

# Khasho



News for NPA staff, friends and stakeholders

June 2009



# Moving on without the DSO



By the time you read this issue of *Khasho*, our colleagues from the now defunct Directorate of Special Operations (DSO) will have already transferred to the SAPS to join the new unit, dubbed the Hawks.

Those (investigators) who declined to move over have been absorbed into the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), where we expect they will continue to contribute their investigative excellence to the SIU's successful fight against fraud and corruption in the public service.

I am encouraged by the efforts led by Dr De Wee to make sure that the

administrative staff are incorporated into Corporate Services. I am sure that by the time you read about this matter in the next issue of *Khasho*, you will be updated on the full progress.

The dissolution of the DSO did not come without its challenges, especially in ensuring a seamless process for the affected members. I believe that we learned many lessons on how (or not) to manage change in an organisation through our experience with this process. Some of the lessons include that we open up and engage our internal communication channels much more, and improve the visibility of top management in all critical elements of change management during a time of uncertainty for employees.

The DSO regional offices held various farewell functions, and I had the opportunity to attend all of them to personally thank everyone for their dedication and commitment to the work of the DSO. I wish every single staff member of the dissolved DSO well for the future – those who are continuing the fight against organised crime in the Hawks, and those who took the change as an opportunity to explore other career avenues in different manners and forms. I had an exciting opportunity to engage with young high school learners from

Pretoria and Soweto at our national youth day event that was hosted at the VGM Building on 26 June. As you are aware, June is celebrated every year in our country as Youth Month. The focus of this event must be on uplifting our youth and raising awareness on issues that affect their lives and livelihoods. I am encouraged to hear from the Communication Unit that the NPA will host a Youth Day event annually. This will serve as the NPA's contribution to ensuring that our youth will be up to the challenge of taking our country forward in a responsible manner.

It is very important to promote and maintain the education of the youth on the dangers and evils of getting involved in crime. This year's theme, *Say No To Crime*, was aligned with this message, and the entire day's programme was packed with appropriate edutainment, including an educational drama by youth offenders from Leeuwkop Prison, courtesy of the Department of Correctional Services. The Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe and Mr Andries Nel, also attended the event.

*Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe  
Acting National Director of Public  
Prosecutions*

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# Second annual Sexual Offences Indaba

**The Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe, officially opened the second annual Sexual Offences Indaba in Kempton Park on 18 May 2009. This event forms part of the mandate of the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit in terms of its role as a member of the Interdepartmental Management Team (IDMT).**

The new Minister of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disability, Ms Noluthando Mayende-Sibiya, was also present at the indaba and spoke out strongly against women and child abuse in our society. Also present were the former Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, who delivered an address at the stakeholder dinner, where she promised to be always available to help fight any kind of abuse against women and children.



The IDMT consists of members of the departments of Justice and Constitutional Development, Health, Social Development, Safety and Security, Correctional Services, Education, as well as the National Treasury. The management team developed the Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) model as one of its initiatives to address rape care management. To date, there are 17 TCCs around the country. This number is expected to increase and be sustained dramatically across all nine provinces over the next three years through the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative (WJEI).

*continued on p4*

## Editorial



Our June issue is dedicated to all the work the NPA does in respect of addressing the rights and the protection, especially of our women and children. High on the agenda was the Sexual Offences Indaba that brought together stakeholders from government, non-governmental and private sectors to discuss and share information on the work done to counteract gender-based violence and related sexual offences.

Recognition of Child Protection Week has become entrenched in the work of the NPA. This year, a number of regions had activities to support working for the rights of children. The rights and protection of children should always occupy centre stage in our nation's consciousness. The days when Child Protection Week is dominated by incidents of child abuse, horrors of child rape and molestation, and generally about child-directed violence need to become history, and be replaced by celebrations of children's rights and joy on children's faces.

The NPA, in all its communication activities, includes child-friendly reading material and products that make children aware of their rights and the support they can get in times of need for justice. A South Africa where parents are assured of raising their children in a safe environment, in peace and harmony, is one for which all citizens must fight. In this issue, we share some of the activities in which our prosecutors participated to contribute to a child-friendly environment in our country.

