

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 02 JULY 2015

RE: SENTENCING IN BURRY STANDER CASE

Twenty-seven (27) year-old taxi driver, Njabulo Nyawose was sentenced to an effective 3 years imprisonment in the Port Shepstone Regional Court yesterday. This relates to the accident which occurred in January 2013 where Olympic cyclist, Burry Stander was killed.

In the incident, Nyawose was driving his taxi on Marine Drive in Port Shepstone when the traffic came to a standstill, due to the busy holiday period. He then went over a double barrier line and overtook the stationary vehicles in front of him, whilst driving in the lane of oncoming traffic. He was in the process of turning right when he collided with Stander who was cycling towards him. The court found no contributing negligence on the part of the cyclist and ruled that the accident was solely due to the accused's disregard for the traffic sign.

In aggravation of sentence, regional court prosecutor, Christelle Roussouw led the evidence of Michael Robert Bradley, chairman of Cycling South Africa (CSA), who told the court that Stander's death was a formidable loss to CSA. He described him as a humble and modest young man who was at the pinnacle of his career when he died.

The presiding officer sentenced Nyawose to six years imprisonment for culpable homicide, half of which was suspended for 5 years and a R5000 fine or three months imprisonment (wholly suspended for 5 years) for failing to obey a traffic sign. His driver's license was also cancelled. He is out on bail of R1000 pending his application for leave to appeal on the judgement and sentence.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Adv Moipone Noko respects the court findings and is pleased that the court found Nyawose to be grossly negligent. We trust that road users will take heed to this sentence and practise safe driving.

Kind Regards,

Issued by:

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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