

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: TRIO RECEIEVE LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CASH IN TRANSIT ROBBERIES

The Western Cape High Court sentenced three armed robbers to lengthy direct imprisonment and declared them unfit to possess firearms after convicting them for armed cash in transit robberies in Delft and Muizenberg.

The court convicted Sibusiso Mzomba on ten counts that include two robberies with aggravating circumstances outside Pick n Pay Liquor Store, Capricorn Square, Muizenburg and in front of Spar in Delft. It further convicted him on two attempted murders, murder and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment and 99 years direct imprisonment. The sentences imposed on all the other crimes will run concurrently with the life imprisonment imposed for the murder of Vulikhaya Robert Nyembezi.

Bonile Thimba and Mzonke Mlindazwe were convicted on four counts that include robbery with aggravating circumstances, attempted murder, murder, illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition.

Thimba was sentenced to 71 years direct imprisonment. The court ordered that all his sentences run concurrently with the 25 years direct imprisonment imposed for the murder of Vulikhaya Robert Nyembezi, a security guard. He is effectively sentenced to 25 years direct imprisonment.

Mlindazwe was sentenced to 58 years direct imprisonment. The court ordered that his sentence run concurrently with the 18 direct imprisonment imposed for the murder of Vulikhaya Robert Nyembezi. He is effectively sentenced to 18 years direct imprisonment.

Mlindazwe was on parole for another robbery with aggravating circumstances, which he committed in 2009.

These armed robberies started on 17 March 2017 when Mzomba and his other accomplices robbed employees of a cash-in-transit company outside Pick n Pay Liquor Store, Capricorn Square and Muizenburg. They subdued Mpumzi Ntonjane and took a trolley bag with R16 370 and his service pistol. Ntonjane's colleague, Sarel Niemand, escaped death when a bullet grazed his chest during a shootout with the robbers.

On 29 April 2017, the former taxi driver linked up with Thimba and Mlindazwe and carried out another armed cash-in-transit robbery at a Spar in Delft. The trio came into Spar and queued pretending to be customers. The store was buzzing with customers, as it was a Saturday morning. As soon as the cash van arrived, Mzomba took out a firearm and shot Nyembezi at point blank range from behind. He died on the scene. He then shot Mputhumi Mpambani, Nyembezi's colleague without any provocation.

At that point, Thimba threw away all items he had in his shopping basket and took out a firearm, which he used to threaten shoppers. Mlindazwe told the court that he attempted to take the moneybag from the open ATM but he could not. All three fled the scene with R160 000 and 2 pistols from the security personnel.

Advocate Kriban Pillay who has since joined the bench and Advocate Evadne Kortje who finalised the matter, told the court during the trial that Mpumzi Ntonjane, Sarel Niemand, Mputhumi Mpambani and Vulikhaya Robert Nyembezi were employed as armed security guards.

In aggravation of sentence, Advocate Kortje told the court: "Nyembezi was shot at close range from behind and the brazen and vicious manner in which he was robbed of his life cannot be understated.

"The accused in their actions violated the human rights of the deceased, the victims, witnesses, employees, business owners and consumers present on the 17 March 2017 and 29 April 2017."

She asked the court to impose prescribed minimum sentences on the crimes committed however, the court found substantial and compelling circumstances in the cases of accused one and three and imposed 25 and 18 years direct imprisonment for the murder of Nyembezi. The court instructed the NPA to organize counselling and any other assistance for the deceased's wife and children may need.

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