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

ALL MEDIA

TO:

DATE: 31 AUGUST 2020

RE: MAN SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS FOR ROBBERIES

A 29 year-old man who used to torment the community of Phagameng in Limpopo, Thabo Mpho Majadibodu, was sentenced by the Modimolle Regional Court to 35 years imprisonment. This is after he was convicted of five counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances.

In early July 2019, Majadibodu and his unknown accomplice, used to terrorized the community of Phagameng at Extention 10 by pouncing on their victims in the early hours of the morning or in the evening while going to and from work. They would threaten them with a firearm before robbing them of their belongings such as mobile phones, money, food and clothes.

On 7 July 2019, one of the victims recognized the accused while he was playing soccer in the local ground. She then alerted the police and the accused was arrested on the spot. His accomplice is still at large. During the trial, the accused pleaded not guilty.

In aggravation of sentence, Adv William Makwela called witnesses who testified about their ordeal. Some of the witnesses told the court that they even left their jobs because they were afraid to walk to and from work in the dark. They also said that they were not ready to forgive the accused as they are suffering with their children because of him.

Furthermore, Adv Makwela said that the offences were properly planned over a period of time. The accused further terrorized women from his own community whom he was supposed to protect.

The court sentenced the accused to an effective 35 years collectively for the five counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, after some terms were ordered to run concurrently.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Limpopo, Adv Ivy Thenga, commended the good work of the investigation team and the state advocate.

Mashudu Malabi-Dzhangi Regional Spokesperson: DPP Limpopo <u>mmalabi@npa.gov.za</u> 0748233603