

MURDERER JAILED FOR LIFE

Marikana/ Mooinooi – Simphiwe Silwane was handed a life sentence on 4 June 2019 by the Gauteng High Court after the gun he used was linked to the murder of Myeliso Biyela and other crimes which were committed in Marikana and Mooinooi near Rustenburg in 2017. Samkelo Mkhutswa, an accomplice, will also spend a long time in jail for attempted murder and other related crimes that he committed alongside Simphiwe. Evidence produced in court by the state revealed that the two were behind the shooting of Malibongwe Mdaso in September 2017. Malibongwe, who was an Association of Mineworkers and Construction Workers Union (AMCU) official at that time, was shot multiple times while leaving a soccer stadium in Mooinooi. He survived the attempt on his life. The following month, AMCU shop steward Msidiseni Kwenene was shot in the leg while on his way to work. He said he managed to survive a hail of bullets after noticing the suspects just in time. A few days after the second incident, Myeliso was shot and killed while returning home from visiting a friend. "It was established during investigations that the firearm used in the attempted murder of Malibongwe, was the same one used to kill



Myeliso," police spokesperson lieutenant colonel Amanda Funani said. Simphiwe was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and 15 years for possession of a firearm without a licence. He was also handed a further 50 years after the court found him guilty on two counts of attempted murder. Samkelo, on the other hand, was sentenced to 25 years for attempted murder, 15 years for possession of a firearm without a license and five years for unlawful possession of ammunition. North West provincial commissioner lieutenant general Baile Motswenyane said the heavy sentences will send a clear message that criminals do not have a place in society.

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