

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 09 JUNE 2020**

**RE: ABALONE TRUCK HIJACKER SENTENCED TO 42 YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT**

The Atlantis Regional Court sentenced Zukisa Sibango to 42 years direct imprisonment after convicting him on two counts of attempted murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, kidnapping, illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition.

The court sentenced Sibango to 10 years for the two attempted murders charges, 20 years direct imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 5 years direct imprisonment for kidnapping and seven years direct imprisonment for illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition. The court ordered that all the sentences run concurrently with the sentence for the robbery with aggravating circumstances. This means he is sentenced to an effective 20 years direct imprisonment.

Sibango has been in conflict with the law several times before and is currently serving a life imprisonment following his sentencing for a robbery with aggravating circumstances and murder in uMthatha. As a result, the Atlantis Regional Court ordered on Friday that this sentence run concurrently with the life imprisonment he is already serving.

The NPA welcomes the sentence, as it is commensurate punishment to the crime. This sentence follows the accused's decision to enter into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state. He confessed that he was part of group of four men, including his uncle, who drove from Nyanga and went first to Du Noon and later some of them went to Melkbosstrand. They were aware that a truck carrying cultivated abalone, escorted by a security vehicle, was traveling from Jacobsbaai to Cape Town International Airport.

One of the passengers in their vehicle fired shots at the security vehicle forcing it to stop. After that, an occupant of their vehicle fired at the truck also forcing it to come to a standstill. They then forced the driver to drive the truck and later forced him into the boot of their escorting vehicle. The accused took over the driving of the truck and they went to Du Noon. After emptying the truck, they dumped it and the driver. They then obtained a buyer for the cargo and shared the proceeds of the sale amongst themselves. He was linked to the crimes through his DNA and fingerprints, which were found in the cabin of the truck they hijacked.

Senior State Advocate Mervyn Menigo told the court that the 32 year-old father of two was convicted of serious crimes. "At the time, robberies of cultivated abalone trucks became so prevalent in the Western Cape that companies at great expense were forced to use armoured cars to ferry or employ security escorts to escort their cargo to its destination at huge costs to the industry, he argued in aggravation of sentence." He added that Quinton Williams, an occupant of one of the vehicle that was shot at by the robbers, has not fully recovered from the shooting and complains that he suffers from chronic constipation, back pain and has to take medication for anxiety because of the shooting.

Sibango's uncle and another suspect have since died while the rest of the accused are unknown.

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**Regional Communications Manager**

**Western Cape**

**Tel: (021) 487 7308 Mobile: 073 062 1222**

**Email: [entabazalila@npa.gov.za](mailto:entabazalila@npa.gov.za)**