

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 05 MARCH 2018**

**RE: GANG MEMBER GETS 18 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER**

The Port Elizabeth Regional Court sentenced Timothy Van Staden of the New Kids Gang to an effective 18 years imprisonment on 22 February 2018. The court papers reveal that on 13 July 2016, the accused in this matter, fatally wounded Gershwin Samuels while he was walking in Leith Street with his friend Lionel Dolph.

His friend escaped unscathed. The accused was arraigned in the regional court on charges of murder, attempted murder, unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition. The accused pleaded not guilty on all the charges. The prosecution was able to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the accused was indeed guilty as charged. The cases that are gangster related have proven to be very difficult cases to prosecute as in many cases, witnesses refuse to testify in court fearing for their lives. In some cases, they are eliminated before they could even testify in court.

The Gang Task Team are winning the war against the gangsters from the Northern Areas of Port Elizabeth. This financial year alone, they have managed to prosecute and had courts imposing over 15 life terms imprisonment in other gangster related matters. In some of these cases, lengthy jail terms have been imposed and the Gang Task Team has a reason to celebrate these successes. Advocate Liezel Landman, who forms part of the gang task team represented the state and the leader of the Task Team, DDPP PE, Indra Goberdan, voiced her appreciation for her dedication and effort in securing this conviction.

Furthermore, in the month of February 2018, the gang task team has managed to remove two members of the New Kids Gang from society. Earlier in the month, New Kids affiliate Jonathan Zeeland was sentenced to an effective 22 years imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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