

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 31 AUGUST 2015

RE: 25 YEARS FOR POSSESSION OF PROHIBITED FIREARM & AMMUNITION

Sihle Gasela (41) was sentenced to an effective 25 years imprisonment in the Greytown Regional Court last week after being convicted of possession of an unlicensed semi-automatic pistol and ammunition.

The accused was arrested at the Greytown taxi rank in February last year after police (acting on a tip off) found him in possession of the firearm and seven live rounds of ammunition.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges and insisted that the police had falsely implicated him in this matter. However, regional court prosecutor, Premie Naidoo led the evidence of various witnesses and proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused was in fact found with these items.

Naidoo further argued that she had prosecuted the accused for being in possession of a prohibited firearm in terms of the Firearms Controls Act 60/2000 as the firearm's serial number had been erased. She further proved that the accused had previous convictions for robbery and possession of unlicensed firearms.

The accused was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for the possession of a prohibited firearm and 15 years imprisonment for possession of the ammunition. The court ordered that the sentence of 15 years runs concurrently with the 25 years.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes this sentence and we hope that it serves as a warning to those in possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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