

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 22 MAY 2018**

**RE: NPA SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTES 'STEYN GANG' FOR KRUGERSDORP MURDERS**

The High court sitting in Johannesburg sentenced a mother and her son last week for their involvement in the murders of 11 people in Krugersdorp.

Le Roux Steyn (23) and his mother Marinda Steyn (51) acted in concert with three others; Cecilia Steyn (37), Marcel Steyn (20) and Zak Valentine (33) in an enterprise called Electus per Deus. The court heard how they meticulously planned and executed a number of racketeering activities between 2012 and 2016 that involved robbing and murdering persons associated with a group called Overcomers and later on people they perceived to be wealthy targets.

This enterprise entailed, *inter alia*, that they pretended to be potential buyers of properties or prospective investors to lure financial advisers or estate agents to meetings where they would rob and strangle them to death. In another instance, they faked the death of Zak Valentine (accused 1 in this matter) by killing Jarod Mitchum Jackson who was burnt inside the motor vehicle of Zak Valentine to obtain a death certificate from the Department of Home Affairs in the name of Zak Valentine. Thereafter Cecilia Steyn, an elected beneficiary of a life policy obtained by Zak from Discovery Life Insurance Company claimed an insured amount of R3 570 000. This after Marinda Steyn identified the charred body of Mitchum as that of Zak Valentine at the crime scene in Petrus Steyn-Free State.

Both Marinda and Le Roux entered into negotiations with Senior Counsel Gerrit Roberts and Senior State Advocate Paul Schutte and finalised a plea and sentence agreements as referred to in Section 105A(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) 51 Of 1977. The agreements had been duly authorised by the National Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv. Shaun Abrahams, as per requirements stipulated in this section. Both Judges,

Mokgoathleng and Lamont confirmed the agreements after being satisfied that all parties were consulted.

Le Roux pleaded guilty to 18 charges ranging from racketeering, murder, conspiracy to commit murder, fraud and unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition. The court considered amongst others that he was only 17 years of age when he committed the offences and was unduly influenced by people older than him. Le Roux was sentenced to 35 years for 7 murders and another 42 years for the rest of the offences. These sentences were ordered to run concurrently with the sentence for the murders. Ten years were suspended on the condition that Le Roux will testify for the state in the upcoming trial of the remaining accused, therefore resulting in an effective sentence of 25 years direct imprisonment.

Marinda pleaded guilty to 23 counts ranging from murder, racketeering, robbery, fraud, defeating the ends of justice and accessory after the fact to murder. The court found her to be a cruel mother who groomed her children to be monsters that committed heinous crimes and was sentenced to 11 life sentences (9 for the 9 murders and 2 for 2 counts of racketeering and running an enterprise) plus 115 years in respect of the various other charges.

The NPA is glad that both accused took responsibility for wrongdoing, thereby saving state resources for victims of crime.

Kind Regards,

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