

# Khasho



News for NPA staff, friends and stakeholders

February 2009



# Prosecuting without fear, favour or prejudice



*Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe:  
Acting NDPP*

We are at the end of February, but already it feels that we are much further on in the year. The matters facing us are of high national importance. This highlights the significant role that the NPA has to play in shaping our country's justice system: the key pillar of the Constitution of a thriving democracy. I trust that each and every one of you recognises the importance of your contribution to the work of the NPA.

The matter of Mr Jacob Zuma is of unique national interest. I therefore feel compelled to provide you with an update in this regard. You may be aware that we have received representations from Mr Zuma and his legal team. We are in the process

of reviewing these and we will give them proper consideration and take a decision.

We have been vilified by some and defended by others in the public arena with regard to our pursuit of these charges, especially at a politically sensitive time in our country's history. While we are very mindful of this sensitivity, my role as Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions is to ensure that we remain true to the tenets of the laws of our country and to be steadfast in protecting the sanctity of the prosecutions function, prosecuting without fear, favour or prejudice. Our leadership in this regard is being severely tested, but lead we must.

It is no new news to you that Parliament has ratified the decision of the President to relieve Advocate Pikoli of his duties as the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP). You will also be aware that he is contesting this outcome and has decided to take the fight to the courts. At the heart of his contestation is his commitment to fighting for the independence of prosecutions. It is argued on many fronts that the 'crisis' in which we find ourselves as a result of the ousting of the NDPP is created by the ambiguity of the Constitution and the NPA Act on the determination of the precise nature and extent of the relationship between the NDPP and the executive. Now that Advocate Pikoli has referred this matter to the courts on appeal, how the courts pronounce on it will be telling.

While there has been significant media coverage on the issues raised above, I have noticed that there has been coverage of allegations of racism in the NPA. I am very concerned about the apparent increase in reported cases, as this would indicate that there is a general propensity for racism to occur in the NPA. I am specifically aware of a number of reported cases in various regions, many of which are in the investigation phase.

I would like to emphasise that racism has no place in the NPA. If it can ever be proven beyond doubt that an employee exhibits racist behaviour, this will be met with the harshest sanction possible. In understanding the difficulty of proving allegations of racism within the framework of the working environment, I would even support the notion of employees reporting these allegations to the Human Rights Commission for further investigation. As an institution established in terms of the Constitution of the country, it is disconcerting to come across accusations of such unconstitutional behaviour within our ranks. I re-emphasise that it is unacceptable, and as a member of the NPA's leadership, reject it with contempt.

*Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe  
Acting National Director of Public  
Prosecutions*

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# Face-to-face

## with Dr Khotso De Wee

**What is your experience of the NPA and, in your opinion, what are the challenges facing the organisation?**

The NPA is experiencing serious administrative challenges. If one has a look at the organisation's annual report for the previous financial year, you will see that the organisation had a disclaimer. This disclaimer can be attributed to a number of issues, including the following:

- Supply Chain Management has serious weaknesses.
- Asset Verification experienced problems in that the asset register was not finalised.
- Some financial irregularities were experienced.
- There were some serious administration aspects related to Human Resources, for example leave management, which is my biggest concern.
- Housing guarantees.
- Accountability status.
- The NPA had not tabled a strategic plan.
- There was a large number of vacancies to be filled.
- People's attitudes towards their work was a problem: people need to take their work more seriously.

**Do you enjoy being the NPA's Acting CEO?**

I enjoy the challenges. Difficult as it is, somebody has to do the job. For now, I am that person.

**What do you see as justice priorities for 2009?**

There are numerous priorities, including the following:

- The judiciary and the courts need to function well and need to be given the necessary support.
- Courts need to be properly resourced.
- The movement of the Directorate of Special Operations (the Scorpions) to the SAPS needs to be assisted and supported.
- The administration of the NPA needs to be improved.
- We need to ensure that there is better support for prosecutors.



*Dr Khotso de Wee  
Acting CEO*

**What are your hopes for the NPA?**

A clean audit. Nothing worries me like our disclaimer. I know it might take up to three years to achieve a clean audit, but I am confident that it will happen.

**What is your message to the staff of the NPA?**

Let us all join hands to improve service delivery. Corporate Services must strive to ensure that prosecutors are well supported. Prosecutors must ensure that the ordinary member of the public is well served and gets justice.

Dr Khotso de Wee and NPA corporate officials visited various NPA offices in the regions during the last months, in order to consider the management and coordination of corporate services in the regions. Read more about their experiences and the different dynamics experienced by them in the March issue of Khasho.

**THE NPA HOTLINE – 0800 212 580**

Building a culture of reporting unethical and unlawful practices, promoting and enabling whistle-blowing.



## New first aid room at VGM

A brand new first aid room is now available to assist employees in case of medical emergencies. This facility is located in the A Block (lower ground floor), opposite the DSO training rooms. Just follow the signs! In case of a medical emergency, simply report the incident to CFM's help desk (extension 6790). Two first-aid officials will be sent out to attend to the emergency. This service has truly filled a gap in the organisation. Thumbs up to the CFM and OHS teams!

