

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

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

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 03 APRIL 2018**

**RE: 39 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR A HOUSE ROBBER**

The Durban Regional Court sentenced the accused charged with two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, two counts of attempted murder, one count of possession of unlicensed firearm and another count of possession of ammunition.

He was sentenced as follows: 15 years imprisonment for count one; count two -15 years; counts three and four taken together for sentencing - 5 years imprisonment; counts 5 and 6 taken together for sentencing - 4 years imprisonment effective to 39 years imprisonment. In terms of Section 103 of Firearms Control Act the accused was also deemed unfit to possess a firearm.

The court heard how the two the victims were accosted at gunpoint in their garage at home. The rest of the family members were also accosted and kept in the garage whilst the one family member was assaulted and taken through the house to point out cellphones and jewellery. The court heard that a one year old child was left inside the house whilst the rest of the family was held in the garage.

One of the victims's son escaped from the garage and proceeded to call the police. Upon arrival of the police, the accused fled. The police pursued him and he opened fire on the Police as he was fleeing. The firearm was then abandoned during the pursuit, the court was told and the accused was shot during the pursuit.

The police recovered the firearm and arrested him. A cellphone was also recovered in his possession. He was also identified as one of the assailants who wielded the firearm. The accused was also linked directly to the attempted murder and firearm charges via primer residue. The state successfully led expert witnesses relating to the primer residue challenges.

The evidence was led on the impact of the crime in their evidence in chief. The victims had testified that that they were all severely traumatised and cannot even sleep at night as they do not feel safe in their own home. They said they had to increase security measures at home.

Welcoming the sentence, Regional Court Prosecutor, Surekha Marimuthu said house robberies are a deeply invasive crime – one that strikes deep fear in the hearts of citizens who seek the sanctity of their homes. She said it offends a citizen's right to freedom, safety and security. Firearms used for unlawful purposes are the bane of society, she added. She expressed her concern at the proliferation of illegal firearms and the use of firearms to instil fear in the hearts of victims. She said the accused's actions on the police are also a display of the brazen disregard that criminals have for the rule of law.

Kind Regards,

**Roshiela Benimadho**  
**Senior Public Prosecutor: Durban**  
**Mobile: 071 275 8599**  
**Landline: 031-3024260**  
**Fax: 0866290306**