

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 22 AUGUST 2016

**RE: MAN SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR ROBBERY
& KIDNAPPING**

On 18 August 2016, the East London Regional Court sentenced Simthembile Mtanga to 30 years imprisonment on four counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances and four counts of kidnapping.

It was revealed in court papers that on five occasions during the period of August and October 2014, VW Transporter vehicles were robbed while doing deliveries in the East London area. The modus operandi of all these incidents were the same. According to court papers, in each incident, a group of men threatened the driver to surrender the vehicle and its load. The driver would be thrown at the back of the British American Tobacco Company (BAT) vehicle. BAT is a manufacturer and distributor of various types of cigarettes in South Africa. One of the robbers would guard the driver while another drives the vehicle away to another spot where the boxes of cigarettes would be loaded to another vehicle. The vehicle with the loaded boxes of the merchandise would drive away leaving the driver locked at the back of the BAT vehicle.

The accused was not aware of the fact that these vehicles were fitted with cameras and he was identified from the video/CCTV footage as having taken part in all the five robberies. He was arrested and tried in court and he was found guilty as charged. Senior State Advocate, Nceba Ntelwa based in the East London Regional Court represented the state in this matter.

Advocate Ntelwa said that, he was very pleased with the sentence and thanked the cooperation with his investigating officer which made the case an eye opener for him.

The magistrate did allude to the fact that the state was able to prove their case beyond reasonable doubt and believed that the sentence imposed was correct.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza

Regional Spokesperson: DPP PE & Grahamstown

Enquiries: tndwalaza@npa.gov.za

071 680 3701