

● **Prosecutor cites spate of Gqeberha murders, defence calls for mercy as Ntisana was not the shooter**

Bay killer set to be sentenced tomorrow

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A life sentence should be imposed on convicted murderer Siphelele Ntisana, state prosecutor advocate Dail Andrews said while arguing in aggravation of sentence at the Gqeberha high court yesterday.

Andrews argued Ntisana should also be sentenced to an additional 15 years for robbery. Ntisana, 28, was convicted on Monday on two counts of murder and three of attempted murder.

Andrews said life sentences for each of those counts should run concurrently.

Other convictions included two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, attempted robbery with

aggravating circumstances, unlawful possession of a semi-automatic firearm and unlawful possession of a firearm with intent to commit an offence.

In relation to the firearm-related offences, Andrews said these should run concurrently with the life sentences.

Ntisana, also known as Hupa, was arrested in Soweto-on-Sea on January 14 last year after he, together with another suspect, opened fire inside a shack in Mkwenkhwwe Street, KwaDwesi Extension, in the early hours of December 22 2024.

The second suspect, according to investigating officer Sergeant Nigel Wright, was gunned down in Motherwell in January last year by an unknown assailant in a suspected

gang-related incident.

Ntisana and the second suspect's actions led to the death of Siyabulela Plaatjies, 36, and Bulelani Peter, 28.

Aphiwe George, Xola Kuse and Mandla Matshaya were severely wounded in the attack and now struggle to perform simple tasks.

The incident happened inside Peter's shack.

Andrews said Ntisana betrayed his friend, Peter, when he knocked on his door at about 1.15am and was let in, only to instruct the unknown shooter to kill them.

"The accused further showed no remorse," Andrews said. He said homeowners were being killed in their homes not only in Gqeberha but in the whole of SA. Andrews said the



Siphelele Ntisana, 28, an earlier high court appearance
Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

city was ranked number five for violent crimes and detailed crimes that had happened in various places in the city.

These included five young people killed in Motherwell in May and the killing of ANC ward councillor Sicelo Mleve on Saturday evening during a voter registration debriefing

meeting in his office in Zwide.

Andrews said it was clear that prescribed minimum sentences that ran concurrently with life were no longer a deterrent for crime.

Arguing for the defence, Legal Aid SA advocate Jodine Coertzen said the court should sentence Ntisana to 25 years because of his compelling circumstances.

These included that he was a first-time offender, was not the shooter, was unmarried, did not have children and was unemployed — only taking piece jobs such as gardening.

Coertzen said Ntisana had also spent almost a year-and-a-half in custody awaiting trial since his arrest on January 14.

Despite admitting that the offences were serious and

premeditated, Coertzen argued for the court to show mercy and also pointed to his age.

However, Andrews argued that Ntisana gave the instructions for Peter, Plaatjies, and the others to be shot.

He said George, Kuse and Matshaya survived because the shooter had no shooting skills.

Andrews argued that it was clear Ntisana wanted all of them dead.

"He was present to ensure that the job is done... we can't say the accused played a minimum role," Andrews said.

Andrews argued that Ntisana opened his criminal career with serious offences.

During her judgment on Monday, acting judge Kuselwa Majali said Ntisana had pleaded not guilty and denied

several statements that were made by his victims.

Majali said Ntisana had also elected to exercise his right to silence and not disclose the basis of his defence.

According to the evidence before the court, Ntisana was a friend of Peter and they used to smoke dagga and use cocaine together.

He also knew Plaatjies.

Majali said George, Kuse and Matshaya corroborated each other's evidence "in all material respects" during their testimonies.

They testified that they had gone inside Peter's room the night of the attack to prepare dagga and mandrax pipes to smoke.

While they were busy, they heard a knock on the door.

On inquiring, the person at the door identified himself as Hupa.

Then he came inside and immediately moved aside next to the door.

He was followed by an unknown man, who was carrying a firearm.

Majali said Ntisana was known to the occupants and there could not be a reasonable possibility of mistaken identity.

"Upon entering, the assailant inquired from the accused [Ntisana] who are they, [the] accused responded and made a hand gesture saying it's all of them.

"This demonstrates prior targeting of the occupants," Majali said.

Ntisana will be sentenced tomorrow.

