

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: COUPLE FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

The Western Cape High Court convicted Craig and Bridget Smeddle on all seven counts they faced including premeditated murder yesterday. The married couple dubbed 'Bonnie and Clyde' by local media, were convicted on charges of murder, robbery, two counts of fraud, forgery, uttering and defeating or obstructing the administration of justice. Craig was also convicted on an additional count of fraud.

The accused murdered a 71 year-old Robert Symons by stabbing him with a sharp object and using blunt force to his head and strangling him with one of his shoelaces. They stole various items from him including his motor vehicle. They sold these items for financial gain. They also forged his signature on various documents for the purpose of selling the vehicle to a state witness and attempting to persuade the witness to lie about their identity after their arrests. The separate count of fraud faced by Craig pertains to the presentation of one of the deceased's cheques bearing his forged signature to Standard Bank.

Convicting the two, Judge Judith Cloete said the state, represented by Advocate Bronwen Hendry-Sidaki and Advocate Tillette Berry proved its case beyond any reasonable doubt.

The two will be sentenced on 26 July 2016 by the Western Cape High Court. They are currently serving 15 years each for the murder of Edwin Obiano who they killed in Observatory in July 2011.

The state will ask the court to impose life imprisonment on both accused which is a minimum sentence applicable on premeditated murder.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila
National Prosecuting Authority
Regional Communications Manager
Western Cape