

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: WORCESTER MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR BRUTAL MURDER OF STEP-DAUGHTER

The Western Cape High Court has sentenced Byron Maans to life imprisonment for the brutal murder of his step – daughter and for repeated brutal assault of his girlfriend who is the mother of the deceased.

The circuit court sitting in Worcester convicted Maans on two counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm after he repeatedly beat up his girlfriend, 23 - year - old Frangilien Moses. The court also convicted him for the murder of his four year-old step- daughter, Marilyn Moses. The court convicted him on murder with direct intention.

During the trial, Advocate Evadne Kortje laid bare the brutal nature of the accused who has a history of abuse of women. While he was still youngster, his aunt took a protection order against him after he physically abused her. At the time Maans was under the care of the aunt after he was referred by the court. His previous girlfriend and her eleven year-old daughter also took out protection orders against him after he abused her.

Incidents that led to the death of the little girl started when Frangilien Moses and her two daughters - Frangilien Moses, eight years-old and the deceased moved in with Maans at his mother's place at 82 Kwevoel Street, Avian Park, Worcester. On the evening of 27 January 2018, the accused's mother, Marinda Maans, and the accused's girlfriend left the two children in the custody of the accused.

On their return they found the accused smoking in the lounge and the deceased was sleeping in the room. She had several injuries. He told them that she was hit by a bicycle. The girl's mother stopped a patrolling police vehicle and they took her daughter to Worcester District Hospital where she declared dead on arrival.

The accused was arrested. Post-mortem and eye witness reports painted a gruesome different picture. The tiny girl had a swollen brain caused by a repeated bludgeoning on the head with a stone that was used as a door stopper. She had a ruptured pancreas which was caused by a heavy kicking while the deceased lying on the floor. The deceased's sister, Frengilien Moses, 9, who was the only eye witness to the incident told the court that the accused hit her sister with his fists on her face.

Although the accused denied any of the allegations, his mother who was a State witness testified that "she noticed blood at the toilet base, the hardboard next to the toilet, blood by the front door, the small passage as you come in by the front door and also blood smudges by the bedroom of the accused." When she asked the accused about the blood, he told her that the deceased had a running stomach. Mrs Maans explained that she noticed some blood on part of the brick but the brick had just disappeared the next morning.

The history of the abuse of the mother and her child is not new. The mother was once stabbed, kicked so hard while on the floor that she miscarried. In fact, the mother's first question when she entered and didn't see her daughter indicates the history of assault on her daughter: "Het jy alweer Marilyn gedonner".

Advocate Kortje told the court: "It is the State's respectful submission that the accused was a poor witness. He was rude, sarcastic and very argumentative. The accused got so entangled in his web of lies that he did not impress at all. The state submit that this Honourable Court reject his evidence as false."

The court did and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The NPA welcomes this sentence as it comes at a time as the country is busy with campaigns against the abuse of women and children that are rampant in the Western Cape.

Kind Regards,

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