

Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions



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TO: MEDIA

DATE: 10 MARCH 2008

RE: NPA HEAD RECEIVES HOSTILE LETTER

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has taken note of media reports and comments regarding the letter it received addressed to the acting head, advocate Mokotedi Mpshe. We would like to place the following information on record and in proper perspective.

An anonymous letter reached the office of the acting National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) during the course of business last week Thursday. This letter was processed the same way as other correspondence intended for the office of the acting NDPP is handled.

On the face of it, the contents of the letter seem to suggest that it is from a whistleblower, as it alleges negative conduct by an NPA employee. Speculation that the letter has anything to do with any of the high profile cases being handled by the NPA including the DSO (Scorpions) seems to have no factual basis.

According to staff members who handled the letter, it had a distinct odour, but no one made a fuss about it. Later, some of the staff members who handled it started complaining of headaches and developed skin rash, which led to the suspicion that it could be a reaction to handling the letter. They received medical attention on site and continued working shortly thereafter.

The office of the acting NDPP and not the entire Head Office building was quarantined for the rest of the day while tests were being conducted. No traces of extremely hazardous substances were found and the office was decontaminated.

The acting NDPP was not exposed to this letter. We can at this stage exclude a possibility that chemical warfare agents were used. The letter was sent for forensic testing.



The origin and the contents of this letter are now a subject of investigations. Furthermore, we are waiting for a comprehensive report from the laboratory on other tests including industrial agents.

We would like to urge everybody to exercise patience and treat the suspicion with caution that the letter may have been laced with a poisonous substance. It is only once all tests and investigations are concluded that we could speak on facts.

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