To all the dedicated staff who visit schools and communities, who host children's days, who work at Thuthuzela care centres and in the courts to help support the victims of crime, young and old, we salute you!

**Bulelwa Makeke**  
**Executive Manager: Communications**

**THE NPA HOTLINE – 0800 212 580**

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

*continued from p3*

The TCC approach is victim-centred – taking victims through the criminal justice system to transform them to survivors, and ultimately to be more empowered witnesses in the criminal justice process.

The SOCA Unit, together with its stakeholders, strives to reduce the victimisation of women and children by improving the care and treatment of rape victims at all points in the criminal justice system, thereby reducing secondary victimisation, and ensuring the speedy, effective investigation and prosecution of rape cases, reducing cycle times and increasing conviction rates.

A number of subprojects that form part of the TCC project have been undertaken by the IDMT. The management team has commissioned research into the TCC in relation to processes followed at the sites from a legal, investigative, psychosocial and health perspective. Monitoring and evaluation tools have been developed for all role-players in the model.

In an attempt to formalise roles and responsibilities, the specific sites have developed protocols, which contain the standard operating procedures for each site. In order to address accountability, operational plans were developed that include the activities for the year for the areas of governance, delivery and resourcing.

To address uniformity, the SOCA Unit has furthermore undertaken a mapping process, informed by the protocols. During the indaba, participants were divided into provinces, and each had to come up with strategies or plans on how to deal with the maladies against women and children. After these sessions, the respective provinces were given time to present their findings and way forward. It was agreed that provinces would submit their reports before the next indaba in 2010.

The IDMT has also undertaken a number of other projects, including the development of the 365-day National Action Plan to address violence against women and children. This is a comprehensive collaborative plan developed by various

government departments and civil society organisations. Dr Silas Ramaite, Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions, elaborated on the importance of events like this and made a plea to National Treasury to assist financially. “The departments must not send delegates only, they must also send money,” he concluded.

The participants watched a sad ‘speak out’ play by the Pillar to Post drama group. The play was about a father who abuses his schoolgoing child. The play encouraged people to speak out against any kind of abuse against women and children. It also illustrated what steps to follow in a similar situation.

The indaba further highlighted the challenges facing the TCCs. These included understanding the line functions of inter- and intradepartmental structures, the lack of synergy with regard to departmental priority areas for service delivery, the lack of coordination of services and service offerings, and the lack of uniformity of services.

In conclusion, Advocate Thoko Majokweni, Head of the SOCA Unit, thanked all the participants, partners and sponsors for making a difference to all women and children who have been abused.

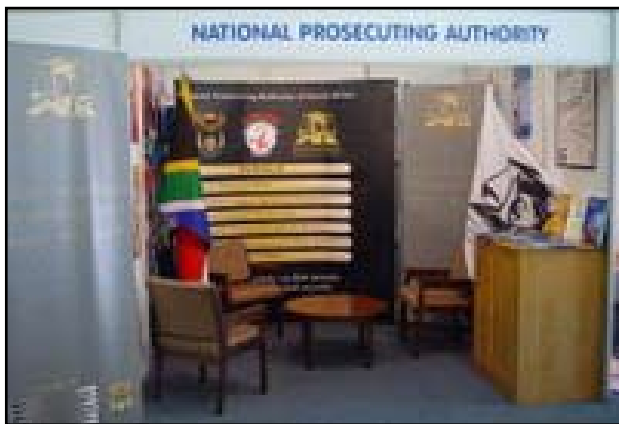
These included USAID, RTI International, the SOCA Unit, the departments of Health, Safety and Security, Social Development, Education, Correctional Services and National Treasury, as well as other international partners, such as the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the European Union, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and South African NGOs and service providers.



