

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MURDERERS SENTENCED FOR FARM KILLING

An 18 year-old man was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in the Pietermaritzburg High Court yesterday after pleading guilty to charges of robbery with aggravating circumstances, housebreaking and murder.

The incident took place in July last year in the Cenema Estate of Silver Oaks in Greytown. The deceased was a farmer and an employee of Mondi Paper Company. The accused and his two accomplices had planned to attack the deceased and approached him while he was on the veranda of his home. They stabbed the deceased who managed to escape and lock the door of his house. The accused pursued him, breaking down the kitchen door. They assaulted the deceased and tied a nylon rope around his neck, he was strangled.

They then stole a cellphone and a few other items and fled the scene.

In aggravation of sentence, State Advocate Roan Du Preez handed in victim impact statements facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Louann Shuttleworth and compiled by the daughter and son of the deceased. In the statements, they both expressed how the loss of their father has and will continue to impact on their lives. They also mentioned that they cannot move on and are still grieving their loss.

The accused was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for murder, 12 years imprisonment for robbery and 5 years imprisonment housebreaking. He will serve an effective 20 years imprisonment.

His co-accused, also 18 years-old, pleaded guilty two months ago. He was prosecuted by Senior State Advocate Mbongeni Mthembu and sentenced to 22 years imprisonment for

murder, 12 years imprisonment for robbery and 5 years imprisonment for housebreaking. He is serving an effective 22 years imprisonment.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu Natal, Advocate Moipone Noko had this to say, "this sentence shows the serious approach that we are taking against crimes of this nature, even when the accused persons are of a young age. I hope this prosecution adds to our crusade to address farm murders."

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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