

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

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

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 17 AUGUST 2020

RE: BUSINESSMAN KIDNAPPERS LINKED TO MORE CRIMES, DENIED BAIL

The Johannesburg Magistrate's Court denied bail for accused kidnappers, Ricardo Uzair Sasman, Muhammed Waseem Mullah and Lebogang Gift Mamabolo earlier today.

The three face charges of kidnapping, robbery with aggravating circumstances, extortion, and possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition. They are further linked to another matter in which a businessman was kidnapped in the presence of his wife and sister in law on 26 January 2020. His body was discovered at Cleveland in March 2020, after his wife received a call from the abductors instructing her where to collect her husband's body.

Upon hearing about the arrest of suspects in the Johannesburg kidnap matter, the modus operandi used by the abductors and the vehicles used during the commission of offences, the investigating officer in the Moffatview case, invited his witnesses to join the identity parade of the Johannesburg matter.

His witnesses in the Moffatview case then positively identified Sasman and Mullah.

The prosecution decided to combine the two case dockets into one docket by adding the charges of murder, kidnapping, extortion, possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition from the Moffatview case to the Johannesburg Central case charge sheet.

The accused are now facing charges on schedule 6 offences and had to cite evidence of exceptional circumstances for them to be granted bail.

State Prosecutor, Thamsanqa Mpekana, argued that their evidence failed to meet this requirement. He implored the court to consider that fake registration plates were used during the alleged abductions of unsuspecting business people and thereafter, ransom worth millions was demanded from their loved ones. He added that the accused were

armed during the commission of these offences and therefore poses as a danger to society.

The court found that there were no exceptional circumstances to warrant their release on bail and that the interest of justice dictates that they be kept in custody until they are dealt with in accordance with the law.

Phindi Mjonondwane

Regional Spokesperson- Gauteng Local Division

0834024787/0626906505

hmjonondwane@npa.gov.za