Eastern Cape sculptor calls for 'reorientation of power' with nature at the heart

Guy Rogers
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An acclaimed Eastern Cape sculptor has brought a unique exhibition to life at the GFI Gallery that will force art lovers to do a double take.

Graham Jones is a Zimbabwean-born, Gqeberha-based sculptor and fine artist working in various mediums including cast iron, bronze, cement and scavenged wood.

In his latest exhibition at the GFI Gallery, *given and taken*, he calls on audiences to "look again" and, in a world where much is not OK, find the opportunity for positive change in inversions and minutiae.

Jones said he grew up walking in the Knysna forest and, linked to those memories, the natural world was a major inspiration in his art.

"I'm troubled by our continued quest for fossil fuels despite the excess carbon building in the atmosphere and driving climate change.

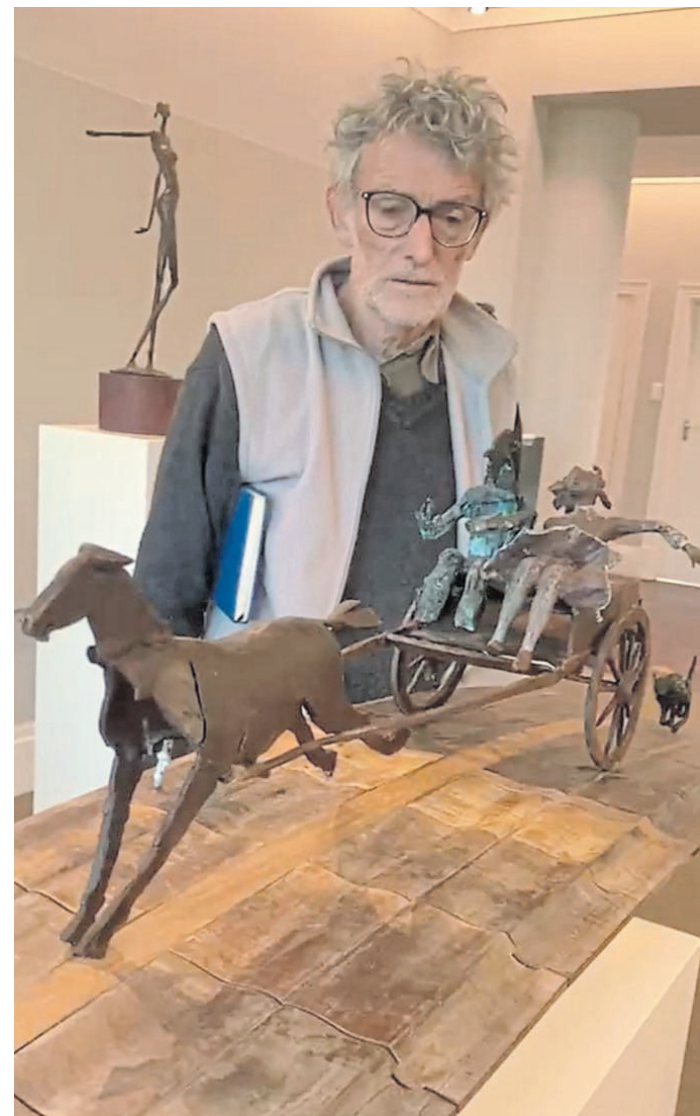
"Likewise, I'm concerned about the spread of microplastics throughout the food chain, and our careless use of scarce resources.

"I'm concerned at how we have turned our back on nature.

"This exhibition is about a reorientation of power.

"I'm calling on audiences to 'look again' at relationships, stuff, creation."

Chasing the Linenfold is the standout sculpture at Jones'



Artist Graham Jones and his sculpture 'Chasing the Linenfold'. The piece is part of his exhibition at the GFI Gallery in Park Drive, Gqeberha
Picture: GUY ROGERS

new exhibition. Comprising unique bronze (one-of-a-kind casting), wood, rubber, acrylic paint and steel, it depicts a horse and cart carrying a man and woman

careering down the road, and a dog in hard pursuit.

The road is a piece of stinkwood and teak, which used to be the top of a dresser.

It's crimped in the linenfold style — which originated in Belgium in the 15th century — perfectly capturing a rutted dirt track in the Karoo.

