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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: GANG MEMBERS HANDED LONG SENTENCES FOR VARIOUS CRIMES

Two G-Unit gang members were sentenced after being convicted on several charges including the murder of a two year old who was fatally shot in the arms of his mother.

Renaldo Galant and Charlton Renier, were convicted on seven charges including being a member of a criminal gang, two attempted murders, murder, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, possession of an unlicensed firm and ammunition.

The Western Cape High Court sentenced Galant to three years for being a member of a criminal gang, twenty years for the two attempted murders, twelve years for the murder of Braydon Graaff, twelve months for the assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, and five years for possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition. The court ordered that all sentences run concurrently with the sentence imposed on the charge of murder. This means Galant is sentenced to twelve years direct imprisonment.

Renier received the same sentences, but, the court sentenced him to twenty years direct imprisonment for the murder of Graaff. The reason for the different sentence on the murder charge is that he carried out the shooting, and he was older than his co-accused who was a minor at the time of the crimes. The court ordered that all the sentences run concurrently with that imposed on the murder charge. This means the accused is sentenced to twenty years direct imprisonment.

Advocate Evadne Kortje asked the court to impose a lengthy sentence to Galant and the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment for Renier. She argued: "Having regard to all the facts and circumstances of the matter at hand, it is the respectful argument of the state that the seriousness of the crime and interest of society outweigh the personal circumstances of the accused by far and that this honourable court should

impose a lengthy term of imprisonment for accused one and the prescribed minimum sentence for accused two.”

Incidents leading to the gruesome crimes started on 22 October 2016, when 23 year-old Dennic Hendricks was socialising with his friends at a MyCity bus stop in Atlantis. The accused, who are members of the G-Unit criminal gang, drove-by, in a blue sedan vehicle and the two accused alighted the vehicle. Galant, who had the firearm with him, handed it to Renier and he started shooting at Hendricks who was a target. Hendricks ran away towards Babblers Place where members of that community were socialising as it is usual on a Saturday. Babblers Place was also a territory of a rival gang. Renier kept on shooting randomly with the bullets hitting by-standers.

As a result, the two year-old toddler was fatally shot and his mother was left with a scar on her hand. Hendricks was left with a gunshot wound. Accused two, also assaulted Nathan Johnson who attempted to stop him as he ran away from the crowd from Babblers Place that was baying for his blood. He managed to get into the runaway vehicle and escaped with his co-accused.

Although the state asked for a long sentence for accused one and the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment for accused two, the state accepts the sentence imposed by the court.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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