# NPA shines at Royal Show

**The NPA's participation in the annual Royal Show has its roots in very humble beginnings. These were the exact sentiments of Advocate Ross Stuart. "From a few roll-up banners and posters to (now) stage lighting and floral arrangements, we've come a long way. Mind you, at the time, those roll-up banners were the best thing for us!"**

This is the sixth year in succession that this annual event, attended by the NPA, has been held in Pietermaritzburg. This year the NPA took two accolades: a medallion for the stunning display and the Royal Agricultural Society Trophy for Special Endeavour.



*The NPA's humble beginnings in 2004.*

The special endeavour was an idea instigated by the NPA to have all the departments and non-government organisations (NGOs) involved in crime prevention in one hall at the Your Country, Your Family, and Your Life Expo. This was to show the public that all the organisations work collectively to bring justice to society. The departments of Correctional Services, and Justice and Constitutional Development, the South African Police Service (SAPS), the KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Crime Working Group, Business Fighting Crime, Safe City and the NPA participated. Comments such as "spectacular", "inventive", and "impressive" were among the numerous compliments received from members of the public. The public was interested to know what processes were involved in the criminal justice system, as well as how each of the departments fit into the bigger picture.

On entering the hall, Safe City told people about the cameras around the Pietermaritzburg CBD, which are monitored 24/7. People were fascinated by the precision of these cameras and the dedication of the people that worked there.

Next, the friendly and welcoming staff of the NPA were on hand to answer queries. Public interest varied from personal to recent issues in the media. People were impressed with the professionalism of the organisation. A cooldrink vendor who worked at the show praised the NPA, citing her own experience with the Maintenance section at the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court. She was very happy that the court had persuaded the father of her child to pay the maintenance due to her.

The Department of Correctional Services had a huge display showcasing their in-prison initiatives, such as furniture-making, a dairy and piggery, as well as vegetable gardens. All the produce from these projects are used as sustenance in the prisons.

The KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Crime Working Group aimed to educate people about conservation, as well as issues around poaching and pollution. Finally, the SAPS's exhibit consisted of various components such as the Special Intervention Unit (SIU), Forensics section and the task team showing off their weapons and explaining to people the extent of their work.

The hall was a well-rounded exhibit that engaged members of the public for long periods of time. The general consensus from all the exhibitors was that the expo was an overwhelming success and that the Royal Show 2010 would be even better.



*Above: At the NPA Exhibition stand. (From left) Addelaid Watt, Ross Stuart, Kabelo Ikgopoleng, Kholiswa Mdhluhi, Natasha Ramkisson, Leann Ragoonath and Bulelwa Makeke.*



*Above: Natasha Ramkisson and Advocate Ross Stuart showing off the award.*



# Western Cape prosecutors support Child Protection Week

**Child Protection Week promotes the belief that it is everyone's responsibility to make their community child-friendly and to promote the value of children, focusing attention on the issues of child abuse and neglect. It promotes the culture of respect for children's rights, thus ensuring that all children grow up in an environment that is safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation.**

The theme of this year's celebrations, held from 25 to 31 May, was *Caring Communities Protect Children*, which highlighted the value of partnerships between government and all sectors of society, particularly civil society, in creating a safe environment for children.

Cape Town prosecutors have been hard at work with activities to promote the safety of children, visiting schools and places of safety, and giving talks on drug and alcohol abuse, drug trafficking and the rights of children. In almost all the schools that were visited, the venues were packed to capacity with learners, educators and members of the community.

On 26 May, the prosecutors visited the WD Hendricks Primary School together with members from the South African Police Service (SAPS), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Department of Social Development. This school is located in an extremely low socio-economic neighbourhood, with a low adult literacy rate and high unemployment. The abuse of drugs is rife in this area and most of the speakers educated the learners on the negative effects of these substances and advised learners of various NGOs in their area that can help those who are addicted to drugs.

On 28 May, 35 Grade 8 learners from the Jan Van Riebeeck Primary School were taken to the Cape Town Regional Court as part of Cell C's Take a Girl Child to Work campaign. The little ones were taken on a tour around the court, where they got the opportunity for the first time in their lives to see prison cells, visit the juvenile court and listen to talks on crime prevention,

child abuse and drug abuse. On 29 May, the prosecutors visited a school called Learn to Live, which is a special school for street kids funded by the Salvation Army.