## Editorial



Following on all the good work done by the NPA throughout the country in respect of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, this edition is dedicated to our prosecutors and other staff members who give of themselves and their time freely to better our society. These prosecutors give to the needy. They teach children to speak out in respect of abuse and to say 'No!' to drugs and alcohol. They also educate our children on their rights and the work of the NPA. It is important to alert young and growing minds to the challenges that they will need to face in their everyday lives, and that crime does not pay.

I would like to thank staff members who provide us with stories, share their work with us and provide us with information on their events. *Khasho*, as such, belongs to each NPA member and provides a platform for NPA achievement and profiling. Sharing experiences and work thus makes our efforts worthwhile and provides a positive reference to all the good work the NPA does.

In particular, we would like to thank our regional communication managers. Through their inputs, they also provide us with insight into events and activities at our regional offices. These managers are currently available in Durban (Pietermaritzburg), Bloemfontein, East London, Port Elizabeth, Mmabatho, Kimberley and Cape Town. Please feel free to get in touch with them in respect of *Khasho* or any other communication event they can assist you with.

Again, I call upon all NPA-ers to send their news or contributions to our dedicated e-mail: [khasho@npa.gov.za](mailto:khasho@npa.gov.za). The editorial deadline is the end of the first week of every month. Late submissions are deferred to the following month's edition.

Bulelwa Makeke  
Executive Manager: Communications

## Integrity Champions Workshop

The Integrity Management Unit of the NPA, through the Ethics Institute of South Africa, conducted a one-day basic training workshop for integrity champions at the Directorate of Public Prosecutions in Bloemfontein on 19 January 2009. The workshop was attended by employees from various NPA units and clusters in the Free State and the Northern Cape.



*The Free State and the Northern Cape NPA integrity champions*

These confirmed champions will be responsible for assisting the NPA to translate its values (integrity, accountability, credibility, professionalism and service excellence) into action to make it clear what they stand for. The delegates were made aware that, in addition to the NPA's values, people have their own values with which they are able to 'govern' their personal behaviour and live among others in harmony and respect. For that reason, it is appropriate to take into consideration that values are not only found in the work environment.

The mandate of the NPA is to ensure justice so that people can live in freedom and security. In order to achieve this, it unquestionably boils down to the reality that all employees have to observe ethics in a manner befitting the desired standards so as to deliver a well-deserved service to the people of South Africa. "Quality service to the people is not a favour, but a responsibility," affirmed Ms Liezl Groenewald of the Ethics Institute of South Africa, one of the presenters of the workshop.

At the end of the workshop, all delegates signed a pledge to serve as integrity champions in the NPA. Expect to hear from them often as we work together to ensure that these values are our reality and we live them every day.

# Mamelodi TCC in action

**The Thuthuzela Care Centre in Mamelodi opened in October 2008. The centre has three staff members, Ms Nomsa Dombo, site coordinator, Ms Matilda Maroga, victim assistant officer, and Ms Lida van Schalkwyk, case manager.**

The Mamelodi Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) celebrated the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children together with other stakeholders. Its campaign consisted of a four-day programme. The event opened on 27 November 2008 with a motorcade through the streets of Mamelodi, during which the public was invited (through the use of loud hailing) to the final event that took place on 10 December 2008. The SAPS in Mamelodi assisted with the loud hailing to inform the community about the crisis centre and the purpose of the TCC to support victims of gender-based offences.

On 2 and 4 December 2008, the group walked through the streets of Mamelodi and went into the homes of the community to spread the message of 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children. They handed out promotional material and invited the public to the big event. Moopi (the mascot) was there to entertain the children. The group targeted the hot spots in Mamelodi that are known for sexual assaults.

The TCC hosted its final event on 10 December at the Mahube complex. The programme of the day included presentations by different stakeholders from departments and organisations such as the NPA, SAPS, the South African National Civic

Organisation (SANCO), the Community Development Workers (CDW) organisation, Health/Medico Legal and Child Welfare. Advocate Ron Mncwebe, Senior Public Prosecutor of Mamelodi, addressed the crowd on the prevention of violence against women and children and introduced the TCC staff members to everybody present. He gave a keynote address on the crisis centre.

The day catered for entertainment with music icons Solly Moholo and Elijah. Local drama groups also participated. The children were treated to fun educational activities.

This event was a success and shows commitment from the colleagues of the Thuthuzela Care Centre. The crisis centre is active in Mamelodi and supports victims of sexual offences. Its annual calendar is packed with community outreach programmes.

Important guests who graced the occasion with their presence included Ishmael Motaung, Senior Prosecutor: Sexual Offences in the Pretoria regional courts, Dr T Sebopa, a medical doctor at the Stanza Bopape Clinic, and NN Sithole, the station commissioner of the Mamelodi East police station.



