

# 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: 13 MARCH 2017**

**RE: NPA GIVES HOPE TO THE RESIDENTS OF ROSETTEVILLE**

The High court in Johannesburg sentenced human trafficker Eke Ugochukwu to an effective imprisonment term of 20 years.

This is the first case in Gauteng Local Division to be finalised under the Human Trafficking Act which is effective since 09 August 2015. In the past, there was no separate or specific legislation governing this crime in South Africa but the Sexual Offences Act made transitional provision for certain offences pertaining to human trafficking. The perpetrators of human trafficking cases were therefore charged under Common law, the Sexual offences Act and in cases where minors were involved, the Child Justice Act would also apply.

The case emanated from Rosettenville in Johannesburg where a 15 year -old girl was transported to Ugochukwu's house and kept there under false pretences that she will be offered a job. Instead, the girl was forced into using drugs and prostitution with the proceeds thereof handed over to Ugochukwu. These horrendous crimes continued from May 2015 up until August 2015 when the victim managed to escape into a nearby church, where she was taken care of by church members. She was reunited with her mother a week later, and they reported the crime to the police.

Advocate Elizabeth Le Roux pleaded with the court to set a bench mark within the Gauteng Division and for the court to give hope to the residence of Gauteng, especially in the area of Rosettenville where the crime was committed. "My Lord, we have seen the anger and frustration of people in Rosettenville in the media. Attacks were hailed at the criminal justice system and I believe an appropriate sentence can send a message that

our criminal justice system is well capable of dealing with criminals". Advocate Le Roux said.

The NPA is satisfied with the extent at which the law relating to Trafficking in Persons is developing and will continue to be the voice for helpless victims.

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Louw**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng**

**Enquiries: [hlouw@npa.gov.za](mailto:hlouw@npa.gov.za)**

**083 402 4787**