This school is helping hundreds of street children to reintegrate into society. Their aid programmes are aimed at improving the lives of street children by educating and training them to become self-sufficient. Two hundred disadvantaged youths are currently being trained as part of the Learn to Live project. According to the institute, many of these underprivileged youths have ended up on the streets of Cape Town because they have left dysfunctional homes or their parents have passed away, increasingly due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa. NGOs, the SAPS and the Department of Social Development teamed up with members of the NPA to educate the learners on various issues related to drug trafficking and the role of the NPA in the criminal justice system.

The prosecutors, accompanied by officials from the Department of Social Development and the Legal Aid Board, ended the campaign on 5 June 2009 by visiting the Lindelani Place of Safety in Stellenbosch. They explained court processes and the role of the departments in the criminal justice system. It seemed that the youths really enjoyed the talk, advice and the drama in the form of a moot court.

Ms Fiona Cloete, Senior Public Prosecutor of the Cape Town Magistrate's Court, advised learners to read, know their rights and to report unlawful acts to the police.



*Learners from the Gardens Commercial High School visiting the Cape Town High Court during the Take a Girl Child to Work Day.*



*A day in court: Advocate Bonnie Currie-Gamwo at the Cape Town Regional Court preparing the learners for a day in court.*

# Mamelodi celebrates

## Child Protection Week

The Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) in Mamelodi, together with other stakeholders, celebrated Child Protection Week in May. Their campaign started on Monday, 25 May 2009, with a visit to primary schools in Mamelodi East.



Entertainment was provided by way of music and drama groups from Love Life. This event, and the entire week, was a success and showed the commitment of the colleagues of the TCC in Mamelodi and the cooperation between stakeholders. The stakeholders who worked with the TCC included the SAPS, the Department of Health, Child Welfare, SOS, Love Life, the Child Protection Initiative, Iso Labantwana and Sanco.

Important guests that attended the occasion included Advocate Mncwabe, the senior public prosecutor in Mamelodi, and Advocate Motaung, the senior prosecutor for sexual offences in the Pretoria regional courts.

On 26 May various stakeholders visited primary schools in Mamelodi West. Presentations were delivered by the South African Police Service (SAPS), which covered topics such as drug abuse and gender-based violence. The SAPS also gave the children safety tips. Staff of the Thuthuzela Care Centre informed the learners of the purpose and functions of this centre. Child Welfare addressed issues of child neglect and child abuse. The group also visited crèches and handed out promotional material to the children. On 27 May the group went to visit places of safety and shelters in Mamelodi, where they donated blankets.

The main event was held at the Moretele Resort on 28 May. The day started with an orientation at the police stations in Mamelodi. During the orientation, children were taken on a tour of the stations and informed of the duties of police officials. The children entered the victim-friendly facility, where they were informed of the services rendered at the Mamelodi West police station. They were transported to the Moretele Resort, where they had a fun day. They enjoyed themselves on the jumping castles and were entertained by Fiona, the cartoon character in *Shrek*. The purpose of the day was to celebrate the protection of children to make them feel special. The programme also included presentations by different stakeholders such as the NPA, SAPS, Child Welfare and the Tshwane Child Protection Initiative.

Mr George Maphutuma, the corporate manager of the NPA's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit, gave a keynote address on the Thuthuzela Care Centre and its role in caring for victims of sexual offences and turning them into survivors.



*NPA case manager and junior state advocate, Lida van Schalkwyk, and victim assistance officer, Mathilda Maroga, entertain the Mamelodi schoolchildren.*



*Observing grace.*

# Girl children spend the day at NPA Head Office

**Take A Girl Child to Work day is aimed at presenting girl children with an opportunity to practically experience career opportunities in the job market. Organisations and companies register with Cell C to participate in the project and schools are paired randomly with organisations that then host 20 or more girls for the day.**

The NPA hosted 20 girls from the Pretoria Secondary School at its head office this year, while a further 20 girls were hosted at various regional offices.

