

Media Statement



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RE: APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES CONSOLIDATES AND STRENGTHENS NPA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), Adv Shamila Batohi, welcomes the appointment of a new Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions (DNDPP) and three Special Directors of Public Prosecutions (SDPPs) by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Earlier today, the President announced the following four senior appointments in the National Prosecuting Authority, all based at Office of the NDPP:

1. Advocate Anton du Plessis as Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions: Strategy, Operations and Compliance;
2. Advocate Lebogang Dineo Baloyi, Special Directors of Public Prosecutions: Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit;
3. Advocate Bonnie Currie-Gumwo, Special Directors of Public Prosecutions: Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit; and
4. Advocate Priya Bissessarwar, Special Directors of Public Prosecutions: Asset Forfeiture Unit.

Advocate Du Plessis joins Adv Ouma Rabaji-Rasethaba, Adv Rodney de Kock and Adv Nomvula Mokhatla to make up the full complement of all the DNDPPs in the NPA. This follows the appointments of Advocates, Rabaji-Rasethaba and Rodney De Kock as DNDPPs and Mthunzi Mhaga, as a Special Director of Public Prosecutions in June 2020. This consolidates and strengthens the NPA national leadership.

"These appointments are very significant. The leadership team at Deputy National Director level is now complete with all vacancies filled. This is a very critical step towards restoring credibility and confidence in the NPA. These appointments demonstrate the commitment to diversity, transformation and women empowerment. We have looked for

the calibre of people with the requisite skills both internally and externally. These are trusted persons with a demonstrated commitment to the rule of law and the achievement of the NPA vision,” says the NDPP, Advocate Shamila Batohi.

These appointments mark an important step in the new trajectory of the NPA. They will bring vital stability and support to the NDPP as she leads the NPA with a permanently appointed team at the highest level of the organisation. This adds much needed impetus to the NPA’s work to become a courageous and forward-looking institution, with the ability to address the serious challenges facing South Africa.

Advocate du Plessis, who will drive the implementation of the strategic vision throughout the organisation, together with other DNDPPs, returns to the NPA as Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions responsible for strategy, operations and compliance.

Advocate du Plessis has three law degrees (B-Iuris, LLB, LLM) as well as Executive Leadership Diplomas from Harvard and Oxford universities. He is a former prosecutor and Senior State Advocate who led the NPA's development and roll-out of Specialised Sexual Offences Courts and Thuthuzela Care Centres. He is a globally recognised criminal justice, serious crime and rule of law legal expert, with over 20 years of management and operational experience in the field. He has worked on criminal justice and security sector reform in dozens of African countries and has researched and written on prosecution reform and has presented papers at leading African and international conferences on the issue.

Advocate du Plessis is currently the Legal and Criminal Justice Coordinator of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate in New York. He leads the UN's work on the legal and criminal justice elements of the Security Council's response to terrorism. He was previously the Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies - Africa's largest and preeminent think tank that works to promote human security, justice and the rule of law on the continent. He also served with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna.

Advocate Baloyi has B-Iuris and LLB degrees from the University of the North West. She is a highly experienced Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in the employ of the NPA with more than 20 years' experience. She has been with the SCCU Head Office since November 2015 and acting Special Director of Public Prosecutions since October 2019.

Advocate Baloyi was previously appointed at the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO aka the "Scorpions") where she conducted and directed the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases falling within the mandate of the DSO. She oversaw the work of the Organised Crime Unit of the NPA where she provided guidance and support to the investigation and prosecution of a broad range of organised crime offences. She is further entrusted with managing responsibilities in the Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) and the Fusion Centre, which is a multi-agency body responsible for dealing with covid-19 corruption related matters.

Advocate Currie-Gumwo has BA and LLB degrees from the University of the Western Cape. She started her career in the NPA as a member of the inaugural Aspirant Prosecutors Programme from June 1997 to May 1998. In April 2007 she was appointed as a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in the Western Cape. During her 22 year tenure Advocate Currie-Gumwo has specialised in gender-based violence and matters involving vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons from the LGBTI community. Her skills as a litigator have secured the successful prosecutions of several child rapists, child murderers, traffickers and perpetrators of femicide. She successfully

managed various portfolios relating to these specialised crimes where she introduced important innovations to enhance the effectiveness of the NPA in dealing with these priority matters.

Advocate Bissesswar has BA and LLB degrees from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban. She is a highly experienced Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions with more than 23 years' experience, including as a district, regional and high court prosecutor and as a civil court litigator for the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU). Since July 2002 she has been stationed at AFU and from 2014 as AFU Pretoria Regional Head. For the past 10 months, she has successfully contributed to the ongoing transformation of the AFU as Acting Special Director of Public Prosecutions.

Advocate Bissesswar has vast experience in dealing with international obligations in respect of international Conventions to which South Africa is a signatory to. Such Conventions include the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and The Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD), BRICS and G20. Advocate Biseswar has been nominated by the NPA to serve as the secretariat of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of South Africa (ARINSA).

The NDPP believes that the team will be able to guide the institution on a path of renewal as it rediscovers itself in pursuit of its new vision. "This is a group of people that have demonstrated their integrity and commitment to rebuilding the rule of law in South Africa. Our pledge is to build an NPA that is independent, professional, accountable and credible – an institution that serves only the Constitution and the people of South Africa," she said.

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