

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 26 OCTOBER 2018

RE: MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND FORTY TWO YEARS FOR VARIOUS CRIMES

A serial housebreaker and habitual criminal was sentenced to life imprisonment and forty two years at the Western Cape High Court sitting in Worcester today. On Wednesday, 24 October 2018, the court convicted Jonathan Cupido on all six charges he faced which include housebreaking with intent to rob and murder, attempted murder, two counts of housebreaking with intent to steal and theft, housebreaking with intent to rob and robbery with aggravating circumstances and murder.

Today, 26 October 2018, Judge Le Grange sentenced him to ten years direct imprisonment for housebreaking with intent to rob and murder, twelve years direct imprisonment for attempted murder, five years on each count for the two counts of housebreaking, ten years for housebreaking with intent to rob and robbery with aggravating circumstances and life imprisonment for the murder. The court further declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

Advocate Maresa Engelbrecht welcomed the sentence. She earlier told the court about the prevalence of housebreaking with intent to steal and theft in the area that was targeted by Cupido. She asked the court to send the accused to prison for life as no other sentence would be justifiable. "The accused has become a danger to society as his previous sentences for similar offences did not deter him from committing the current offences," Advocate Engelbrecht argued. The accused is no stranger to the law. He has been in conflict with the law several times and even when he started with his spate of housebreakings and attacks on the elderly, he was on parole. The difference is that the recent spate has been violent.

In 2002, the 34-year old unemployed father of four was fined R400 or four months imprisonment suspended for five years with certain conditions. Two years later in 2004,

he was convicted for attempted housebreaking with intent to steal and theft. He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. In 2006, he was convicted of housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and was sentenced to 12 months of each count although it's not clear how many counts were there. On 13 August 2008, he was released on parole till 13 February 2009.

On 16 May 2013 he was convicted on nine counts of which eight were housebreaking with intent to steal and theft. He was sentenced to six years direct imprisonment. On 15 May 2017, he was released on parole until 15 May 2019. Last month, September 2018, he was found guilty of theft that was committed in 2017 and sentenced to 24 months imprisonment.

The accused was barely three months released on parole when he started with the current spate of crimes. On 5 October 2017, he attacked the house of Daniel Marais, 78 and Maria Marais, 79, while they were inside the house. Daniel told him to leave his property or he will call the police. The accused instead pelted him with rocks. He hit the complainant on the face and upper body. He then moved to the garden shed and fetched a garden fork with which he attacked Daniel. He stabbed him in the chest and hand. Daniel wrestled it from him. The undeterred Cupido went back to the shed to fetch an axe and he attacked Daniel with the axe.

On 28 December 2017, he broke into the house of Elizabeth van Zyl and stole a laptop, wine, iron and cattle. The next day, 29 December 2017, he broke into the house of Angelique Hofsta and stole a man's watch, two pairs of sneakers, jewellery and t-shirts. On 31 December 2017, he broke into the house of Joseph Oosthuizen, 81, brutally attacked him. Oosthuizen was left with multiple injuries on the head and body, had facial fractures and deep scalp bruising on the left side of his skull. He left him for dead but not before ransacking his house. He took meat, bedding, crockery and other items. He was found by friends who visited on New Year's Day, 1 January 2018. He passed away five days later.

The NPA welcomes this conviction and sentence.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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