

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: DANGEROUS KILLER ROBBERS SENTENCED TO LENGTHY JAIL TERMS

Last week, the Mthatha High Court, sitting in Butterworth, sentenced five extremely dangerous men, three of whom are former Umkhonto Wesizwe (MK) and Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla) combatants, to an effective 22 years imprisonment for crimes committed more than 10 years ago.

Monwabisi Rhoxo (47), Zamumzi Gesi (43), Thabo Mavuka (33), Daluxolo Simakuhle (36) and Andile Guqa (50) were convicted and sentenced to 22 years on one count of murder, 15 years on each of three counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, eight years for illegal possession of firearm and six years for illegal possession of ammunition. The court ordered that all the sentences in the later counts run concurrently with the murder sentence.

Evidence presented in court was that, on the night of 17 August 2006, the armed gang of six, robbed a tavern at Maya Locality in Qamata area in the district of Cofimvaba, of liquor, tobacco, airtime and electricity vouchers, snacks and cash with a combined total value of R19 760, after threatening and assaulting the owner with a firearm.

On 31 May 2006, the gang proceeded to Ezibeleni Township in the district of Lady Frere, where they assaulted the shopkeeper at Nkolie Shop, before making off with R7000 in cash, airtime vouchers amounting to about R2000 and a cell phone. During the robbery, the gun-wielding gang shot and killed the owner of the shop, Thembile Lusiti, took his firearm and fled.

After these robberies, the police picked up fired cartridge cases of a 9mm Parabellum and ballistic tests conducted on them found that they were shot from one firearm.

During the trial, the six-member-gang once made a daring escape from a back of a police van while being transported from Mthatha Correctional Service Centre to attend a robbery trial at the Cofimvaba Regional Court on 28 September 2009. Five of them were recaptured after some time on the run, but, one Hassan Shabani (35) has never been

rearrested and is still at large. They were sentenced to five years imprisonment for escaping from lawful custody.

While serving their five-year sentences, the gang was convicted for another robbery and sentenced to prison terms ranging between 12 and 15 years. They will only begin serving the 22 years imprisonment imposed by Judge Buyiswa Majiki after completing these sentences.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and the Director of Public Prosecutions in the Eastern Cape, Mthatha Region, Barry Madolo commended Senior State Advocate Sibusiso Nolutshungu and the investigating team led by Warrant Officer Zamikaya Nkampini for the successful prosecution.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

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