

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: FREE STATE MAN SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS PLUS 55 YEARS

A Free State man's 17 year long reign of terror came to an abrupt end on Thursday when the High Court sentenced him to two life terms and additional 55 years after he was convicted for a string of charges that include multiple murders, armed robbery, housebreaking, car hijacking and possession of firearm.

Judge Joseph Mhlambi sentenced Malefetsane Edwin Molise, better known as Khuze, for crimes he committed between February 2000 and January 2017. His reign of terror began on 22 February 2000, when he stabbed Joseph Mbaqa in the school premises of Khautho Secondary School in Botshabelo. Molise was only 18 years at that time.

He robbed Johannes Lesiane of R114 000 on June 4, 2016 in Thaba Nchu. Lesiane was on his way to Standard Bank to deposit the money when Molise and another unknown man pointed him with a firearm, searched him and took the money and his firearm. They walked into the road and forced Eva Mashwabi out of her car. They got into the car and drove off.

In September 2016, constable Ephraim Rampina went to Waya-Waya tavern in Botshabelo to trace Molise. The security guards would not allow Rampina into the tavern with a gun. He left his gun in the car that was parked outside. Molise broke into the car and stole the firearm. Three day later, he used it to kill Jacob Moyati who was constable Rampina's informer. He was arrested on 22 January 2017 and all the dockets that were closed were reopened.

In his defence, Molise stated that he was in Johannesburg at the time when most of the crimes were committed. However, State Prosecutor, Advocate Antoinette Ferreira led evidence of 44 witness and some of them testified that Molise was at the crime scenes.

Ferreira wanted to call more witnesses but some refused to testify as they were threatened by Molise.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Ferreira described Molise as a person who does not have respect for the law as he committed crimes and resorted to threatening law abiding citizen if they want to testify against him.

“The accused literally has gotten away with murder since the stabbing of his first victim in 2000. People have lost their lives as he wanted to silence them or seek revenge for their co-operation with the police against the accused. One of them was shot in the leg and he was frightened and unwilling to get involved in the court proceedings. The only sentence that will suit the accused is life imprisonment”, said Ferreira.

Judge Mhlambi concurred with the prosecutor and sentenced Molise to two life terms including 15 years for murder, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, eight years for a motor vehicle theft and five years for illegal possession of firearm.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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