*The photos were taken in Phomolong Mamelodi East, the most rural area where crime is rife.*



## North West Premier's Office commemorates the Montreal Massacre

**The North West Province has been closely observing the No Violence Against Women and Children campaign. Based on the objectives and requirements of this campaign, each department is expected to play a crucial role in protecting the rights of women and children. The Premier's Office extended its observation of this campaign by commemorating the Montreal Massacre that took place in 1989.**



*The Montreal Massacre is being commemorated throughout the world in 2009, 20 years after this horrific event took place.*

On 6 December 1989, 14 women in Montreal were killed because they had enrolled as engineering students. According to the reactions around the world, this was viewed as a vengeful act of terrorism.

On 6 February 2009, almost 20 years after this horrific and barbaric action took place, a workshop on the Montreal Massacre was hosted by the Mafikeng Local Municipality in the Ratshidi Community Hall, Mafikeng. With the South African government being on course with the establishment of legislation and policies to fight the abuse of women and children, people came from different parts of the province to commemorate this event. They all had a clear understanding that the road ahead is still long and bumpy.

In her introductory speech, Ms Susan Tlhagaswane (office of the rights of women and children in the Premier's office) welcomed all the delegates. She also welcomed the Directorate of Public

Prosecutions in Mmabatho, represented by Advocate Hosea Rapula Molefe, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions. She acknowledged the work of the NPA in North West by concluding that the NPA is working tirelessly to combat crime. Therefore, it is important to work with our partners and the public to solve and prevent crime.

The keynote speech was delivered by Ms Memorie Mmalerato Herholdt, Director in the North West Premier's Office responsible for the status of women and the rights of the child. She said that the Montreal Massacre Workshop was about the continued fight for the rights of women and children. "It is important to understand how important it is to commemorate this and other days such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Abuse of Women and Children," she said.

She continued to provide a broad picture on the representation of men and women in the South African workplace. It is clear that senior management in both

the public and private sector is still dominated by men.

She indicated that the provincial government of North West is working hard to develop and promote middle management, which is surprisingly dominated by women, to enable them to occupy senior management positions. She also provided rather depressing statistics on the abuse of women and children in South Africa. This is increasing at an alarming rate. She therefore called on different stakeholders to put a stop to any type of abuse emanating from different groups and communities in this country.

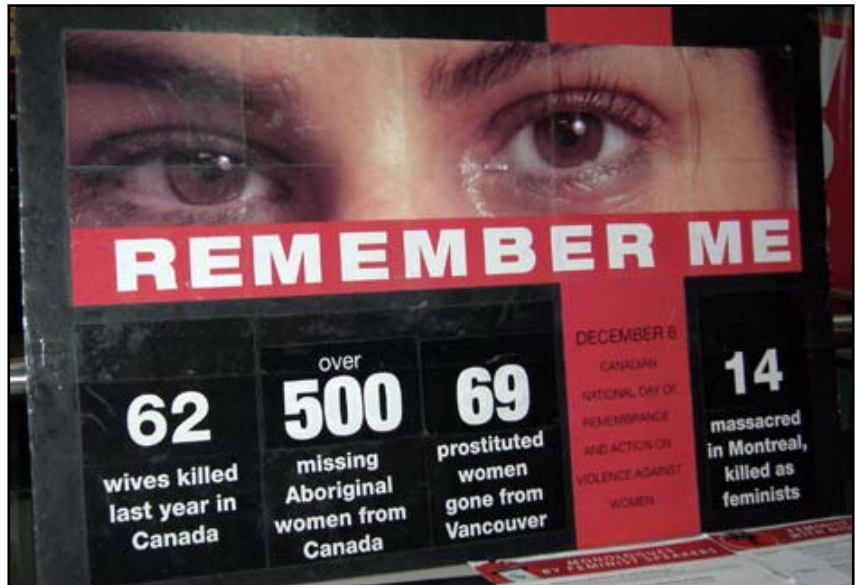
Advocate Molefe addressed the audience on the legal protection and empowerment of women in South Africa. In his opening statement, he said that much has been said and written about the legal protection and empowerment of women in South Africa and that coincidentally the topic lies undeniably at the core of the rights of women across the country. He further said that his noble contribution should be seen as an attempt to expose the subject on a rudimentary and basic level.

Advocate Molefe said that women are important leaders in our country. It is therefore important that they understand and recognise their value and contribution in the modern South Africa. "It is also important to note that a country that does not recognise the significance of its women is destined to fail. This is the reason why the rights of women and the protection accorded to them is so crucial to the future of the country," he said.

Representatives of the Human Rights Commission and the North West Department of Justice and Constitutional Development were also present at the

workshop. The Commission on Gender Equality presented papers on women's rights as human rights, and the law and the abuse of women.

Provision was made for questions and clarifications at the end of the workshop. Mr Pat Dooms from the North West Premier's Office wanted clarification in as far as the Constitution addresses the right to privacy. This was in response to media reports on whether the private lives of public figures is open for public consumption. In his response, Advocate Molefe said that the private lives of people must be protected at all costs, irrespective of whether they are ordinary citizens or public figures. The day proved to be a most important day, as many women, both young and old, attended in large numbers.



