

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 01 MARCH 2017**

**RE: LIQUOR STORE ROBBERIES SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON**

On 23 February 2017, the Port Elizabeth High Court sentenced Chumani Gidane (25) Mkhanyisi Bobo (25) and Ntsika Williams (26) all from New Brighton in Port Elizabeth to 20 years imprisonment for their crimes. All the accused were charged with three counts of attempted murder each, murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, one count of possession of unlicensed firearm and possession of unlicensed ammunition.

In court papers it is revealed that on 30 September 2015 at about 18h40 the accused together with the deceased, Wongalethu Sana entered Tops Spar Liquor Store in Rink Street pulled out firearms and threatened a security guard, Aphiwe Mtshungwa and Nwabisa Mkhontana who was at the till on the day. The security guard was made to lie on the ground whilst Sana removed cash from the till.

Accused 1 and 2 then packed various bottles of liquor into a bag. They left the store with the goods and loaded them into a white Ford Figo vehicle which was parked in front of the Tops Liquors. They then sped off in the aforementioned vehicle. Constable Mthetheleli Mamana and Leigh Ann Jacobs who are members of the South African Police Services gave chase with their marked police vehicle.

One of the accused in the white Figo opened fire on the police vehicle. During the chase a vehicle belonging to Chireen Moolman was hit in the crossfire. The Ford Figo eventually came to a stop near Martin Street, North End, and the accused were apprehended. It was discovered that Sana was fatally wounded and the stolen goods and cash were recovered from the vehicle.

Dr Prudent Lulamile Mngono conducted a Medic-legal Post Examination on 1 October 2015 and determined the cause of death as chest injuries due to a gunshot. The state was able to prove beyond reasonable doubt that; at all relevant times the accused acted jointly and in execution of a common purpose with each other. They were found guilty and convicted on all charges and were sentenced accordingly by the court.

Advocate Andre Canary based at the DDPP office in Port Elizabeth represented the state. Welcoming the sentence, the DPP, Advocate Mahlali applauded the work done by Advocate Canary.

Kind Regards,

**Tsepo Ndwalaza**  
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