

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: ANOTHER SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED HEAVILY BY THE PORT ELIZABETH HIGH COURT

The Port Elizabeth High Court sentenced yet another serial rapist to four life terms and 61 years in a packed courtroom on 9 May 2018. Vusumzi Snyman, a 30 year old man terrorised his community of Kwazakhele since 2011. He was charged with a number of offences, which included amongst others, housebreaking with intent to rob, pointing of anything, which is likely to lead a person to believe it is a firearm, rape, robbery with aggravating circumstances, housebreaking with intent to rape. There were 25 counts preferred against him.

When he was finally arrested, the SAPS Forensics were able to link him positively with all the crimes that he committed. The accused pleaded guilty to all the crimes and he revealed in court that he started living on the streets during 2011 and started abusing the drug known as Mandrax. He further revealed in court that when he was under the influence of the drug he would feel empowered and aggressive.

The court revealed that his modus operandi would be to break into houses armed with a knife, approach his victims, threaten them, rob them and rape them. Sentencing him, the judge was very clear when he said the community cannot afford to live in terror because of the likes of Snyman and needed to send a strong message that criminals cannot hold our communities into ransom. On count 1: housebreaking with intent to steal, he was sentenced to 3 years, count 2, pointing anything, which is likely to lead a person to believe it is a firearm, count 3 and 4 which is rape, he received a life sentence. Counts 5, 6 and 7, which included robbery with aggravating circumstances, 15 years imprisonment was imposed.

The court successfully sentenced the accused to all 25 counts to four life terms in prison and a total of 61 years imprisonment. Some of the sentences were ordered to run

concurrently. Advocate Ismat Cerfontein from the DDPP PE office in Port Elizabeth represented the state.

The NPA welcomes the sentence. Advocate Cerfontein and her team must be applauded for a job well done.

Kind Regards,

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