*On 6 December 1989, 14 women in Montreal were killed because they had enrolled as engineering students.*

## The legal protection and empowerment of women in South Africa

In his keynote address at the Montreal Massacre Workshop, Advocate Molefe considered the legal protection and empowerment of women in South Africa. This subject undeniably lies at the core of the rights of women in our country.

He pointed out that our Constitution recognises the rights of women. In addition, there is also legislation that protects and empowers our women. The following are some crucial rights of women promoted and protected by our Constitution:

- The right to equality: In terms of this right, women and men are equal before the law. This right may not be unfairly encroached upon on the basis of race, pregnancy or marital status.
- The right to life: This right is promoted, for example, in the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act. It protects women against offences like attempted murder, murder and culpable homicide. The invalidation of the death penalty is also relevant here.
- The right of movement and parental authority: These rights are related protection against offences like kidnapping and abduction.
- The right to human dignity: Through this right, a woman's dignity is promoted and protected. The relevant offences are crimen injuria and criminal defamation.
- The right to freedom and security: This right is promoted through abortion, and civil remedies against unlawful arrest

and detention. It finds protection in criminal offences like assault, rape and incest. The Domestic Violence Act also plays a role in this regard.

- The right to property: The Matrimonial Property and the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act are relevant in this regard.

It is apparent that the common law also plays a critical role in the protection of women against offences like rape, assault and murder.

Having dealt with some examples of the Constitutional and common law protection and empowerment of women, Advocate Molefe discussed some important legislation that advances the rights of women, including the following:

- Child Care Amendment Act 96 of 1996
- Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act 92 of 1996
- The Matrimonial Property Act 88 of 1984
- Recognition of Customary Marriages Act 120 of 1998
- The Maintenance Act 99 of 1998
- Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000
- The Labour Relations Act
- Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998
- Section 195 of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977

In the light of the abovementioned legislation, Advocate Molefe found it encouraging to note that a significant number of organisations and some individuals have decided to make it their duty to fight for the enforcement of women's rights.

# Cancer knowledge can save lives

**The Bloemfontein office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions was recently visited by representatives from the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), who educated employees about cancer. The information gained is better shared by passing it on to others. Maybe one day this knowledge can save someone's life.**

Cancer is not just an isolated disease. It is a large and complex family of malignancies that can appear in every organ of the body. (Malignant means cancerous, something that can invade and destroy nearby tissue, and spread to other parts of the body.) According to CANSA, cancer is second only to heart disease as one of the leading causes of death. It can strike at any age, although it is more common in people over 50 years of age.

When cancer strikes, it begins in the body's cells, which are constantly dividing and multiplying to repair damaged cells or to keep up with normal growth. Sometimes cells begin to divide unnecessarily, forming excess tissue called a tumour. In most cases, tumours are benign (non-progressive, non-cancerous or posing no danger). Although benign, they may cause some health challenges, depending on their size and location in one's body.

Most malignant tumours grow quite rapidly, invading nearby organs and tissues. Cells can travel through the bloodstream to other regions of the body and continue to multiply there.

The good news is that death caused by cancer has been declining in recent years. Increasing public awareness has resulted in more people getting regular cancer screenings and practicing healthy lifestyles to reduce the risk.

## Seven warning signs of cancer

- Changes in bowel or bladder habits
- A sore that does not heal
- Unusual bleeding or discharge
- Thickening or a lump in the breast or any other part of the body
- Indigestion or difficulty swallowing
- An obvious change in a wart or mole
- A nagging cough or hoarseness

Some symptoms are specific to certain types of cancer, such as difficult urination in bladder cancer or flu-like symptoms in acute leukaemia. Do not be afraid to discuss unusual changes with your doctor (this is strictly advised). Diagnostic tests are available for most common cancers. If diagnosed early, one's chances of surviving cancer are greatly increased.

## Contributing causes of cancer

- Age: Cancer is most common in people over the age of 50.
- Diet: High-fat, high-cholesterol diets are proven risk factors for several types of cancer, particularly colon cancer.
- Obesity: Although no clear link has been established, research indicates that obesity is a contributing factor to some cancers.
- Smoking: This greatly increases the risk of lung cancer, even in non-smokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke. Other tobacco products, like pipes and chewing tobacco, cause cancers of the mouth, tongue and throat.
- Long-term exposure to chemicals like asbestos, radon and benzene.
- Exposure to high levels of radiation.
- Harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun are directly linked to melanoma and skin cancer.
- Some viruses, including hepatitis B and C.

The other 20% of cancers are hereditary. That means that the abnormal gene that causes cancer can be passed from parent to child.

## Preventing cancer

Up to 85% of cancers can be prevented by avoiding environmental risk factors like exposure to sun, alcohol abuse and poor nutrition. Of course, factors like age, race and hereditary conditions cannot be changed, but knowing one's personal cancer risk can help one plan a prevention strategy with regular screenings and healthy lifestyle choices. Men are also prone to risks like prostate cancer and should be tested regularly.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004. Because of my awareness and constant screenings and self-examination my life was saved. I would like you all to be sensitised about cancer and encourage you to adopt a healthy lifestyle," declared Ms Sally van Zyl, Executive Secretary, DPP: Bloemfontein.

