

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 28 MAY 2020**

**RE: NPA CLARIFIES SIBUSISO BLOSE RULING**

On 19 May 2020, a full Court (three Judges) of the KwaZulu Natal Division of the High Court set aside the convictions and sentence of Sibusiso Hendry Blose. In 2006, Blose was sentenced to life and a further 40 years imprisonment for murder, robbery and attempted murder.

Recent media reports have stated that Blose was wrongly convicted and that an innocent man spent 16 years in prison.

The National Prosecuting Authority would like to clarify that this is not the position. The full court set aside the verdict only because the transcript of the trial could not be obtained. An appeal court has to have a complete typed record of the entire proceedings against the accused. This is to assess whether findings made by the trial Judge were in accordance with justice.

Without such a record, the appeal court is unable to determine whether the trial Judge did or did not err in any respect. The record of Blose's trial could not be obtained and attempts at reconstructing the record proved futile, as only the prosecutor's notes were available.

Therefore, the appeal court was left with no option but to set aside the convictions on this ground alone. No pronouncement was made on the guilt or otherwise of the accused on the merits of the case. It is thus incorrect to state that Blose was wrongly convicted or is innocent of these crimes.

The appeal judgment is attached.

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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