

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 13 JULY 2017**

**RE: NO MERCY FOR POLICE KILLERS & ROBBERS**

The sterling work of partners within the criminal justice system resulted in the high court sitting in Johannesburg sentencing Lucky Masina to life imprisonment and Michael Tsotetsi to an effective 24 years imprisonment on 12 July 2017.

The two were in the company of Mvezeni Ngobese (acquitted on all counts), John Hlongwane who was sentenced to 7 years for conspiring to commit the robbery and three other robbers who died on the scene. They were all indicted on 11 counts ranging from murder, attempted murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and possession of unlicensed firearms. The robbery was foiled by the Ekurhuleni metro police officers working together with the South African Police Services in September 2013 near Africa Floor Care in Wadeville.

The court heard how a shootout between seven robbers and the police resulted in the death of Warrant officer, Shakeel Rassol and bullet wounds to two metro officers. All officers were part of the team that was assigned to prevent the robbery after the National Intelligence Agency successfully gathered information about the planned robbery.

State Advocate, Leisha Surendra argued that the accused be convicted on the basis of common purpose and *dolus eventualis* citing case law of Thabo Mbeth Nkosi in that, having planned to take loaded firearms to the scene, all accused must have subjectively foreseen that the police might be called in and since all of them would be armed a shootout might ensue which might result in possible fatal consequences for themselves as robbers, the police or any other person that might be in the vicinity of the robbery. She further explained that despite that foresight, they recklessly proceeded thus acting with *dolus eventualis* and common purpose.

The NPA condemns the senseless killing of police officials and will continue to plead with the courts to show no mercy to those who attack law enforcement authorities.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Louw**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng**

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