

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 05 MAY 2016

RE: DUO SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT PLUS 40 YEARS

Gabriel Mothusi Mogale from Maokeng in Kroonstad was sentenced by the North West High Court in Mahikeng to 30 years imprisonment yesterday. He was convicted on murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition, malicious damage to property and housebreaking.

On 23 March 2014, the accused and two others broke into the farm of Jacobus Nicolaas Erasmus and Martha Anna Erasmus in the District of Zeerust. They were armed with pangas and firearm with a clear intention to rob. On their arrival at the Sumsaren farm, the accused and others used the bathroom window which was half open to gain entry into the house. Inside the house the accused and others split into two groups, two attacking Martha by hitting her with a panga as she finally collapsed and others shot and killed Jacobus with a firearm.

After Jacobus was shot dead, the accused forced Martha to show them keys to the safe where money amounting to more than R200 000.00 was taken, a laptop, 9 mm pistol and a Mazda Drifter. Before the accused left they tied Martha on a chair. The accused and others left the scene using the stolen Mazda Drifter.

A post mortem examination conducted on the body of the deceased revealed that he died as a result of gunshot wounds to the neck. Gabriel Mothusi Mogale was arrested with two others on 12 March 2015. The other two accused were released because the state had no sufficient evidence to link them to the crime while Gabriel Mothusi Mogale was linked through DNA.

The court stated that farm attacks are prevalent in the District of Groot Marico and further as a result of the barbaric crime, the surviving spouse vacated the farm which had a guest house operating as a result she lost her business. During the mitigation the court deviated from imposing the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment because the accused pleaded guilty and was remorseful.

The NPA congratulates Advocate Sipiwo Jika and welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Frank Lesenyego

Regional Spokesperson: DPP North West

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