

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: 04 MAY 2017

RE: FARM WORKER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

A Zimbabwe national, Gibson Banda (46) was handed two life sentences and 21 years imprisonment in the Thohoyandou Local Division yesterday for two counts of murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition.

Both the deceased Johan Greyvensteyn (54) and Annelise Greyvensteyn (52) were last seen on 02 November 2010. They were discovered by a passer-by who alerted the police. Their bodies were inside their Toyota Hilux vehicle. The accused was employed by the deceased in their farm called Cassel Kamkus in Musina - Limpopo.

When he was arrested he was found in possession of Taurus revolver and 38 ammunition, two silver watches, Panasonic Video recorder, Sanyo DVD player, welding machine, media model GTR 912 player, two Raleigh bicycles, Nokia and Samsung cellular phones which belonged to the Greyvensteyn's.

During trial the accused couldn't tell the court as to how he knew the killer weapon was hidden under the old grave as he pointed it out to the police. He pleaded not guilty to all counts and the court found him guilty as charged.

During sentencing the accused defence argued that he has been in prison since his arrest in 2010 and as such it must be counted in his favour. The State Prosecutor, advocate Ratshilumela Makhera argued that fact cannot be regarded as substantial and compelling that the court should deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence. He indicated that the accused did not show any sign of remorse and as such cannot be rehabilitated as he has proven to be economic with truth. He argued that for two counts of murder he be sentenced to life imprisonment on each count.

Passing the sentence, Judge Khami Makhafola said both the deceased were murdered in a brutal and inhuman manner. He declared him unfit to possess a firearm and sentenced him to life imprisonment for each count of murder, 15 years imprisonment for count of robbery with aggravating circumstances and three years on the count of unlawful possession of firearm and ammunitions. The sentences will run concurrently with that of life.

Welcoming the sentence, the Director of Public Prosecutions in Limpopo Advocate Ivy Thenga said, 'I am really pleased with this sentence. Justice has indeed been done. It's unfortunate that innocent lives have been lost'.

Kind Regards,

Enquiries: Mashudu Malabi-Dzhangi
Regional Spokesperson: Limpopo
Cell: 0748233603
Tel: 015 045 0286
mmalabi@npa.gov.za