



THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL  
OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA SUMMARY – JUDGMENT DELIVERED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL

From: The Registrar, Supreme Court of Appeal  
Date: 27 September 2011  
Status: Immediate

*Please note that the media summary is intended for the benefit of the media and does not form part of the judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal*

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*Muller v The State*

Arising out of a series of robberies that occurred in Cape Town in mid-1995, the appellants were tried and convicted on three charges of robbery with aggravating circumstances. They were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on each count resulting in an effective sentence of 30 years' imprisonment.

The appellants appealed against the severity of their effective sentence to the Cape Town High Court. Their appeal was dismissed. Subsequently, after considerable delay, they both obtained leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeal.

Today the Supreme Court of Appeal held that the appellants' effective sentence of 30 years' imprisonment was a sentence reserved for heinous crimes, which the three robberies were not. The appeal therefore succeeded and this effective sentence imposed on each appellant was reduced to 18 years' imprisonment.

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