

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: LIFE AND 136 YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBER

Spamandla Buthelezi was sentenced to life and 136 years imprisonment in the Durban High Court this week for the robberies, attempted murders and the murders he committed in January 2016 and May and June in 2018.

Some time prior to the offences, the accused and his assailants planned to rob people in the Durban area. In January 2016, they robbed a house in Parlock. They threatened the occupants with force and bound them before making off with money, jewellery, cellphones and a motor vehicle.

Then in May 2018, the accused and his assailants robbed a fresh produce shop in Avoca. They robbed the staff and the store, taking money, cellphones and cigarettes. The deceased, Veman Kelly Chetty was seated in his car, with his two children, outside the shop when the robbers escaped. They shot him in an attempt to use his car as a getaway vehicle; however, they were unable to start the car and then hijacked another vehicle in the vicinity.

The following day, police spotted the robbers in the stolen vehicle in the Kwa Mashu. They exchanged gunfire and two robbers died while Buthelezi survived. He was sentenced to life and 30 years imprisonment for the murders, 60 years imprisonment for the robberies with aggravating circumstances, 10 years imprisonment for the attempted murders, 20 years imprisonment for the attempted robbery, 15 years imprisonment for the unlawful possession of a prohibited firearm (semi- automatic rifle) and 1 year for the unlawful possession of the ammunition.

The matter was successfully prosecuted by Senior State Advocate, Denardo Macdonald.

In welcoming the sentence, the Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu said, "All citizens have a right to occupy their homes and

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

businesses without interference and illegal invasions. We will continue to vigorously deal with these matters. Commendations to the prosecution.”

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