

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 14 MAY 2018**

**RE: LIFE SENTENCE FOR SAKHUMZI RESTAURANT MURDER**

The Johannesburg High court sentenced Njabulo Ngubane to life imprisonment for murdering Kwesi Hudson, then manager of the Sakhumzi restaurant in January 2017. Kwesi Hudson was shot dead during an armed robbery at Sakhumzi, where Ngubane and company, descended the premises like vultures, dragged staff members at gunpoint towards the cash hall and ordered the staff to stack their bag with money.

Ngubane was sentenced in absentia after State Advocate, Johan Badenhorst brought an application in terms of section 159 of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 to have proceedings continue in absentia. Ngubane proceeded to the cells when Judge Monama refused to accede to his demands that the case be moved to another court and be decided by a new presiding officer. Judge Monama granted the application and thereafter proceeded to deliver the sentence of life imprisonment for murder, 30 years for two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances and 13 years for possession of unlicensed firearm and ammunition.

The court found the accused's behaviour to be appalling, with total disregard for the law and remarked that imposing a lesser sentence would subvert the intentions of the legislation ordained by Parliament to curb violent crimes. The court ruled that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentences of life for murder and 15 years for each robbery. "This court dealt with an accused who assumed no responsibility for wrongdoing and even after being convicted, still shows signs of arrogance and disrespect for the court " remarked Judge Monama.

Sakhumzi, situated in Vilakazi street (home to Noble Prize winners, Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu and Former President Nelson Mandela) is known world-wide for serving African cuisines to patrons from all over the world and is therefore held in high regard for adding

value to the economy of South Africa. The court therefore, amongst others, took into account that the crime had a negative impact on investor and international relations.

The NPA views the sentence as just and is satisfied that the court played its pivotal role of protecting citizens against a hardened criminal.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Mjonondwane**

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