

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: TONGAAT KILLER GETS 4 LIFE & 53 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

Yesterday, the Durban High Court handed down four life sentences and 53 years imprisonment to Sphiwe Patrick Khoza (38). This relates to the murders, rape and robberies he committed in the period of May to June 2013.

Towards the latter part of May 2013, the accused met his first victim in the Tongaat area. He lured her into some bushes where he raped her, robbed her of her belongings, strangled her with a belt and left the scene after covering her body with branches.

Then in early June, the accused lured Philisile Virginia Hlatshwayo into a sugar cane plantation in the same area. He robbed her of her cell phone and a bank card before strangling her and setting her body alight. He then used her bank card to withdraw money from the ATM. In both these instances the accused had bound his victims.

Later that month the accused took Bongiwe Caroline Majozi to a field in the Tongaat area where he robbed her of her phone and bank card. He then set her body alight. A cause of death could not be established due to the extent of which her body was burned. Here too he withdrew money from the victim's bank account.

The court handed down 3 life sentences to Khoza for each of the murders as well as a further life sentence for the rape of his first victim. He was given 15 years each for the three counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances and 8 years for the four counts of theft. The presiding officer ruled that the sentences will run concurrently with the life sentence.

The state used the testimony of the family members of the deceased in aggravation of sentence. Both ladies testified that the death of their loved ones had had a devastating financial and emotional effect, as the deceased were the breadwinners of the family.

This matter was prosecuted by Adv Sheryl Naidu and Adv Vera Alamchand from the Director of Public Prosecutions office in Durban.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes this sentence. We also commend the prosecutors and investigation team for their efforts.

Kind Regards,

Issued by:

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