

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: DOUBLE LIFE SENTENCE FOR MAPHUMULO MEN

Sakhokwakhe Mzobe and Mlungisi Khanyile were sentenced in the Maphumulo Regional Court last week for the murder of Magenqele Ngcobo (62) and Yini Ndlovu (60) in December 2013.

The incident took place in Masiwela in the Maphumulo area and Regional Court Prosecutor Pamela Phikiso led the evidence of an eye witness who told the court what had happened.

He said that he met both accused when they sent him to buy beer for them. They then forced him to carry their beer and follow them to Masiwela. En route, they met the two deceased who they forced to drink the beer. Accused 1 slapped Ngcobo who was carrying a knobkerrie, he then took hold of the knobkerrie and assaulted the deceased.

Each accused were in possession of a firearm and the witness testified that without a warning, accused 1 gave his firearm to accused 2 who shot Ngcobo in the chest. Accused 2 then used his own firearm to shoot Ndlovu who was fleeing the scene. Both men died at the scene.

The state relied on common purpose in charging accused 1 with murder. Phikiso successfully argued that he be convicted of both murders as well because he acted on implied common purpose with his co-accused by removing his firearm and handing it over. This was further aggravated by the fact that he didn't object when accused 2 shot Ndlovu.

Both accused were sentenced to two terms of life imprisonment for the murders. Accused 2 was sentenced to a further 15 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances when he stole two firearms in July 2013.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes this sentence.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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