

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 01 JULY 2021

**RE: THREE MEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR BOMBING
MINEWORKERS' BUS**

The Limpopo High Court of South Africa in Polokwane convicted and sentenced Sipho Khumalo (29), Philemon Makwana (34) and Thabo Mokgala (28) to life imprisonment on six counts of murder, 10 years on 47 counts of attempted murder and 5 years on count of malicious damage to property respectively.

This follows an incident that occurred on 02 April 2018 during the night where four men and two women were burnt beyond recognition after the fiery attack to the Segweka bus service at Driekop village outside Burgersfort at the pick-up point while collecting Modikwa platinum mineworkers. The four accused held a meeting and agreed to burn the bus which transports Modikwa mine workers.

They proceeded to the bus station and joined the mine workers and stayed behind the occupants. Later, the four got into the bus and Sipho poured petrol whilst Philemon set the bus alight. They then jumped out, leaving behind the bus engulfed in flames.

At the beginning of the trial, on 30 September 2019, one of the accused, Kgaugelo Moime (30) pleaded guilty to all counts and further implicated others. He was sentenced to twenty-five (25) years imprisonment for each count of murder and ten (10) years imprisonment for each count of attempted murder.

The state advocate, George Sekhukhune led evidence of Kgaugelo Moime, police officers whom Moime confessed to and some of the bus occupants.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Sekhukhune led the evidence of the deceased's wife, Mavis Mahlakwana who told the court that the body of the deceased was burnt beyond recognition and the deceased left his child of 12 days and other three children.

Advocate Sekhukhune asked the court to impose the prescribed minimum sentence as the accused showed no remorse and they carefully planned the crime and executed it. He further mentioned that the accused killed six people in a horrific and gruesome manner by burning their bodies.

The court ordered that 47 counts of attempted murder and the count of malicious damage to property will run concurrently with life imprisonment of the counts of murder.

The NPA welcomed the sentence.

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