

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: STOCKVEL ROBBERS SENTENCED

Henry Thuthukani Mbonambi, Sibusiso Vela, Bobby Mthabela, Nhlakanipho Abraham Zulu and Senzo Bongani Ndlovu were sentenced in the Durban High Court today for the murder of a policeman and robbery in November 2015 in Empangeni. Accused 1 and 2 were also convicted of unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition charges.

The complainants (women) in the robbery count belonged to a stokvel group. The group's policy was that each member makes a monthly contribution of R200 into a bank account. Accused 1, 2 and 4 lived in Esikhawini and were known to accused 3 who worked at the bank.

At some time prior to the offences, Accused 3 told his co-accused that the complainants intended on withdrawing their stokvel money, approximately R 110 200.00. Together, the accused hatched a plan to rob the women and they further armed themselves with a firearm.

On the day of the incident, Accused 3 gave a description of the complainants to his co-accused. The accused saw the women exiting the bank and accosted them, threatening with a firearm. They stole the money as well as other belongings and fled on foot.

The deceased, a SAPS official, was on duty in the vicinity and witnessed the robbery. He chased the accused and they shot him in the chest, fatally wounding him.

Accused 1 was arrested shortly thereafter in possession of the firearm and ammunition used in the murder. Accused 2 was also arrested and found to be in possession of another firearm and ammunition. These two accused then implicated their co-accused.

Accused 1 was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder, 15 years imprisonment for the robbery and 5 years imprisonment for the unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition. Sentences will run concurrently with that of life.

Accused 2 was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for murder, 15 years imprisonment for robbery and 5 years imprisonment for the unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition. Ten years from count 2 is to run concurrently with count 1 and counts 5 and 6, resulting in a effective 25 year sentence.

Accused 3 was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for murder, 15 years imprisonment for robbery. Ten years of count 2 will run concurrently with count 1, resulting in an effective 20 year sentence.

Accused 4 were each sentenced to 15 years for murder and 20 years for robbery. Ten years of count 2 will run concurrently with count 1 resulting in an effective 25 year sentence.

Senior State Advocate, Naveen Sewparsat led the testimonies of two complainants and one accused was identified in an identity parade. Advocate Sewparsat also led cell phone evidence and the evidence of the colleague of the deceased, who had witnessed the robbery.

Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Advocate Moipone Noko: "The sentences are indeed welcomed. I trust that they will go a long way in deterring would be offenders. It is saddening to note that a law enforcement official was killed in the line of duty."

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

Enquiries: nramkisson@npa.gov.za