

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: GANG MEMBER SENTENCED FOR MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER

The Western Cape High Court has sentenced a 'Fighting Judge' within the 26s gang to 25 years direct imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to being a member of a gang, murder and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The court sitting at the Mossel Bay Magistrate's Court sentenced Donovan May to three years direct imprisonment for being a member of a gang, 25 years direct imprisonment for the murder of Bradley Teyise and three years direct imprisonment for attempting to kill Thembelani Quaga. The court ordered that all counts are to run concurrently meaning the accused was sentenced to 25 years direct imprisonment.

Before entering into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state, May was accused six in the matter of State vs Moses Pakaan and ten others. His co-accused were Pakaan, Ricardo van Zyl, Zander Alexander, Winston Waldach, Jason Bothma, Hein Piedt, Jean Pierre Botha, Roland Jantjies, Geswin Jantjies and Henrico Lindt. They were charged with one count of being a member of a gang, two counts of murder and seven counts of attempted murder.

In his plea explanation, May said he is one of four who held the rank of the 'Fighting Judge' at the Mossel Bay Youth Correctional Centre in the 26 criminal gang. He said, the two rival gangs, 26s and 28s shared a common cell at the youth centre. They divided with beds in order to keep members of the two gangs apart.

Matters reached a boiling point on 29 March 2016 after a cellular phone, a radio and dagga were stolen from the '26' gang. Shortly after supper, and after the inmates returned to the common cell, the accused and other members of the '26' gang, launched an attack on unsuspecting members of the '28' gang. The '26' used sharp and blunt

objects on gang members in the attack that lasted until correctional services officials arrived at the scene.

He confessed that he intentionally and wrongfully killed Teyise by stabbing him in the neck and inflicted other stab wounds on his body with a sharp object. He further confesses that he intentionally and wrongfully stabbed Quaga with a sharp aluminium self-made knife and that he intended to cause him serious bodily harm.

Prosecutors in this matter, Advocate Nicolette Bell and Michelle Weyers, argued in court papers that the offences were serious, Teyise was a 20 year-old young man, Quaga was 22, the incident was a prison gang attack and that the accused had previous convictions of robbery. They argued that mitigating factors in favour of the accused were that he was pleading guilty, showed remorse and the matter was finalised in a plea and sentencing agreement that spared the court and the state the expense and inconvenience of a protracted trial.

The state withdrew the remaining charges against the accused.

The NPA welcomes the sentence

Kind Regards,

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