

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: GANGSTERS GET TWO LIFE TERMS EACH FOR MURDER AND 18 YEARS FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER

On Thursday, the Port Elizabeth High Court sentenced Preston Baadtjies and Vuyani Kondile, affiliates of the Dustlives gang in the Northern Areas of Port Elizabeth. The accused were sentenced as follows: on two counts of murder: two life terms; attempted murder: 12 years imprisonment; possession of unlicensed firearm: 5 years imprisonment and possession of ammunition without a licence: 1 year imprisonment. The firearm and ammunition sentence is to run concurrently with the life sentence.

On 12 July 2013, in broad daylight, Randy Nel, Ivan MacDonald and Dean Gallant were at a recreational park. Whilst there, Baadtjies and Kondile, alighted from a mini- bus taxi and armed with firearms, walked up to Nel and McDonald and opened fire on them.

MacDonald was shot and killed on the scene. Nel was shot but died days later in hospital. Dean Gallant fled and was a witness in the case only to be executed before he could testify.

As Baadtjies and Kondile were fleeing the scene they were confronted by police officers who were patrolling in the area. The police officer, Graven Hendricks gave chase and the accused opened fire on the police officer. The police returned fire and then Baadtjies and Kondile were arrested on the scene. The accused were arraigned in the High Court on the following charges: two counts of murder; two counts of attempted murder; possession of an unlicensed firearm and possession of ammunition without a licence.

State Prosecutor, Advocate Canary did exceptionally well in this matter. His star witness Dean Gallant was executed and he had to bring an application in terms of section 3 of

the Law of Evidence Amendment Act of 1988 (Hearsay Act) to have the statement of Dean Gallant accepted by the court. Even though this application failed, the manner in which Advocate Canary led the witnesses left the court with no other option but to come to the conclusion that the accused acted with common purpose and that the murders were gang related and premeditated.

The investigating officer, Constable Gogela of the gang task team and Advocate Canary are commended for their efforts in securing a conviction.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza

Regional Spokesperson: DPP PE & Grahamstown

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