Jones said the seed was planted when he read Olive Schreiner's classic South African novel, *Story of An African Farm*, long ago.

"There was a scene which stuck with me and it gradually acquired its own life and form."

The sculpture includes a shepherd's tree and a sprinkling of guinea fowl, accentuating the sense of place.

Another piece, *The two monkey skulls*, in Clandestino (unique bronze, bitumen, mirror, reconstituted furniture, papier mâché, found objects and paint) is powerful and disturbing.

One of the forms has rouged lips and is made of an old carburettor.

The other has eyes made of mirror so when you look directly into them, you see yourself.

Among many other pieces is River Hints that tells the story of the death of Xhosa King Hintsa ka-Khawuta, as described by Noel Mostert in his epic historical account of what is today the Eastern Cape.

The exhibition is running at the GFI Gallery in Park Drive until July 14.

Stranded Malawians finally get bus back home

Nandi Ntini

More than 400 Malawian nationals housed at a Johannesburg church were repatriated on Monday evening, while at least 76 people remained in the city yesterday, waiting for the final bus to take them home.

The group was part of 500 Malawians who had been self-repatriating from Cape Town and Durban but were left stranded in Newlands, Johannesburg, after being promised transport back home.

Tension has been rising in SA after certain civil organisations gave illegal migrants until June 30 to voluntarily leave the country.

According to civil society activist Tessa Dooms, the crisis was eased after the department of home affairs intervened.

"Though the repatriation process is a Malawian government intervention, with Malawi paying for and managing the buses, the South African



Malawian nationals who were stranded at the embassy in Sandton wait to be repatriated to Malawi Picture: THULANI MBELE

government stepped in after realising that people had been left stranded in Newlands," Dooms said.

She said the home affairs department coordinated and dispatched seven buses on Monday to send the Malawians back home.

"Over 400 people were taken to Malawi yesterday through the South African government's intervention.

"There is now a final group of 76 waiting for the last bus, and we have been assured by home affairs that it will arrive.

"The crisis has largely been de-escalated," she said.

She explained that the buses were travelling from Durban and Cape Town when they ended up at the Malawian embassy in Sandton, where passengers were told another bus would collect them and

continue the journey.

"It remains unclear how some people ended up moving from the Malawian embassy to Jeppe and later to Newlands," Dooms said.

She said members of the Malawian community stepped in after learning about the situation.

"One of the Malawian pastors offered his church in Newlands as temporary accommodation while efforts were being made to resolve the matter."

Dooms emphasised that those on the buses had no intention of staying in Johannesburg.

"These are people who believed they were travelling straight to Malawi.

"They are voluntarily leaving South Africa and have no interest in relocating elsewhere.

"Johannesburg is not where they want to be; they want to return home to Malawi," she said. — *Sowetan*

Five Sundays River Valley schools compete in reading competition

Simtembile Mgidi and Emihle Qamba

Five high schools from the Sundays River Valley represented the Eastern Cape at the 2026 MobiReadathon National Finals.

The event, held at Nelson Mandela University yesterday, showcased how local libraries were helping rural pupils embrace reading, technology and digital learning.

It highlighted the growing role of technology in education and demonstrated how pupils from rural communities could thrive when provided with access to digital tools and learning opportunities.

Sundays River Valley schools that participated in the competition were St Colmille from Nqweba (Kirkwood), Kirkwood High School and schools from Addo were Samkelwe, Sandisulwazi and Moses Mabida senior secondary schools.

Ethembeni Enrichment High School in North End, Gqeberha, also competed.

Sundays River Valley schools made up five out of the eight schools representing the



Participants in the Mobi-Readathon national finals included Nyaniso Gobana, 16, Cayla Rolls, 15, Nyasha Paradzai, 14, and Aqhama Voyu, 14
Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

Eastern Cape. The schools were among more than 77 schools from across SA competing in the finals.

The MobiReadathon is an initiative of the City of Johannesburg Library Services.

It is a reading development and digital literacy programme designed to introduce pupils to online reading while encouraging the productive use of digital devices for learning.

Pupils read four new online stories in preparation for the finals to answer quiz questions from the stories they read.

Samkelwe Senior Secondary School pupil Nyasha Paradzai, 14, said she loved reading and

self-esteem and confidence to keep reading books," Aqhama said.

