

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 13 JUNE 2016

RE: ARMED ROBBERS SENTENCED

Sifiso Thulani Cele (40) and Mbuso Wiseman Shangase (30) were sentenced to 15 years and 10 years imprisonment respectively in the Verulam Regional Court on Friday for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

In May last year, the accused robbed a house in Tongaat where they held two elderly female occupants at gunpoint and stole items such as flat screen TVs, firearms and cell phones. They assaulted one of the women before tying them up and locking them in a bathroom.

The accused were arrested a month later via one of the cell phones that was stolen in the robbery and some of the stolen items were recovered when they were arrested. They were positively identified by the complainants during the identity parade. Despite this overwhelming evidence against them, the accused pleaded not guilty and had the defence of an alibi. However, regional court prosecutor Ishara Sewnarayan successfully disproved their defence.

In aggravation of sentence, Sewnarayan argued that the offence was carefully planned and perpetrated. Further, she added that both accused had previous convictions and were out on parole at the time of the offences.

In a victim impact statement handed in court, one of the complainants said that she is haunted by the bad memories of the incident and she is now selling her house at a lower price than its value. She also said the incident had ruined her life and taken away her sense of security.

The NPA welcomes this sentence. We hope that this will have the necessary deterrent effect on would-be offenders.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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