

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 14 April 2016**

**RE: TAXI OWNERS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS**

Taxi owners, Siyamcela Bonga (32) and Simfumene Macingwana (41) were sentenced to ten years imprisonment by the Mount Frere Regional Court on Tuesday, 12 April 2016 after the court found them guilty of malicious damage to property, for torching two vehicles belonging to a police officer.

According to evidence presented in court, Macingwana, along with a certain Bavuyise Sikweleti, were arrested by Constable Siyabonga Msindwana on 13 February 2015 for possession of a stolen vehicle. After being released on bail on 03 March 2015, Macingwana requested the assistance of Bonga to "teach the police officer a lesson". On the night of 03 May 2015, the duo went to Msindwana's home at Mpendla village near Mount Frere and burnt his two bakkies a Toyota Hilux and a Mazda Drifter. They then fled in a white Hyundai mini-truck.

Msindwana's father witnessed the burning of the vehicles and managed to take down the details of the getaway vehicle and the police investigations revealed that it belonged to Macingwana. A second witness, who was also near Msindwana's homestead during the incident also identified the duo as being responsible for the torching of the two vehicles. Regional court prosecutor Chumile Mkentane convinced the court that the two criminals had to be sent to prison for a long time, more especially because they targeted a police officer for performing his duties, a clear indication that they did not have any respect for the rule of law.

Macingwana and Sikweleti are due to appear in court on 27 May 2016 on the charge of possession of a stolen vehicle.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will send a clear message to criminals that lawlessness can never be tolerated by our courts.

Kind Regards,

**Luxolo Tyali**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha**

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