

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

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 20 MARCH 2019

RE: SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED TO 12 LIFE SENTENCES AND 194 YEARS

Yesterday, the High Court sitting in Delmas sentenced Smanga Goodwill Gwebu (37) of Vosman to 12 life sentences and an additional 194 years imprisonment after he was convicted on multiple counts of rape, housebreaking, contravening of Section 21(2) of the Sexual Offences Act, robbery with aggravating circumstances and pointing of firearm.

Gwebu started his terror of frightening people of Vosman from 2004 to 2014 where he would break into the victims' houses at night, threaten them with a knife or at gun point and rape them in front of their families. He would sometimes rob them of their belongings like cell phones and cash with his face covered with a balaclava.

Gwebu robbed one of his victims of her cell phone and gave it to his girlfriend. The victim reported the matter, during the police investigation, the same cellular phone was found in the girlfriend's possession and the accused was arrested. DNA samples were taken and Gwebu was positively linked with other crimes.

During trial, Gwebu pleaded not guilty and Senior State Advocate Sonja Ntuli, led testimonies of the police and the victims who told the court that they could not identify the assailant as his face was covered with a balaclava during the commission of the offences.

Gwebu was convicted on 12 counts of rape, 6 counts of housebreaking, and 6 counts of contravention of section 21(2) of sexual offences act (s), 8 counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, and 5 counts of pointing of a firearm.

The NPA applauds the good work done by the team and hopes that the sentence will deter would-be sexual offenders and address the scourge of sexual violence in our society.

Kind Regards,

Monica Nyuswa

Regional Spokesperson: DPP: Mpumalanga Satellite Office

Enquiries: mnnyuswa@npa.gov.za

076 485 5446