*The information in this article is for information purposes only, and should not preclude a consultation with the relevant medical practitioner for a professional opinion. For more information on employee health and wellness matters and further professional referrals, contact the NPA's Employee Wellness Programme Office at 012 845 6906/012.*



# Bon Voyage!

**Magic Travel has been working with the NPA for the past two years, being located in the VGM Building since November 2006. Most people travel daily, yet they don't know who is behind the organisation of their travel needs. The Magic Travel team ensures that all the travelling requests of NPA staff members are dealt with efficiently, professionally and with a smile. The *Khasho* team interviewed the members of Magic Travel to find out what makes them tick.**



*Magic Travel staff from left: Martha Marthalemela, Khuliso Ndau, Richard Ledwaba and Louisa Tema*

**Q: What is the first thing you do when you arrive at the office?**

A: We greet each other, switch on our computers, check our e-mails, attend to calls and deal with any incoming bookings.

**Q: What do your daily duties entail?**

A: A number of things, among others, booking flights, accommodation and vehicles. It is important to ensure that all invoices are made out, that orders correspond and that everything is paid. Client liaison takes up a major part of our day. This includes making follow-ups on VAs (travelling authorisation forms) and issuing vouchers.

**Q: What are the challenges you face on a daily basis, especially working with the NPA?**

A: Louisa: Clients often don't understand that we must work according to priority.

Martha: Often you'll find that there's a lack of communication. It has happened that all of us are doing a booking for the same person.

Khuliso: After-hour bookings tend to be problematic. The client does not follow up on the booking and needs to be reminded. The main thing is they don't obey the policies they made themselves and don't follow instructions. Some people still can't complete a VA correctly!

**Q: Which position do you hold and what have you achieved?**

A: Khuliso: I started as an intern and now I'm a qualified accounts officer. I deal with all the payments.

Louisa: I am an intermediate consultant. I started as a junior consultant and it didn't even take me a year to be promoted. My clients have an impact on my success. I am what I am because of the clients I serve: the NPA staff.

Martha: I am a senior consultant. It is my responsibility to ensure that the office runs smoothly when the manager is not there. I'm also responsible for training all the interns.

Richard: I am an in-house manager. I started as a manager when we started working with the NPA. Now I'm responsible for ensuring that the office runs smoothly and for handling both the NPA as a client and the Magic Travel staff. We're a hard-working team. Working with the NPA has taught me to interact with different people on all levels.

**Q: Do you enjoy being a consultant?**

A: Louisa: Yes, I'm in the career I love. I enjoy everything I do and for me there is no turning back. I believe that every career has its challenges.

Khuliso: I love my job and its challenges. I'll sacrifice anything for my job!

Richard: Yes, what I love most is interacting with people on all levels. Every day you learn something new!

**Q: What have you learnt in this job?**

A: Khuliso: I have learnt how to solve queries in a professional manner and to deal with difficult people.

Martha: Make sure you get everything in writing.

Louisa: Patience! Always keep smiling. This will aid positive understanding.

**Q: The NPA celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 14 November 2008. What is your message for the NPA?**

A: Richard: In the past, the NPA has proved its efficiency as a crime fighting agency. I believe the organisation will continue with its successes. I encourage them to continue to prosecute without fear or favour.

Magic Travel's tender will be coming to an end in March. This may be the last time that they will serve the NPA. The NPA would like to thank this team for their patience, professionalism and hard work. Even though there have been some difficult times over the past two years, we have become like family. It has been a pleasure doing business with you. Bon Voyage!

# Golden Horse Children's Day

The Super Heroes project is an annual event hosted by the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court. It is one of the Directorate of Public Prosecution's activities that form part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Women and Children campaign.



*Captain Ntombi Futhi Sibisi, Inspector Bongani Madondo and Dashnee Moodley of the SAPS join Vanessa Foxon from the Golden Horse Casino and Zubeida Khan, Senior Public Prosecutor, to alleviate the pain of victims of abuse at the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court.*

This project, which is in its third year, entails taking victims of abuse for an outing to the Golden Horse Casino in Pietermaritzburg. According to Ms Zubeida Khan, Senior Public Prosecutor at the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court, the project was initiated by the prosecutors, who roped in the SAPS and the Golden Horse Casino.

On Saturday, 29 November 2008, approximately 100 children were transported to the casino, where they were entertained with a clown show. The prosecutors from the Magistrate's Court ensured that the children had juice and snacks. They were then treated to face painting and lunch, hosted by the casino.

Ms Khan discusses her experience of this project. "It is very fulfilling to host a project of this nature. These children have had such traumatic experiences and a day like this allows them to have fun and be free. Partnerships are essential in the success of any project. Government and the private sector need to work together to help develop communities," she said.

