

# Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions



The National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa  
Igunya Jikelele Labetshutshisi boMzantsi Afrika  
Die Nationale Vervolgingsgesag van Suid-Afrika

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 27 February 2009**

**RE: NPA-wide investigation into racism**

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The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) views in a serious light a proliferation of alleged incidents of racism in the NPA recently reported in the media. Racism can neither be tolerated nor be justified in the NPA. It is a phenomenon that cannot be allowed to cement itself in the NPA, however way it manifests itself. The NPA wishes to put it on record that all allegations of racism that have been brought to the attention of NPA have been addressed, and dealt with. However, the allegations, whether rightly or wrongly persist. At a recent senior management meeting, the NPA has decided that an objective, impartial and disinterested party, like the South African Human Rights Commission, should look into allegations of racism across the entire NPA.

We have learnt that racism in the NPA and the Department of Justice (DoJ) was discussed at the Bargaining Chamber. Furthermore we have learnt that a stakeholder task team comprising of representatives from the NPA, the DoJ and organised labour unions will look into the matter. The task team will consider various proposals from the stakeholders including the terms of reference in addressing this challenge.

To demonstrate its resolve towards rooting out racism, the NPA will propose that an institution like the South African Human Rights Commission be requested to probe allegations of racism in the NPA as a whole and later provide their findings and recommendations.

The task team is set to meet in March this year to deliberate on the issue and decide on how to handle the process going forward.

We reiterate our position that, racism cannot be condoned and that provided they are reported, all such incidents of racism, whether suspected, perceived or real will continue to receive attention in the NPA. In addition the NPA undertakes to cooperate fully with any such institution and/or participate in such processes that will at the end ensure that members of staff operate in a racism-free environment and that justice is dispensed impartially.

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Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security