

Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions



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

TO: MEDIA

DATE: 12 MARCH 2008

RE: NPA CLARIFIES SPECIAL BROWSE; POISON LETTER

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The news about the poison-laced letter has caused undue alarm. Firstly, however unpleasant it may have been, it was not the work of a professional. Secondly, the implication that some of the defendants in high-profile investigations and prosecutions may be responsible for this is with respect, farfetched. The NPA is in control of the situation and there is no need for either panic or hype.

As an institution and as responsible officials, we have noted the JSCI's report on the Browse Mole document. Whilst we respect the role of the Committee, we contest its views and recommendations. We are concerned about the processes and procedures followed in this matter. We therefore contend that it came to incorrect conclusions that the DSO instituted an enquiry or considered a prosecution, used private intelligence companies, caused and condoned the leaking of the report, failed to cooperate with the Task Team and acted illegally. The NPA will address the procedural and substantive aspects more comprehensively, through the appropriate medium.

The applications brought by Thint and Mr JG Zuma in the Mauritian courts are strongly opposed by the Attorney General of Mauritius. In doing so the Attorney General consults with us almost daily, as they handle all MLA requests between prosecuting authorities. We are grateful to them and the NPA will do the same for other countries.



Contrary to what has been reported, the NPA's appearance in Parliament two weeks ago has largely been a positive and affirming experience, in which the meaning and impact of our work have been analyzed and recognized. We do however take the concerns of the Justice Portfolio Committee seriously and will take immediate steps to improve prosecutions in marginalized areas, information management, public outreach and in measuring our performance.

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