

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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**RE: NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS SENTENCED HEAVILY FOR THEIR CRIMES:
MOTHERWELL**

Two notorious criminals from Motherwell, Thobelani Ngqoba and Vuyani Dili were sentenced to lengthy jail terms on Monday by the Port Elizabeth Regional Magistrates Court. The court papers reveal that the accused in this matter were charged with three counts of murder and two counts of being in possession of semi-automatic pistols and ammunition. It is further alleged that the pair terrorised the Motherwell community of NU11 with armed robberies and housebreakings between year 2001 and 2015.

The court also heard that the community knew what the suspects were doing but were afraid to come forward for fear of their lives. It is in 2015 that these heinous murders were committed by the pair until they were arrested on 22 June 2015 at a hideout in possession of a firearm.

During trial the court faced some challenges when witnesses disappeared after they gave statements. There was an attempt to kill one of the witnesses, miraculously she survived the gunshot wound in the head. Arrangements were made to put her in Witness Protection Programme. A good working relationship between Prosecutor Siyolo and the investigating officers made things better.

The investigating officer, Mto managed to trace other witnesses but a quick thinking Siyolo used single witness strategy in all the murder charges as other witnesses were afraid to come forward. Siyolo argued on the basis of Section 208 of the Criminal Procedure Act 51/of 1977 provisions which allows the court to convict on the evidence of a single witness, having evaluated the evidence in its totality. Each of the witnesses managed to give clear and credible evidence and the role played by each accused in the commission of the murders.

The court was satisfied and found both the accused guilty on all counts. They both got life sentences for murder and 15 years for the possession of firearms and ammunition. The court ordered that other counts run concurrently with life imprisonment.

The DPP, Advocate Mahlati applauded the work done by the prosecutor and his investigating team.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza
Eastern Cape: DPP Grahamstown
NPA Regional Spokesperson
Cell: 071 680 3701