated murder. The court also ordered that the accused is unfit to possess a firearm.

Busiswa Centane Rwayi died in a hail of bullets after her former lover and former police officer based at the Bellville Railway Station emptied his service pistol on her. Post mortem results showed that her abdominal area was completely destroyed and that she would not have stood a chance of survival even if medical help was available immediately. Her body had 42 entry and exit bullet wounds.

The couple's relationship started well as the divorced mother of two and the young policeman found love but complications started creeping in. They were followed by jealous accusations and assaults. The accused alleged that the deceased was involved in infidelity. He also said he once found her in a compromising position with a young man and that she infected him with a deadly disease. He further claimed that she abused him, was rude to him and as a result he suffered depression which led to his hospitalisation. He blamed his present position on the deceased and her family.

He assaulted her several times. She did call the police, but, did not lay formal charges as she feared that would impact on his work as a police officer. Her friends once saw her bruised body and she was forced to wear long pants at work to hide the bruises.

The last resort was when she took a protection order against him. The interim protection order was granted on 25 June 2015 at the Bellville Magistrates Court. He was ordered not to threaten Rwayi and her children, not to go to her house in Delft and that he must

hand over his service pistol. On 03 July 2015, the pair appeared before the magistrate for the accused to convince the court on why the interim order must not be made permanent. This hearing was postponed to 14 July 2015, as both parties wanted legal representatives. After that hearing, the accused drove to Pinelands Police Barracks where he was staying, took his service pistol and drove to Delft. After a shot confrontation with Rwayi, he shot her pressing the semi – automatic firearm 15 times. He then phoned his supervisor to report that he had shot his girlfriend and then drove to Delft police station to hand himself over.

During the trial, he told the court he does not remember anything he did. His lawyer argued that he was an upright citizen with no previous convictions or no discipline hearing processes against him while he was a member of the South African Police Services. He further argued that he was a worshiper who attended church regularly and what he did on that day was out of character.

Advocate Dan Moketsi dismissed all allegations the accused made against the deceased. "The accused is convicted of a premeditated murder. He planned her murder. Nineteen exhibits were collected at the scene which consisted of 15 bullet casings and four bullets. This accused breached a court order which prohibited him from carrying a firearm and visiting the home of the deceased. He drove from Pinelands with a loaded firearm with the intention to kill the deceased. Even a court order could not protect this poor woman. There are no substantial and compelling reasons that force the court to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence of life," he argued.

The court agreed and further ordered that the accused is not fit to own a firearm.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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