Moses Mabida Senior Secondary School pupil Nyaniso Gobana, 16, said through the competition he got to see new places and hoped to return to Nelson Mandela University as a student in the future.

Pupils were grouped at tables to compete in Quiz Battles using tablets and laptops while coding competitions required participants to use tablets and cellphones.

Sundays River Valley mayor Soletu Lucas attended the competition to support the pupils and thanked stakeholders for giving them an opportunity to compete.

"From where they come from in Sundays River, there are no facilities and resources of this nature," Lucas said.

"It gives them confidence, courage to read, confidence to speak in public.

"It will boost their curiosity. "If you want to be successful, you must be curious."

Results of the provincial winners had not been announced by the time of publication.

nelson mandela bay MUNICIPALITY TENDERS

TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Documents for the following tenders can be obtained at the applicable non-refundable amount per set at Supply Chain Management Tender Office, Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha 6001, fax 041 506 1969, tel. 041 506 7531, or by prior notification from the Supply Chain Management Office, 17 Sellick Street, Kariega, tel. 087 121 3032 or 087 121 3031.

This after payment has been made in Gqeberha at the cashiers, Mfanasekhaya Gqobose Building (formerly Eric Tindale Building), Govan Mbeki Avenue or in Kariega at the Treasury Office, Market Street.

When payment is made, please quote the following information:

On cash / cheque payment: Vote 00154776

On bank transfer payment: Bank account number: 4079533826, Code 632005
Account name: N.M.B.M. Deposit Account / Primary Deposit Account
Bank: ABSA Bank, P.E.
Reference: Vote 00154776

Proof of payment must be provided.

FORMAL TENDERS		
SCM No.	Tender Description (Including clarification meetings, where applicable)	Tender Fee
SCM/1355/C/2025-2026 CIBD Grading: 6 EP or higher	TRI-ANNUAL TENDER FOR ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES Compulsory Clarification Meeting: 14 July 2026 at 11:00 at Fish Water Flats Wastewater Treatment Works, John Talent Road, Deal Party, Gqeberha Validity Period: 90 days	R1 661.00
SCM/1348/S/2025-2026	SPECIFICATION INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING CONTRACT OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDERS Compulsory Clarification Meeting: 22 July 2026 at 10:00 at City Hall Auditorium, Gqeberha Validity Period: 90 days	R1 661.00

All tenderers must be registered on the Municipality's supplier database through the NMBM database. The Municipality reserves the right not to consider the tenders of tenderers not registered on the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality's supplier database. Please phone the NMBM database at (041) 506 3274 / 3266 to register, if not yet registered.

Tenderers arriving 10 minutes late will not be allowed into a clarification meeting.

SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF TENDERS

Tenders must reach the Municipality by **not later than 11:00 on 13 AUGUST 2026.**

The tenders in sealed envelopes, clearly stating the contract number and description, must be placed in the tender box at either the Supply Chain Management Offices in Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha, or at the Supply Chain Management Purchase Offices, 17 Sellick Street, Kariega between 08:00 and 16:00 weekdays.

Tenders will be publicly opened simultaneously in the boardroom, Supply Chain Management Office, Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha and the Supply Chain Management Purchase Offices, 17 Sellick Street, Kariega, shortly after 11:00 on the applicable Thursday.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tenders and late tenders will not be accepted.

The Council promotes the use of previously disadvantaged small and medium contractors. Details of the preference formula appear in the Supply Chain Management Policy of the Municipality and can be obtained from the Director: Supply Chain Management, Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha.

As per Section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the SCM Policy, bids may be submitted only on the original stamped bid documentation provided by the NMBM, and the date, time and venue of any compulsory site meeting or briefing session as per Section 22(1)(b)(iii) of the SCM Policy, and Section 22(1)(b)(iv), a bid from a prospective bidder who did not attend a prescribed compulsory site meeting or briefing session referred to in subparagraph (ii) will not be considered.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE OFFICIAL FORMS PROVIDED BY THE MUNICIPALITY
NOT TO BE RE-TYPED OR COPIED

Ref. 30 - 24 June 2026

Under the hand of the Acting City Manager, Adv Lonwabo Ngoqo

"TOGETHER WE CAN ADOPT A WATER-SAVING LIFESTYLE"