The girls at the NPA Head Office were received by Security and Risk and were registered and handed employee/access cards with their names, as well as stationery packs.

The programme commenced with a photo shoot, after which a representative from Human Resources Development welcomed the girls, the teacher and all distinguished guests. Dr Khotso De Wee, Acting CEO of the NPA, provided the girls with information about the NPA and he highlighted the challenges that the NPA sometimes has to face.

Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe, Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) gave a keynote address, where he spoke to the girls about issues that they face as the youth of South Africa. He highlighted the opportunities and possibilities they have and stressed that dreams can be achieved through hard work, dedication, good behaviour and responsibility. Advocate Mpshe also spoke to the girls about traps they may encounter in the form of temptations faced by young girls, and the risk of being a female in this world. He also emphasised that even though rape, abuse, victimisation, and discrimination can happen anywhere, it seldom happens to girls who are with their parents or teachers or in groups. He encouraged girls to live by the motto *Gana ka wena*. Loosely translated, this means “say no about yourself”. He continued to say that they must learn to say no to boys’ temptations, to say no to material temptation, to say no to alcohol and drug abuse, to say no to staying out late, and to say no to peer pressure. He concluded by telling the girls that it is up to them to become successful women. He said that he wanted to meet them one day somewhere and then they must say to him: “Advocate Mpshe, ke ganne ka nna, and I am succesful now.”

The girls were then divided into five groups and were allocated to mentors from the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO), the Integrity Management Unit (IMU), the National Prosecutions Service (NPS), Human Resources: Response Handling, and the Office of the NDPP.

The NPS group learnt what procedures are involved in prosecuting a case, and what happens after judgment has been passed. They also learnt how other business units in the NPA support the NPS to ensure successful prosecution, which is without favour or prejudice. The learners were then given a newly submitted case

where they had to decide whether they would prosecute or not. The girls were informed of the qualifications needed to become a prosecutor, and the possible careers that can be followed with that qualification besides prosecution.

The DSO group was taught about the task of the DSO in the NPA, as well as the different levels and kinds of investigations. They were also given an explanation for the merger they are reading and hearing about in the media. The girls were then given a scenario and asked to compile a plan of how they would conduct their investigation and what strategy they would use. The girls were informed and advised about the qualifications and training they would need to pursue a career in investigations.

The IMU group was taught about the IMU’s task in the NPA, and why it is important for every organisation to have a unit to manage integrity. They were then informed about the different sections in the unit, their roles and how they impact on the organisation. The girls were then given the opportunity to evaluate a case and make a ruling and recommendation to the CEO based on the internal investigation report given to them.

The Human Resources: Response Handling group was taught about the importance of response handling to ensure that the NPA attracts skilled, qualified and responsible individuals in order to ensure that it achieves its goals and objectives as mandated by the government. They were then taken through the response handling process map, until the appointment of a successful candidate. This also educated the girls about how to complete an application, the importance of understanding a vacancy advertisement and applying according to the requirements of the advertisement. The girls were then each given the opportunity to capture an application on the system. The career opportunities in the human resources field and the qualifications required for these were highlighted.

The Office of the NDPP group was educated about the duties and responsibilities of the NDPP, what needs to happen before he makes a decision and what support structures he depends on. Examples were given using different scenarios. The rules governing his office, as well as who he reports to and who reports to him, were explained. The girls were then given a scenario where they would act as NDPP and take a decision on a case. The girls were then told of the qualifications and experience one would need to be appointed in this position.

Advocate Mpshe joined them for lunch, together with Mr Tlali Tlali, NPA spokesperson, the mentors and Human Resources





*Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe, Dr Khotso De Wee and NPA officials hosting the VGM Take a Girl Child to Work Day.*

Development team coordinating the project. The girls were very excited and had a long, informal conversation with Advocate Mpshe and Mr Tlali, and asked for their autographs.

