

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 16 OCTOBER 2019**

**RE: LIFE SENTENCE FOR MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER FOR MUTI PURPOSES**

Philani Siyabonga Jojisa was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Durban High Court last week after pleading guilty to the August 2017 murder he committed.

In his plea, he stated that he was in financial debt when he came up with the idea of selling human body parts to a traditional healer for money. He had heard that some traditional healers buy human parts and decided to kill a person to sell their body parts.

He met with a traditional healer named Khuzwayo who advised that he would pay for a human head and the accused asked for R20 000. The accused then discussed his idea with his co-accused, Lehlohonolo Swartbooi.

On the night of the offence, the accused and Swartbooi were drinking at a tavern in the Mayville area when the deceased, Thembinkosi Nzimakwe, joined them. The two men decided that they will kill Nzimakwe, thus they plied him with alcohol.

At some stage, the deceased wanted to leave and the men escorted him out. They led him to a nearby bush where Swartbooi held him down while the accused cut off his head. Jojisa put the head in a plastic bag, put it inside a backpack, and returned home to his sleeping girlfriend and child. He threw his bloodstained clothes into a river not to arouse any suspicion.

The next day, he arranged to meet with Khuzwayo in the Durban CBD where he would exchange the head for the agreed amount of money. He was arrested later that day.

Senior State Advocate Wendy Greef and Senior State Advocate Val Dafel successfully prosecuted the matter.

The co-accused, Swartbooi, pleaded not guilty and will go on trial in March next year.

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu hopes that hefty sentences like this one will deter like-minded individuals from committing similar offences and commends the prosecution on a job well done.

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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