

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 23 March 2018

RE: PAIR SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Lucky Celebrate Maphanga (21) and Musa Mdluli (19) were both sentenced to life imprisonment and additional 30 and 45 years respectively by the Nelspruit High Court for attempted murder, murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances of Lydenburg shop owners.

The court papers reveal that these crimes were committed between June 2015 and October 2016, where the accused would rob the shop owners of their belongings like airtime vouchers, money and cell phones at knifepoint or at gunpoint.

Furthermore, on 16 October 2016, the deceased and his brother (the complainant in count 2) were inside the deceased's motor vehicle in Lydenburg when one of the accused who requested to be dropped off at Heads Section approached them. The deceased agreed. At a certain intersection, the accused asked him to stop as he saw his friend who was supposed to go with him. He called his friend to board the motor vehicle and the deceased then drove off. Along the way, the accused ordered the deceased to stop again and he at this time shot him. He died instantly.

The accused were both arrested after the police at Machadodorp toll plaza spotted the deceased's vehicle with both accused inside.

During trial, Advocate Ntsika Mpolweni led evidence of 31 witnesses including evidence of the complainants in the matter. The state further led evidence of the police investigators who visited the crime scene and evidence of the medical reports of J88 of the surviving victim.

During sentencing, concurring with the state, Judge AJ Nkosi said the accused deserved to be sent in jail for a long time as they terrorised the community of Lydenburg. He went

on to say the accused showed no remorse for the crimes they committed and sentenced accused 1 to life imprisonment and additional 30 years and accused 2 to life imprisonment and additional 45 years imprisonment for murder, attempted murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

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