



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Media Advisory

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KZN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT WELCOMES THE TWENTY- THREE YEAR SENTENCE FOR MURDER AND NEGLIGENT DRIVING HANDED DOWN TO THE DRIVER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 2022 PONGOLO FATAL TRUCK CRASH

The KwaZulu- Natal Department of Transport has welcomed the twenty-three-year sentence handed down against the truck driver who was responsible for the death of 20 people in Pongolo.

Yesterday (Thursday, 16 May 2024), Sibusiso Siyaya (30 years) was sentenced by the Pongolo Magistrate Court for reckless and negligence driving and twenty (20) murder cases.

Siyaya was found guilty on all counts by the same court yesterday with all evidence placing the responsibility on him for the horrific accident which claimed the lives of nineteen (19) learners and one (01) assistant teacher in September 2022.

The court sentenced Siyaya to three (3) years imprisonment for reckless and negligent driving, six (6) years on failing to report an accident and to assist victims of the accident, fourteen (14) years for the murder of twenty (20) people and his driver's licence was revoked.

Count one (1) and count two (2) will run concurrently. This means he will serve an effective twenty (20) years imprisonment.

On the 16th of September 2022, an accident occurred in the Godlwayo area when a runaway truck collidehead-on with a bakkie that was ferrying mostly learners from various nearby schools.

Upon impact, Siyaya fled the scene and later handed himself to the police.

The case has been going on since 2022 with various witnesses and evidence including forensic experts' reports brought before the court.

Commenting in the wake of this judgement, the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Siphso Hlomuka said this judgement will go down in history as the most important ruling and deterrent to irresponsible drivers on the road.

"As government we welcome this historic judgment. The fact that Siyaya was sentenced, for amongst others murder proves the seriousness in which the criminal justice system is attaching to road traffic offenders. We hope that this judgement will serve as a harsh lesson to other reckless drivers on the road.

We also believe that through this judgement that victims' families will find closure knowing that the person responsible for the calamity that robbed them of their loved ones has been sent to jail." said Hlomuka.

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Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.