

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 08 NOVEMBER 2019**

**RE: FOUR COUNTS OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDERER**

Sbusiso Ernest Mpungose (44) was yesterday sentenced to four counts of murder in the Kwa-Zulu Natal High Court. The accused murdered his three biological children and his stepchild, at Wyebank in the Pinetown district.

On the day of the incident, Tuesday afternoon of 03 September 2019, the accused fetched the young children from their respective schools, brought them home, killed them and hanged them from the window burglar guards. He thereafter fetched his stepdaughter, the oldest of the four children, from her school and took her to the forest, and killed her. The police recovered the bodies. The cause of death was established as being consistent with hanging for all deceased.

The accused pleaded that he would like to tender an apology to his wife and family members for his conduct. He mentioned that he is not remorseful because he still does not believe that he killed his children. He mentioned that he suffered severe depression after he was served with divorce-papers, and was pleading for mercy from the court.

The mother of the children told the court that the accused abused her emotionally and financially, despite the fact that she supported him when he was unemployed. She then decided to divorce him when she realized that their problems were affecting the children. As a professional teacher, she decided to take temporary incapacity leave because she could not face children after this ordeal. She said she would accept the accused's apology for the sake of her peace but she was not ready for that.

Addressing the court in aggravation of sentence, the prosecutor stated that the murder was the worst of its kind, where innocent children met their death in their hands of their parent who they trusted and was supposed to be their protector. The accused had a chance to reflect on his actions after he hanged the first child, but he did not.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Adv. Elaine Zungu commends the manner in which the prosecutor dealt with the matter and ensured that the family received swift justice. Violent crimes against women and children have reached epidemic levels in our country and this outcome must reflect that the criminal justice system will deal decisively with those found guilty of these crimes.

**Kholiswa Mdhuli**  
**NPA Media Relations**  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)