

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: ARMED ROBBER SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS IN PRISON

A 23 year-old man from Clocolan was yesterday sentenced to an effective 18 years imprisonment after he was convicted of two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances by Clocolan Magistrate's Court.

Magistrate Magda Jacobs sentenced Mojalefa Jafta Khete for robberies he committed on 14 August 2016 and 25 September 2016. Khete committed the first robbery when he robbed Jacob Ishmael Ntholeng of his camera, cellular phone and R3500 cash. Ntholeng is a journalist working for Daily Sun. The value of the camera and cellular phone are estimated at R7000.

Khete was with a fellow robber, who is still at large, when they robbed Ntholeng. They stabbed him with a knife in the abdomen and he had to be hospitalised for few days. Khete was released on bail after his arrest. He committed the second robbery while out on bail. He robbed a Pakistani shop owner of R3000 cash and two cellular phone. The shop owner called for assistance of the community immediately after the robbery. One cellular phone was recovered.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Tshidi Sebolai handed a victim impact statement that was facilitated by Tshepang Moeti that detailed how the crime has traumatised Ntholeng. In the Victim Impact Statement, Ntholeng further stated that the crime had affected him financially because he was robbed of a camera he used to do his work. He also had to close his shop in town where he was selling herbs and this resulted in a loss of about R5000 a month, which he was making from the shop.

Khete has three previous convictions. He was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment for robbery in 2010. In 2015, he escaped from custody and he was convicted for being in possession of drugs in 2016.

Sebolai requested the court to sentence Khete to a minimum sentence as prescribed by law because he did not provide the court with any compelling and substantial circumstances for the court to impose a lesser sentence. "The accused is beyond rehabilitation because he was sentenced to 6 years in prison for robbery in 2010. That sentence did not have any rehabilitative effect because he has committed the same crime. He did not show any remorse for the court to show him any mercy", said Sebolai.

Sebolai further stated that armed robberies are prevalent in the jurisdiction of Clocolan and the court has a responsibility to send a clear message that such offences will be dealt with harshly by the courts.

Magistrate Jacobs concurred that members of society must be protected from people like the accused and she sentenced Khete to seven years for the first robbery and 15 years for the second robbery. She however, ordered four years of the first sentence to run concurrently with the 15 years sentence. Khete's sentence is 18 years effectively.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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