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THE CITIZEN

Jr..... Nr..... P. 7 Date 02 Feb 2000

# Accomplice would repeat bombing act

AN accomplice in the October 1988 Witbank bombing which killed four people and injured 58 told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Amnesty Committee in Pretoria yesterday that if he were to reconsider these actions, he would still proceed with them.

Applying for amnesty, Phillip Nyalunga said he had been aware of the planned bombing four months before its execution.

"We were involved in an urban guerrilla war and were aware that innocent people would be killed," he said.

He said the NBS building was targeted because it housed the security police on the first floor.

"Our people were being tortured in those buildings," he said.

The former Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre said he acted on instructions from his commander, Xolile Sam, when he surveyed the target about three times before the event.

Mr Nyalunga said Mr Sam assembled the bomb in a Ford Cortina on the morning of the explosion. He and detonation expert

John Dube took turns keeping watch and assisting Mr Sam.

He said Mr Dube installed a remote control device which could trigger the device from within a 25km radius.

After the bomb was assembled, Mr Nyalunga followed Mr Sam to Witbank and waited for him while he parked the Cortina outside the NBS building. Mr Sam walked to the get-away vehicle parked at a nearby taxi rank and sped off with Mr Dube and Mr Nyalunga.

"As soon as we drove off I heard the bomb go off," Mr Dube said.

Although the explosion was intended to kill policeman, none were among the four dead.

Mandlenkosi Vilakazi and Steven Maboja were later convicted of the bombing and both served prison terms.

Mr Dube and Mr Nyalunga claimed they had never met Vilakazi or Maboja, neither of whom applied for amnesty.

They said they assumed the men had dealt with Mr Sam.

The TRC heard that Mr Sam was killed by the police in 1988. - Sapa.

TREFWOORDE

1 Pretoria

2 Kommissie vir waarheid

3 verhoor

4 amnestie

5 bomaanslag

6 ploffings Witbank

7 NBS

8 geboue

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