

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 29 AUGUST 2019**

**RE: GARDENER SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE SENTENCES FOR MURDER OF HIS EMPLOYERS**

Yesterday, the Western Cape High Court sentenced Lebohang Lekoro to two life sentences and 36 years direct imprisonment after convicting him for the murder of his elderly employer and his wife.

The circuit court sitting at the Mossel Bay Magistrate's Court earlier convicted Lekoro on two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances and two counts of premeditated murder. Judge Mark Sher sentenced the 29 year-old to life imprisonment for each of the murders and 18 years direct imprisonment for each of the robberies with aggravating circumstances.

Advocate Lenro Badenhorst who successfully prosecuted the matter and argued for a harsh sentence, welcomed the sentence saying the court went beyond the prescribed minimum sentence of 15 years direct imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Lekoro worked for Tewie Human as a labourer in his sewerage pumping business and as his gardener. He trusted the Lesotho national and allowed him free access into his house, but things turned for the worst for the couple on the morning of 13 June 2016 when Lekoro and his co-accused, Thamsanqa Sishuba attacked them. On 5 July 2016, police arrested Sishuba after his fingerprint was found on the console of a boot inside the garage. He was convicted in August 2017 and sentenced to two life sentences.

The court heard during the trial that the duo entered the couple's property in the early hours of 13 June 2016 and waited in the garage for the couple to wake up and they then pounced on them. Tewie was found in the garage five days later with multiple chop and stab wounds while his wife, Eurika, was found in their bedroom with four stab wounds.

Lekoro then drove the couple's vehicle into the garage and locked it. He then visited the couple's domestic worker, Jeanette Uithaler, and told her that Eurika has instructed her not go to work as they were going away for a few days. This was all an attempt for the accused to buy time so that he can flee and cross the border to Lesotho. He took two laptops, a tablet, two cellular phones and transferred R14 000 from couple's bank account to a bank account in Lesotho. On 15 June 2016, he bought himself a bus ticket to Bloemfontein and then travelled to Lesotho from Bloemfontein.

The bodies of the deceased were found early Saturday evening of 18 June 2016. Police received a tip off that the accused was in Lesotho and an application was lodged for his provisional arrest and extradition to South Africa. The accused was arrested on 22 November 2018 at Phase 4 Bloemfontein. A laptop and cellular phone were found in his possession.

Advocate Badenhorst told the court that the motive of the attack was to rob the deceased and obtain money and valuables. "The deceased knew both the accused, it is submitted that it can safely be inferred that the accused did not intend to leave any witnesses alive. The nature of the weapons used in the attack fortifies this conclusion. In this regard, it is submitted that the accused committed the murders with premeditation and dolus directus," he argued.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape**

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