

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 11 JULY 2019

RE: TRIO SENTENCED TO LIFE AND 13 YEARS FOR MURDER AND ROBBERY

Yesterday, the Durban High Court sentenced Basil Lungani Underhill (26), Braveman Underhill (25) and Fredboy Msomi (30) to life and 13 years imprisonment for the September 2017 murder and robbery of a Chatsworth woman. Accused 3, Msomi received a further five years imprisonment for theft.

The deceased, Gonapathy Pillay, a retired school principal, resided with her husband Loganathan. They planned to sell their home and move into an apartment; and thus began liaising with Accused 1, Underhill, who was an intern estate agent with a prominent estate agency. Accused 1 and 2 are cousins.

On the day of the offence, the accused visited the deceased's home under the pretense of being interested in the property. The deceased and her husband served them tea and cake. The accused then attacked the couple, killing the deceased and stabbing her husband 17 times. The husband survived the attack. They stole several items and fled in the husband's vehicle.

In aggravation of sentence, Senior State Advocate Kelvin Singh led the testimony of the complainant, who gave a harrowing account of the incident.

The presiding officer found the offences to be brutal and uncalled for, sentencing the accused to life for murder and 13 years imprisonment for robbery. Msomi was also convicted and sentenced for the theft.

The sentences will run concurrently with that of life.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

Enquiries: nramkisson@npa.gov.za

0716700229