

4. National Director's Statement



The NPA is committed to its strategic goals and is working tirelessly to offer services to the public. The NPA also ensures that programmes are implemented in order to achieve outputs as listed in the JCPS Delivery Agreement. Although there are instances of excellent performance in this reporting period, there is still a need to work on areas where the NPA did not meet its targets.

Two Deputy National Directors of Public Prosecutions (DNDPP) were appointed during this reporting period. Adv N Mokhatla will be responsible for Legal Affairs, while Adv N Jiba will be responsible for Strategy and Operations. Other vacancies that will be filled in the forth coming financial year are: 3 Directors of Public Prosecutions, 1 Special Director and the Chief Executive Officer. The prosecutorial vacancy rate has been reduced from 16.5% in 2009/10 to 12.2% as at 31 March 2011.

The NPA has maintained a high conviction rate ranging from 73.4% to 90.7% at the different courts. The District Courts had a finalisation rate of 2.3 cases per court per day. This is an improvement from the previous financial year. The finalisation rate at Regional court level was 0.5 cases per Court per day in comparison to -4.3 in the previous financial year. The conviction rate at the High Courts was 87.9%.

In this reporting period, court performance was negatively affected by inter alia the public service strike and the 2010 Fifa World Cup. Although no NPA employees reportedly participated in the strike many courts were not operating resulting in case backlog. The 2010 FIFA World Cup also placed a burden on the available resources as prosecutors were deployed to 56 Courts dedicated to dealing with cases arising from world cup activity.

The NPA has made significant achievements relating to the target set under Output 4 in the Delivery Agreement. These targets deals with improving and managing the perceptions of crime through increasing the number of Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs). In this reporting period, a total of 27 TCCs were operational throughout the country. Additional sites have been identified and consultations with stakeholders are underway.

There were no witnesses harmed who are in the Witness Protection Programme. The NPA is continuously working hard to ensure the safety of witnesses. The Asset Forfeiture Unit has maintained outstanding performance. It has exceeded all its targets. The value of the new restraints was R549,2m, 22% above the target of R450m. This is 11.7% above the previous year. A total of 320 cases were completed against a target of 300, which is 6.7% above target.

In this reporting period, the NPA dealt with a number of noteworthy cases that attracted both positive and negative media reports, such as the Jub Jub and Shrien Dewani cases. Despite all these, the NPA will focus on working towards creating better life for all and carrying out its Constitutional mandate to prosecute without fear or favour.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank all NPA employees for their dedication and commitment during the past year.

Organisational changes were introduced to enhance efficiency and improve access to justice. Change is vital to prevent stagnation. Stability was also introduced at top management level after the appointment of the two deputies to the National Director of Prosecutions. I have confidence that through the unwavering support of all the NPA officials they will make meaningful impact.

Let us all work harder in the forthcoming year to achieve our targets and provide seamless service delivery to our customers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Simelane', written in a cursive style.

Adv M Simelane
National Director of Public Prosecutions

