

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: EKURHULENI SERIAL RAPIST REMOVED FROM SOCIETY

The Johannesburg High Court sentenced a serial rapist to 2 life terms plus an additional 170 years imprisonment on Tuesday, 13 June 2017.

Velaphi Penuel Ncongwane pleaded guilty to 17 counts ranging from rape, kidnapping and robbery on 7 September 2015. He committed these offences on women aged between 16 to 43 during the period of 2009 till 2013. He was subsequently arrested in Mpumalanga for similar cases which he committed in 2008 and 2009. The forensic investigations in a form of DNA linked all the cases together. As a result thereof a confirmatory DNA sample had to be obtained. The investigating officer, Warrant Officer Motsome then arranged with his colleague in Mpumalanga to get the accused DNA which confirmed he was the donor of the DNA taken from the victims in the Ekurhuleni cases.

In aggravation of sentence, State Advocate, Nonkululeko Serepo roped in a clinical psychologist who declared the accused a serial rapist. Victim impact reports were also obtained in respect of all the victims. The psychologist's report revealed that the accused claims that he was instructed by voices to attack women. This resulted in the defence attorney bringing an application to refer the accused for mental observation which was later granted by the court.

The psychiatrists found that he was fit to stand trial and had the requisite criminal capacity at the time he committed the index offences. They further diagnosed him with anti-social personality behaviour.

During sentencing proceedings, Advocate Serepo argued that the fact that the accused pleaded guilty does not in this particular case indicate that he is remorseful. The accused had no other choice due to the strength of the state's case but to plead guilty. The fact that he blames his criminal conduct on the grandmother of his former girlfriend, that she

"cursed" him clearly indicates that he does not take full responsibility for his actions. "It is clear from the report of the clinical psychologist together with the diagnosis of anti-social personality behaviour that there are no reasonable prospects of rehabilitating the accused. I therefore respectfully submit that this court must not deviate from the prescribed sentences, so that justice can be seen to be done for the victims of these heinous crimes", she said.

These crimes are viewed by the state as extremely serious in that the accused perpetrated these crimes on defenceless women totally disrespecting the rule of law.

The NPA is satisfied that the court arrived at a just sentence, one that is proportionate to the seriousness of the crime and wish to extend its gratitude to all its partners within the criminal justice cluster who remain committed in eradicating the scourge of violent crimes.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw

Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng

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