

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MAN SENTENCED TO 196 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR HIS CRIMES

The Port Elizabeth Regional Court sentenced Mkhusele Matima last week to 196 years imprisonment for 11 counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances; 1 count of attempted murder, 2 counts of possession of unlicensed firearm, 2 counts of possession of ammunition, 1 count of pointing a firearm, 1 count for negligent discharge of a firearm and 1 count of escaping from lawful custody.

The court papers reveal that Matima began his reign of terror on 25 January 2015, when he robbed a police officer of his firearm and ammunition at a petrol station while the officer was inflating his vehicle's tyre. The court papers further reveal that there were 26 charges against him however, the court convicted him on 18 of those charges.

The cumulative sentence for all the charges is 196 years imprisonment, with some of the counts running concurrently. The effective sentence being that of 35 years. The court found that the accused did not show any remorse. He was adamant that this was a case of mistaken identity, even though there were video footages in respect of some of the counts clearly showing his face. The court also found that his case was a built up of an array of lies and improbabilities. At some stage, he lost his temper during cross-examination and sometimes refused to respond to questions.

The public prosecutor, Thabo Namba, represented the state and this is what he had to say about this case, "Presenting this case to the court was the highlight of my career as a prosecutor. The fact that I had brilliant state witnesses also helped a lot even though they were reluctant to testify in court at first for the fear of the accused; after consultations with them that yielded good results. The investigating officer, Warrant Officer Xolile Smith worked hard and we must both be commended for a job well done".

The NPA welcomes the sentence hoping that it will send a strong message to would be offenders.

Kind Regards,

Tsepo Ndwalaza

NPA Regional Spokesperson

Eastern Cape: DPP Grahamstown

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