

# Sosilawati's killers lose appeal

**UNANIMOUS:** Court of Appeal upholds death sentence of ex-lawyer N. Pathmanaban and 3 farmhands

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**T**HE Court of Appeal has upheld the conviction and death sentence of former lawyer N. Pathmanaban and three of his farmhands for the murder of cosmetics millionaire Datuk Sosilawati Lawiya and her three aides in 2010.

The three-member panel, chaired by judge Datuk Aziah Ali, in a unanimous decision, ruled that their convictions were safe.

Also on the panel were Datuk Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat, who read out the judgment, and Justice Datuk Seri Zakaria Sam.

Tengku Maimun said the court was satisfied with the lower court's findings that the appellants were the perpetrators leading to the death of Sosilawati and her three aides.

"From the direct evidence of family members, friends and witnesses taken together with circumstantial evidence, the forensic and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence, which established the presence of Sosilawati and her aides at the farm, it could be easily inferred that they had met their deaths there.



**Datuk Sosilawati Lawiya**



**Ahmad Kamil Abdul Karim**



**Kamaruddin Shamsuddin**



**Noorhisham Mohamad**

"At the conclusion of the trial, we are satisfied that the prosecution had proved its case against the appellants beyond reasonable doubt."

Pathmanaban, 45, his farmhands, T. Thilaiyalagan, 25, R. Matan, 24, and R. Kathavarayan, 35, had appealed against their conviction and death sentence for the murder of Sosilawati, 47, bank officer Noorhisham Mohamad, 38, lawyer Ahmad Kamil Abdul Karim, 32, and Sosilawati's driver, Kamaruddin Shamsuddin, 44.

It was reported that Sosilawati and her aides had gone missing after going to Banting for a land deal.

The four suspects were arrested and charged in 2011.

They were accused of committing the murders at Lot 2001, Jalan Tanjung Layang, Tanjung Sepat in Banting, between 8.30pm and 9.45pm on Aug 30, 2010.

All four accused were sentenced to death by the Shah Alam High Court on May 25, 2013, after they were found guilty of committing the murders.

The Court of Appeal heard submissions for the men's appeal for six days, beginning Aug 10, before giv-

ing its decision yesterday.

Pathmanaban was represented by counsel Manjeet Singh Dhillon, while Thilaiyalagan was represented by Hisyam Teh Poh Teik and Gurbachan Singh.

Matan was represented by Amer Hamzah Arshad, while Kathavarayan by M. Stanislaus Vethanayagam.

Deputy public prosecutor Ishak Mohd Yusoff led the prosecution team.

When Tengku Maimun read out the judgment, all four appellants, whose family members were present, showed no emotion.

Later, Amer Hamzah said they would appeal to the Federal Court.

"This is a matter of life and death, and we will definitely appeal."

He told the *New Straits Times* that they would be filing the appeal next week.

"We have accepted the decision of the Court of Appeal and whatever issues we have will be raised before the Federal Court.

"The decision of the Court of Appeal is water under the bridge and our focus now will be the Federal Court," he said.

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(From left) **T. Thilaiyalagan, N. Pathmanaban, R. Kathavarayan and R. Matan** were charged with murder at the Shah Alam High Court in 2011. File pic

## Daughter thanks judge, DPP

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Sosilawati Lawiya's eldest daughter, Erni Dekritawati Yuliana Buhari, said she was satisfied that the culprits, who killed her mother, would get the sentence they deserved.

"I would like to thank the judge and the deputy public prosecutor. I accept the decision with an open heart.

"I would also like to express my gratitude to all Malaysians, who have given me moral support and words of inspiration, especially to continue my mum's legacy.

"I hope this will serve as a lesson to those out there to not act beyond limit. I am fully satisfied that they finally got what they deserve."