## DPP's visit **inspires** aspirant prosecutors

On Tuesday, 3 February 2009, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions in Johannesburg paid a visit at the Soweto Cluster and had an inspiring chat with the aspirant prosecutors who started their training.



# Creating awareness

## one school at a time

**Teamwork by the National Prosecutions Service in the Protea Magistrate's Court, West Rand Cluster, and its stakeholders aims at saving students from drug and alcohol abuse at schools.**

**D**rug abuse and violent attacks on students and teachers have reached alarming proportions at schools around the Soweto area. The National Prosecuting Services has embarked on an anti-drug campaign around targeted schools in Soweto (see front cover photograph). The campaign, which started in January 2009, will run quarterly on Wednesdays throughout the year at identified schools that really need help.

Four stakeholders participated in the campaign: Betany House, SANCA (Nishtara), the Bosasa Juvenile Detention Centre and Tshepo. A motivational speaker and councillor from the Grace Bible Church also formed part of this campaign.

Problematic schools were identified with the help of a little research. These schools were considered to have the highest number of students who abuse drugs and show violent behaviour towards others. Some of the cases that were heard at these schools were really shocking. They ranged from rape, attempted rape and assault on fellow students.

The programme outline is based mainly on talking to students and demonstrating the effects of drug abuse. Teachers have welcomed the programme in their schools, saying that it might bring some hope in the near future.

The courts in the West Rand are filled with juveniles who are arrested every day on drug-related charges. Some of these are committed in a grievously violent manner. The sad aspect of this issue is that the people involved are still under the age of 18, which makes it difficult for the courts to mete out a suitable sentence.

Bringing Bosasa on board is really helping, as students get the privilege of being told about prison life and how dangerous it is to be locked up. In the beginning, some

students do not take this programme seriously, but reality sets in once a real detained juvenile starts relating the story of how he got to be where he is because of drugs. The students relate better to someone of the same age.

For future reference, a database will be developed of the schools that have been visited. Once a school has been visited, its students are not expected to appear in court for any drug-related crime, as they may face severe punishment. A visit is considered a warning to participating schools.

Ms Ngidi, Head of Department at the Phafogang Secondary School, was overjoyed by the NPS's visit to her school. She simply said: "We need programmes like this at our school on an ongoing basis." In passing, she suggested that the Department of Education needs to have programmes such as this one.

The main target audience of this programme is students in grades 9 to 12, as so many children in this age group appear in court. Normally the NPS utilises the school's infrastructure in terms of accommodating students. Due to the large

number of students at the schools, two sessions are usually conducted.

For Ms Ngidi, choosing only a few students was not an option and she decided to take the whole school to a nearby community hall. This worked very well, considering the fact that most of the schools in Soweto were not built with proper infrastructure like halls and libraries. An opportunity for questions was allowed at the end of the programme and many students showed an interest and were enthusiastic to know more about the law and how they could enter a career in prosecutions.

The telephone numbers of all project stakeholders were available at Head Office for those who wanted help for themselves or those who suffered from addictions. This is because it was found that students do not feel comfortable disclosing personal issues in front of others.

A suggestion was made to have small tours of the courts for students who are interested in a legal career. This might be included in the second quarter of the programme.



*The NPS's anti-drug campaign in Soweto has been very well received by teachers and students.*



# NPA participates in Open Day

On 6 February 2009, the NPA took part in an information-sharing session that was held at the Bethelsdorp Comprehensive School in the northern area of Port Elizabeth.

This session was organised by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) office in Nelson Mandela Bay for the sole purpose of bringing government services closer to the community. The NPA participated alongside other government entities and departments such as the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), the Youth Commission, the Department of Home Affairs and the Umsobomvu Youth Fund were present to provide information about their services to the community.

The NPA made use of this opportunity to distribute information about its services, as well as brochures with information on domestic violence and mini-booklets for children about maintenance, children's rights, understanding the criminal justice system, and the NPA's service charter.

This session was well attended by both parents and schoolchildren from the northern areas of



*Participants in the Open Day at the Bethelsdorp Comprehensive School in Port Elizabeth, together with members of the NPA and other stakeholders.*

Port Elizabeth, which made the day very successful. The NPA was able to reach the wider community in the area. It was interesting to note that many people showed great enthusiasm when the NPA was introduced on its arrival. A number of prosecutors formed part of the group, who could answer questions on issues of domestic violence, maintenance and court interdicts.

The NPA in the Eastern Cape will continue to take part in activities that can further educate the public about the NPA and the services that are provided to the community.

## INFORMATION SECURITY WORKSHOPS

3 March 2009 – 29 May 2009

Security and Risk Management will be conducting Information Security Workshops at all NPA offices. Your attendance is highly appreciated and vital.

**Security starts with YOU!**

For more information, contact Mr Ian Edwards at 012 845 6861, Mr David Ramputla at 012 845 6560 or Mr Sam Mothoane at 012 845 6996.

