



PRETORIA Jan 31 Sapa

ACCOMPLICE IN 1988 WITBANK BOMBING BEFORE AMNESTY COMMITTEE

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 on Monday 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.

Nyalunga said 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 Sam.

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

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

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

Although the explosion was intended to kill policeman, none were

among the four dead.

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

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

They said they assumed the men had dealt with Sam.

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

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