

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

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**RE: THREE YOUNG MEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR  
THE MURDER OF A POLICE OFFICER**

Another heavy sentence has been handed down to police killers a month after the NPA secured a life imprisonment sentence for another criminal who killed a police officer while he was on duty, in uniform driving a marked police vehicle. Yesterday morning, the Western Cape High Court sentenced Athenkosi Mdluli to life imprisonment and 75 years direct imprisonment after convicting him for the murder of Sergeant Mziwonke Siwisa who was based at the Cape Town Sea Point Border Unit.

The court also sentenced Xolani Ndesi to life imprisonment and 45 years direct imprisonment and Jackson Mhobo to life imprisonment and 15 years. The court ordered that all the years separate from the life imprisonment for all the accused must run concurrently with the life imprisonment. This means, each accused is sentenced to an effective life imprisonment.

The killing of police officers and the impact this has on the immediate family of the deceased, the SAPS, the community in general and South Africa as a whole ran through the sentencing procedures. Advocate Pulane Thaiteng called Brigadier Vela Jerome Cele, the Head of Detectives in the Western Cape to testify about the killing of police officers in the province as part of aggravation of sentence. In the financial years of 2016/ 2017 and 2017/ 2018 there were eleven police officers killed. Six of them were on duty while five were off duty. Five firearms were taken during the robberies but they have not been traced up until today. Eighteen arrests have been made with six cases solved. Brigadier Cele further told the court that most police officers are killed for their service firearms, which are then used in committing further crimes such as robberies, house robberies, business robberies, attempted murder and murder.

The motive for the killing of Sergeant Siwisa was not different from the trend explained by Brigadier Cele. Siwisa was killed at 5am on 12 December 2016, while on his way to work dressed in a police shirt, jersey, boots but wearing jeans and jacket to cover his uniform. He came across the three young men, all aged 21 years at the time, who were coming back from their crime spree in the Kraaifontein area. Earlier that night, they attempted to hijack a vehicle but were unsuccessful. They stole a vehicle that they drove around Kraaifontein until it ran out of petrol. They then they parked it in the yard of the local mechanic and walked back to Bloekombos. While walking down Ngculu Street in Wallacedene, they saw the deceased and decided to rob him.

Mdluli instructed Ndesi to rob Siwisa but Ndesi protested as he did not have a firearm and only Mdluli was armed. Mdluli then instructed Mhobo to rob the deceased. As Mhobo was approaching Siwisa, the deceased moved his hand towards his service firearm that was in its holster. Mdluli shot Siwisa. They then took his service firearm and ran away. Mdluli and Ndesi later met a local drug dealer to sell him the firearm but he refused to buy it after he confirmed with his nephew that it was a police service firearm that was taken from a police officer who was shot dead. After this robbery and failed sale of the firearm, the accused then went to smoke tik with their friends.

Arguing in aggravation of sentence, Advocate Thaiteng told the court: "The accused are convicted of serious crimes. A murder of a police officer that attracts life imprisonment. Murder during robbery that attracts life imprisonment and murder that attracts life imprisonment. Mdluli committed these serious crimes while he was out on parole. He had just been released after he was convicted and sentenced to eight years for robbery, attempted murder and escape from custody. He was brazen. He threatened his co-accused. His short stay in prison did very little to rehabilitate him. He is a bully who will do anything if he has a firearm. He did not show any remorse and apologise to the family of the deceased. He must be sentenced to life imprisonment. Ndesi chose to associate with Mdluli. He was arrested before which were signs that he should distance himself from crime. He disregarded advice from his family who told him about his ways and the type of friends he chose. He is a liar who attempted to evade his confession to the crimes he committed. He must be sentenced to life imprisonment. Mhobo is smart and no stranger to conflict with the law. He chose the life of a drug abuser and crime. He was not an honest witness. The state calls for life imprisonment."

Judge Daniel Thulare agreed and sentenced Mdluli to life imprisonment for the murder, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances and 55 years for illegal possession of 3 different firearms and ammunition of those firearms. He sentenced Ndesi to life imprisonment for the murder, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances and

30 years for the illegal possession of the different firearms and ammunition. Mhobo was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**  
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