

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN GETS 45 YEARS FOR MURDER AND ROBBERY

The Western Cape High Court has sentenced Lwando Dubha to 45 years direct imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to robbery with aggravating circumstances and murder of Nosisa Antoinetta Sonjani. The court sentenced Dubha to 15 years direct imprisonment for the robbery with aggravating circumstances and 30 years for the murder. It ordered that the sentences run concurrently. This means the accused will spend 30 years in jail.

The deceased, a former clerk at a Khayelitsha Police Station, also owned a construction company with her partner. They employed the 29 year -old Dubha and she also offered him a place to stay at her house at the SAPS Faure Base. Dubha claims that on 29 April 2016, he was with the deceased at her house and Siphamandla Somlotha arrived at the property. He claims Somlotha poured a kettle with boiling water on the deceased. He, Dubha, took a knife from Somlotha and stabbed the deceased once on the chest. He further alleges that Somlotha then strangled the deceased with an electric cord. The accused confessed that he agreed with Somlotha's actions of pouring boiling water on the deceased.

The problem with the presence of this mysterious accomplice, Siphamandla Somlotha, is that nobody knows about him. Although the accused claims that he also worked at the construction company owned by the deceased, none of the co-workers knew about his presence before and after the murder. And strangely, he did not claim any of the loot as the accused took everything with him to Cofimvaba, Eastern Cape. Dubha has confessed that he took R1 000 that was on the table and the deceased's Toyota Hilux bakkie, a television set, a microwave, a cellular phone and a cheque in the amount of R8 150, 66.

He loaded all the stolen items in the bakkie and left the deceased bleeding in the house as he was convinced that she would bleed to death. She was found a week after the

incident. He then drove to Cofimvaba in the Eastern Cape. On the way, he picked up his mother and lied to her that he had bought the items and the bakkie. He even shared some of the stolen items with his unsuspecting mother. He used the stolen vehicle in Cofimvaba until he was involved in an accident and he could not afford its repairs.

Advocate Nokuzola Mbewana – Mthelelo who finalised the plea and sentencing agreement told the court that the deceased was a defenceless female who was brutally murdered.

“These offences are serious and prevalent. The deceased left behind her children and some minors and her life partner is struggling to come to terms with the incident. The employees of the construction company suffered loss as they expected payment which could not be effected since the deceased was out of reach on payment date. She was also the hand that fed the accused and was known to him,” Advocate Mbewana–Mthelelo motivated for a strong sentence.

The court declared the accused unfit to possess a firearm.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and hopes that it sends a clear message that those who are involved in the violence against women and children will continue receiving long imprisonment sentences as the organisation prioritises these cases.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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