

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: MOVES TO REBUILD A CREDIBLE NPA GET A SHOT IN THE ARM

The efforts of the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) to create a structure in her office where public will be able to lodge complaints about any allegation of improper conduct involving National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) staff received a major boost.

The Government of Germany has pledged about R9.5 million (EUR 500 000) towards this critical drive to achieve the NPA's strategic pillars of public credibility, independence, professionalism and accountability.

The envisaged structure, which is provided for in the NPA Act, will give direct access to her office by members of the public to report any misdemeanour involving members of the NPA. Over a decade or so the NPA was entangled in allegations of "state captured" as some of its prominent members were accused of being appointed into leadership positions to weaken the NPA and to act in the interest of certain political and personal influences.

These allegations and perceptions of politically-motivated changes in leadership and the allegations of impropriety against some of its senior leaders, led to an exodus of skilled staff, the freezing of new appointments, as well as a virtual end to its professional development and training programmes.

The Zondo Commission is investigating the allegations of "state capture".

During her appointment in December 2018, the NDPP committed to restore the credibility of the NPA and earn to regain the respect the institution once enjoyed. Further, she undertook "to rebuild and lead a trusted and effective prosecution service that ensures justice to all South Africans through independent, professional and victim-centred service delivery."

The new structure will be implemented through technical assistance provided by the Institute for Security Studies.

Sipho Ngwema on behalf of the NDPP/NPA.

For more information call him at 082 499 8111.