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# Teambuilding in Mmabatho

**Dikhololo is a 450-hectare resort that is only an hour's drive from Pretoria and Johannesburg. This makes it easily accessible, which means less time and trouble spent getting to one's destination and more time for business and pleasure. It provides a bushveld experience of untamed wilderness and a well-deserved laid-back lifestyle.**

About 45 delegates descended on the bushveld of Dikhololo near Brits for a teambuilding session, driving approximately 340 kilometres from Mafikeng, the capital of North West. With excitement and anxiety, officials were eagerly ready to participate in the first teambuilding exercise of its kind.

Advocate JJ Smit SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, addressed delegates on the purpose and objectives of the teambuilding session. He made a special request to all staff members to participate in activities and said that teambuilding is about building a solid team and working together with the sole objective of achieving a common goal.

Mr Prince Mokotedi, Head of the Integrity Management Unit at Head Office, gave a motivational speech. He said an institution or any government department needs to undergo transformation. "It is always difficult to manoeuvre when challenges and obstacles are facing you," he said. He gave the example of an eagle and the mammoth task that it faces during the process of change. "It is painful for the poor eagle to get rid of its nails and other parts, but once it has, it flies high as a confirmation of unleashing the inner voice and its potential." This metaphorical expression relates to getting out of one's skin and unleashing one's inner voice and potential. For Prince, the challenges in the workplace and home environment are categorised by body, mind, spirit and heart. "As an individual or a group of people in the workplace, problems manifest and affect everyone through their minds, spirit, heart and bodies. Manifestations of problems therefore require

urgent solutions". Prince further said that discipline, respect and integrity are basic values that will shape one's thinking and actions to achieve positive results, and by understanding the working relationships between prosecutors and administration support staff, especially in the province, this relationship must be one of mutual respect and support in order to function properly for the benefit of the NPA.

The first teambuilding exercise was paintball. Officials were divided into tribes. They wore overalls and were provided with toy guns with which to fight each other. The purpose of this exercise was to evaluate the teams in terms of the strategies applied, operational plans, determination and teamwork. It was an exciting exercise with some officials taking cover, and others attacking rampantly.

The second day was characterised by survivor games. In this teambuilding activity, tribes competed against each other and collected points. Tribes were given exercises such as 'cross the Crocodile

River', 'blame the game' and 'building four equal blocks'. The best team was the Kudu tribe, which completed its exercises well and set and broke new records. The purpose of the teambuilding activities was to evaluate each other on teamwork, self-discipline, support, problem-solving skills, negotiation skills and interpersonal skills.

Tribes were also given the opportunity to vote for the one team mate who demonstrated leadership, respect and humility during the exercise. Overall winners in the individual category were Advocate Markus De Beer, Lerato Mautlwa, Sharon Motale and Patience Ramokala. Advocate Smit SC also awarded Shadrack Dikgopo and Patience Ramokala awards for their leadership roles in their groups.

Mr Moss Rantao, Corporate Manager, and Advocate Sello Maema, Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, thanked all officials for their contribution and commitment to the objectives of the teambuilding programme.



*Staff of the DPP in Mmabatho learned that a team is only as good as the contribution of its individual members.*

# Prosecutors lend a helping hand

**The prosecutors at the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court have embarked on a project to provide sandwiches to hungry witnesses.**



*Lending a helping hand are Ms Zubeida Khan (left) and Babongile Dlamini (court preparation officer) and a court visitor, Mrs M Mnitathi.*

This project was launched when Senior Public Prosecutor at the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court, Ms Zubeida Khan, noticed how witnesses would arrive at the court without having eaten breakfast.

"There was an elderly man who had come to the court as a witness. He had been there since the morning and was only due to testify late that afternoon. He asked the court preparation officer if he could get something to eat as he was hungry. Following that incident, I thought it would be a wonderful idea to offer the really hungry people something to eat. I called the local Spar chain store and they agreed to provide us with sandwiches for the witnesses," says Ms Khan.

According to Khan, Spar donates five loaves of peanut butter sandwiches daily and has promised to do so indefinitely. The sandwiches arrive at the court in the morning and it is the task of the court preparation officers to distribute them among hungry witnesses.

Because the court preparation officers work closely with the witnesses, sensitising them on how the court functions and what is expected of them, they were identified to perform this task. It is estimated that approximately 2 000 people go through the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court daily.

When asked how she identifies the people who should receive sandwiches, court preparation officer, Babongile Dlamini, said: "In conversation with the witnesses, one gathers that they have either come a long way from home or left home really early and haven't had breakfast. That's when I offer them something to eat."

Ms Khan said: "The people have responded positively to this initiative of the Magistrate's Court. They are very appreciative of this most welcome meal. A witness who is not hungry can concentrate on giving evidence, thus facilitating the court process."



# Crime does not pay

The Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit (SCCU) in Bloemfontein once again took time from their unyielding court schedules on 19 February 2009 to educate and alert the learners of Petunia Secondary School in Heidedal, Bloemfontein, about the dangers of wide-ranging crimes.



*Learners at Petunia Secondary School listen attentively*

This was one of the SCCU's many efforts to contribute to the local community in terms of alerting young and growing minds to the challenges they may face in life as far as crime is concerned.

