

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 15 APRIL 2021**

**RE: LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO MEN WHO MURDERED ELDERLY MAN**

The High Court of South Africa: Eastern Cape Division, Port Elizabeth sentenced Lunga Welkom (30) and Masixole Mbeki (30) to life imprisonment for the murder of 79-year-old Johnie William Marx in November 2019.

The two were further sentenced to five years for house breaking with intent to rob, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, three years for kidnapping, five years for fraud and one year for money laundering.

Marx ran a garden service from his residence in Jeffrey's Bay. During the afternoon of 11 November 2019, Welkom and Mbeki visited Marx's house purporting to look for employment. Marx told them there were no vacancies.

The two decided to return the following day at about 7am with the intention to break and enter Marx's house. Welkom and Mbeki agreed that they would rob Marx if he was at home. Marx was alone as his wife, Yvonne stayed with their daughter, Advocate Zelda Swanepoel. The daughter was looking after her mother who was recovering from an operation.

Armed with pepper spray, Welkom and Mbeki went to Marx's home and he opened the garage door from the inside.

The two asked him for a job again, Mbeki drew the pepper spray and sprayed Marx in his face. They then forced him inside the garage and closed the door.

They assaulted him with blunt objects and tied him up in a chair. Marx was then forced to disclose the pin number of his two ABSA bank cards which were in his wallet. They

then ransacked his house and stole a number of items which included a cellphone and jewellery.

The two took clothing items in the house, shoved them in Marx's mouth and gagged him.

They then took a plastic packet, placed it over his head and sealed it with tape and left him. Marx couldn't breathe.

The pair made cash withdrawals and payments with the two ABSA cards to the value of just over R22 000.

During the evening of 12 November 2019, Marx's relatives went looking for him after he failed to answer phone calls. They made the grisly discovery of his body that same evening, he had suffocated to death.

Welkom and Mbeki were arrested on 14 November 2019 by the Hawks.

"It was through the guidance of the prosecution from the date of arrest and the preparation of a strong case that the accused had no other option but to plead guilty. Prosecutors serve the community on a daily basis and assist in bringing closure to the lives of many victims. This matter was however particularly close to home as it was the father of our very own, Advocate Swanepoel, that was murdered in a cold callous and brutal manner. It is hoped that the family will receive a sense of closure and a renewed strength to continue the fight against crime," said Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Indra Goberdan.

**Anelisa Ngcakani**  
**NPA Regional spokesperson**  
**Eastern Cape Division**  
[angcakani@npa.gov.za](mailto:angcakani@npa.gov.za)  
**083 593 0833**