

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: HEFTY JAIL TERMS FOR GANGSTERS

Born To Kill (BTK) gang members who terrorised the communities of Namibia Square, Pieter Swartz and Freedom Square in Bloemfontein were yesterday slapped with hefty jail terms after they were convicted of a string of charges by the Free State High Court.

Judge Corne van Zyl sentenced Tebogo Sebotsa (24), Lehlohonolo Sebotsa (24), Thabang Khusela (19), Mojalefa Motloun (24), Monnapule Motloun (21) Paseka Mabina (20) and Sylvester Sediane (23) to effective sentences ranging from 19 to 26 years imprisonment for offences that were committed between January and July 2017.

Tebogo Sebotsa, Thabang Khusela, Paseka Mabina and Monnapule Motloun were found guilty of murder and gang related offences and were each handed an effective sentence of 19 years. Lehlohonolo Sebotsa was found guilty of two counts of murder, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and gang related offences. He was sentenced to 18 years for each count of murder, four years for assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and another four years for gang related offences. He will effectively serve 26 years after the judge ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

Mojalefa Motloun, who was already serving 25 years imprisonment on an unrelated matter, was sentence to six years for housebreaking with an intent to rob and theft, 15 years for illegal possession of firearm, one year for illegal possession of ammunition and three years for gang related offences. He was sentenced to 20 years but the judge ordered the sentence to run concurrently with the sentence of 25 years.

Sylvester Sediane was sentenced to 18 years for murder, 15 years for housebreaking with intent to rob and robbery with aggravating circumstances and three years for gang related offences. He will effectively spend 25 years in jail after the judge ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

The court heard that the gangsters went on a crime spree when they stabbed Mosholo Malebo to death outside Skhukushuma tavern in Namibia Square on 14 January 2017. They also chopped Lebohang Mafa with a panga on the head when he tried to protect Malebo. Mojalefa Motlounng broke into the house of Stephen Machesa on 13 July 2017 and stole valuable items.

The accused continued with their crime spree on 18 July 2017 when Khusela, Mojalefa Motlounng, Monnapule Motlounng and Sediane broke into the house of Thabo Finini in Freedom Square and stole a television set, two cellular phones and a side bag. On the same night, the four men broke into the house of Robert Sello in Peter Swartz and stole three cellular phones and clothing items. They were involved in the murder of Sipho Lekatso who was a member of a rival gang in July 2017.

The broke into the house of sergeant Tefo Machesa and stole his firearm and other items. They dropped some of the items when Machesa chased after them. Fingerprints lifted from a DVD player that was dropped by the accused corresponded with the fingerprints of Mojalefa Motlounng. The police went to search his house and he was found in possession of the firearm stolen from sergeant Machesa.

Arguing in aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Rudolph Hoffman requested the court to impose hefty sentences on all the accused because they terrorised the communities to an extent that community members were no longer free in their own communities.

Kind Regards,

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

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