

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN GETS 8 YEARS FOR HATE CRIME

A 47 year-old man from Mzingazi near Richards Bay was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment in the Empangeni Regional Court today after being convicted for the attempted murder of his ex-girlfriend.

The accused and the complainant were in a relationship when at some stage she found out that he was married. She ended their relationship but the accused refused to accept her decision. There had been reported violence in their relationship to an extent that the complainant had charged the accused with domestic violence.

After the break-up, the complainant subsequently began a relationship with another woman. The accused found out about this and was angered. On the day of the incident he had told the complainant's sister that he would kill the complainant for leaving him for another woman.

The accused accosted the complainant at a bus stop and attempted to drag her off. She then shouted for help and was overheard by a relative. Her family members were alerted and as her sister reached the area, she heard a gunshot. She found the complainant lying on the floor with a gunshot wound to her head. The sister phoned the accused but he told her that he was now finished with the complainant.

Regional Court Prosecutor, Thobile Ntsele led the testimony of the victim's sister who told the court that the accused had indeed told her that he would kill her sister.

A victim impact statement compiled by the complainant and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Ntombi Chonco was also handed in to the court. The complainant gave a harrowing account on how the offence had affected her life. The bullet fired by the accused had lodged itself in her head and the removal thereof has left her with sight

impairments. She has lost her form of employment as she cannot see properly and now needs to be assisted by others, she said. She also told the court about the physical and emotional abuse she was subjected to when she was in a relationship with the accused.

The accused was sentenced to a term of 8 years imprisonment and declared unfit to possess a firearm.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko said about the sentence, "This is an excellent sentence and it shows that the NPA and our partners in the justice system are doing our best to protect victims of crime; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersexual (LGBTI) community, in this instance. People of this country should be safe irrespective of their sexual preference. The fact that the accused has been declared unfit to possess a firearm is also appreciated."

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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