More than 600 learners attended the event that was presented, mainly through drama, by the students of the Central University of Technology (CUT) Drama School in Bloemfontein. The play that was presented was called *Crime does not pay*.

The play represents the demands that most, if not all, learners go through daily in their school environment. Among them is crime. This ranges from rape, robbery, drug use, harassment, assault, murder and intimidation. The intended purpose is to make learners aware that, even though the dangerous lives of some of their peers may look 'cool', it is definitely a road to either prison or death. Crime in school is very often found to be perpetrated against girls. The play emphasised that girls need to speak out and boys need to appreciate that "I love you" does not mean "Let us engage in sexual activities", and that "No!" means "No!" The play was instrumental in achieving this by zooming in on the demoralising consequences of drug use. Finally, the emphasis was on the need for schooling rather than the 'quick-win' life of crime.

In addressing the assembly of learners and educators at the school, Advocate Alnicia Coetzee, Provincial Head of the SCCU, mentioned that although the SCCU prosecutes commercial crimes, they are still obliged to play a role in making communities aware of the challenges associated with crime. Crime is still rampant and is evident at various levels of the community, young or old, rich or poor.

She said that crime is committed right in the area in which we live and we cannot let it go on like that. "Do not be enticed or lured by the good-looking cars that the criminals may have while they are not employed anywhere. These may be the proceeds of crime. We can all have fine-looking things, given that we get them legally," said Advocate Coetzee. She went on to urge the learners not to let their circumstances and peers determine their future. If they work hard from exactly where they are today (at school), they will lead a commendable life for the generations to come.

The efforts of the SCCU were much appreciated and highly praised by the school principal, Mrs Miles. She advised learners to take heed of the call to get educated and even become advocates, like their visitors.



*The CUT Drama School portrays the consequences of drug use.*



*Drama students of the Central University of Technology in Bloemfontein.*



## Nonyameko

### Princess Mqatu



We mourn the passing of one of our young minds, Nonyameko Princess Mqatu, who was an advanced district court prosecutor in Elliotdale, Transkei.

Born on 6 December 1978 in Mahlangu Village, Qumbu, Nonyameko had her legal skills honed through the Aspirant Prosecutor Programme and was appointed as a prosecutor in 2005.

She spent her early years in Qumbu, where she matriculated at St Bartholomew's Senior Secondary School in 1997. She then studied at the University of Transkei where she obtained her LLB in 1997.

She passed away on 7 February 2009. She leaves behind her daughter, two sisters, mother and father. She was laid to rest at her home in Qumbu.

Nonyameko was a very dedicated, intelligent and brilliant member of the NPA family. May her soul rest in peace.

## M.M. Malepe

He was born on 25 December 1975 at Magaung Village in Limpopo. He was the first born child of Ms Christine Malepe.

He commenced his primary schooling at Magaung Primary School. He completed his high school education at Napsadi High School. He later enrolled for a law degree at the University of Venda in 1995.

After completing his degree, he worked for the Department of Defence as a military court prosecutor. He was admitted to the Aspirant Prosecutor Training Programme from 1 February 2008 and was appointed on contract on completion of his training. He worked at Carnavon Magistrate's Office for two months and was later transferred to the Philipstown Magistrate's Office. He passed on on 11 February 2009. He is survived by his wife, child, mother and two sisters.

## Makhahlele Pola

### Thuketana

Makhahlele Pola Thuketana was born on 3 June 1960. He was the first-born son of Felix Alois and Louisa Millicent Thuketana in Burgersdorp. He started his primary education at Wisani School in Bushbuckridge. He later proceeded to Timangeni Combined School, where he completed Standard 5. He matriculated at Bankuna High School.

He joined the Public Service as a clerk of the court and interpreter at the Ritavi

Magistrate's Office. He later joined the United Tobacco Company as a sales representative, but decided to further his studies in law at the University of the North, where he completed his BJuris in 2000. He was appointed in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development as a public prosecutor and later deployed to Middelburg, Ritavi and Sekgosese, where he was promoted to the position of control prosecutor in the Sekgosese Magistrate's Office.

He is survived by both his parents, three children and three siblings. May his soul rest in peace.

## Mizamani James Twala



Mizamani James Twala was born on 5 February 1963. He was the third-born son of the late Mbazima Wilson Twala and

Mdjadji N'wa Msisinyana Mathebula in Shimbupfe Village. He started his primary education at Magona School and later proceeded to Gidjana School. He matriculated at Ntlhaveni High School.

He joined the Public Service as a teacher at Mtiti High School in 1984. In 1985 he joined the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development as a clerk of the court and interpreter. He later decided to further his studies in law at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he completed his BJuris and joined the NPA as a control prosecutor at the Giyani Magistrate's Office.

He is survived by his wife, four children, two grandchildren, mother and five brothers. May his soul rest in peace.



Send your news (serious and funny) and letters to [khasho@npa.gov.za](mailto:khasho@npa.gov.za). Alternatively, fax your stories and information to 012 843 2120.

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