

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FIVE MEN GUILTY OF TWO MURDERS GET HEAVY SENTENCES

Four of the five men accused of murdering Democratic Alliance (DA) councilor, Johannes Baatjies and his friend, Jeffrey Nouse, were each sentenced to double life imprisonment terms by the Kimberly High Court. The fifth accused, Richard Hasane, was sentenced to 36 years imprisonment for his part in the crimes. Hasane received 18 years for each count of murder because he became part of the plot later by providing transport to the killers.

The four accused are Frank Baxane, Zonizelo Magawu, Charles Mphondomisa and Matthews Legodu. They were found guilty of murder and conspiring to kill Baatjies. The motive was to ensure that Baatjies was stopped from being sworn in as a DA Councilor. The court was told that on the day of the assassination of Baatjies and Nouse, the two were lured to a bogus business meeting for a transaction of about R800 000. Instead of striking a deal, the victims were shot on the road between Danielskuil and Postmasburg on their way to the meeting. Baatjies was shot numerous times and died on the scene while Nouse died later in hospital.

When sentencing the five accused, the judge emphasised the seriousness of the charges against the accused and that the court had taken into consideration that the accused were first time offenders. Owing to the accused's lack of remorse, it was difficult for the court to give them any lesser punishment.

The prosecution, led by Advocate Johannes Cloete, believed that the sentences were satisfactory and this will serve as a deterrent to would be law breakers. Adv Cloete said he hoped the sentencing of these perpetrators will also provide closure to the families of the victims who continued to suffer due to the loss of their loved ones in 2016.

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