



## **MEDIA SUMMARY – JUDGMENT DELIVERED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL**

### **THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, GAUTENG DIVISION, PRETORIA V PORTIA THULISILE TSOTETSI**

From: The Registrar, Supreme Court of Appeal  
Date: 02 June 2017  
Status: Immediate

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

The Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) today upheld an appeal by the appellant against the sentences imposed on the respondent by the Gauteng Division, Pretoria, of the High Court, (the trial court) in respect of two counts of murder.

The issue on appeal was whether the trial court erred in finding that there were substantial and compelling factors in respect of both counts, justifying a lesser sentence than the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment.

The SCA held that the trial court erred in finding that there were substantial and compelling factors which justified a lesser sentence than the minimum prescribed sentence. The sentence of life imprisonment in respect of each count was not unjust and was appropriate.

The SCA, accordingly, set aside the sentence imposed by the trial court and imposed the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment in respect of each count of murder. But the sentences of life imprisonment were ordered to run concurrently and were antedated to 1 February 2016, being the date on which the respondent was originally sentenced.