

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

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RE: LIFE SENTENCES FOR POLITICAL KILLINGS

Khumbulani Madlala (25), Msizi Majola (31) and Thembinkosi Makhathini (30) were given life sentences in the Pietermaritzburg High Court yesterday. This relates to two murders that took place in July 2010 and February 2011.

In July 2010, Mazwi S bongiseni Mnikati was gunned down at his home near Estcourt and Mcebiseni Patric Duma was killed near the Wembezi Township in February 2011. Both men were members of the National Freedom Party (NFP).

Advocate Ncedile Dunywa led evidence in court proving that the murders were politically fuelled and were a result of different political ideologies between Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and NFP members. A Section 204 witness testified to being part of the planning of these murders. He also stated that the accused bought cell phones and a car that were used in the execution of these crimes.

In aggravation of sentence, advocate Dunywa told the court that political violence and instability painted a bad picture of South Africa in the minds of foreign investors and tourists and that they see our country as unstable and this has a negative impact on tourism.

All three accused were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Mnikati and accused 1 was sentenced to a further life term for the murder of Duma.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Adv Moipone Noko said that the NPA welcomes both the conviction and sentence in this matter given the trend of political intolerance these days. "We hope that this sends out the relevant message that crimes of this nature will not be tolerated by the courts."

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara
Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN
Enquiries: nramkisson@npa.gov.za
0716700229