The girls then proceeded to the auditorium where they viewed a documentary about human trafficking. The documentary showed true stories told by victims of human trafficking and, in cases where the victims have still not been found, the stories were told by their next of kin. After the documentary, the learners were given the opportunity to ask questions. They were informed about syndicates that exist so that they can always be on the lookout for them. They were also informed about the SOCA Unit and the Thuthuzela care centres around the country.

The girls were given a tour of the VGM Building, where they were shown goods gained as a result of criminal activities. The procedure of the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) was explained to them. They were also shown the shooting range, the holding cells on site and the entire building. The girls then filled out evaluation forms, which gave generally positive feedback. They were presented with participation certificates signed by Dr De Wee, as well as NPA bags and stationery.

The Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work day for 2009 was most successful. The Human Resources Development section would like to thank and acknowledge all stakeholders of the project.

## Grade 12 learners benefit from careers exhibition

From 19 to 21 May 2009, learners from about 46 schools from the Fort Beaufort district came together for a three-day period where they were given motivational talks and career information. This was an initiative of the Department of the Education in the area.

The organiser, Nandi Nqadala, expressed her gratitude to all those who participated. She said that these opportunities were rare in the area and that learners gained a lot from the event.

An estimated 2 350 Grade 12 learners took part in this event. The NPA provided them with all the relevant material and were able to give them advice on careers in law.



*Grade 12 learners from schools in Fort Beaufort attended the careers exhibition, where they listened to speakers before proceeding to the exhibition.*

# Mmabatho hosts girl children at work

**The Mafikeng Take A Girl Child to Work campaign was mainly focused on exposing young girls to different career opportunities and the real work environment.**

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in Mmabatho once again had an opportunity to host 20 girls from Letsatsing High School in Mafikeng, the capital city of North West. The 20 girls arrived in the offices with enthusiasm and full of energy to learn as hard as they could about career opportunities offered by the NPA. The programme was officially opened by Advocate Leanda Van Niekerk, the Programme Director, on behalf of Advocate Anna Mogoeng.

Advocate Hosea Rapula Molefe, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, welcomed the children. He mentioned that he was humbled by the enthusiasm and energy displayed during the career presentations. He said the partnership between the NPA and Cell C has grown from strength to strength.

Advocate Mpho Johny gave an overview of the NPA and the Office of the DPP. In her introduction, she highlighted the establishment of the NPA, and the legal framework and related legislations that guided the organisation. She also summarised the functions of different business units within the NPA. She informed the girls about the strategic transformation of the NPA with regard to its mission and vision and how it contributes to the criminal justice system. In her presentation, she outlined the core function of prosecutions and the mandates undertaken by the circuit, regional, and magistrate's courts, as well as the high courts in their prescribed legislations. She told the children about the requirements for study to qualify as a lawyer.

The theme of Take A Girl Child to Work 2009 was *Change Your World*. This urged the children to use their maximum

potential to make better choices in life. Advocate Mpho Johny encouraged young people to work hard and excel in their studies. The nodding of heads in the audience confirmed the understanding and appreciation of the girls as they listened to the presentation.

The 20 girls were divided among different prosecutors for job shadowing purposes. The whole idea was to expose them to the real work of the prosecutors. A question-and-answer session formed part of the day, and the following interesting facts emerged:

## **What are the rights of accused people?**

Accused people have rights that are made clear by the investigating officers when they make arrests and during the trial in a court of law.

## **Why are they always granted bail?**

They are not always granted bail, but according to the merits of the case. Bail is only granted by the magistrates and judges if the accused has made a successful application.

## **What is the influence of the prosecutors dealing with cases involving their siblings?**

It will be fundamental for prosecutors to withdraw from such cases because in reality one cannot be a player and referee. However, the NPA has a code of ethics and values that every employee must adhere to in every possible way.

## **What are the requirements for a person to become a lawyer or prosecutor?**

One must study a degree in law (LLB).

The last tour was the Mafikeng High Court, where participants were addressed by Judge Landman. He told them to work hard to assist government to combat crime in North West and South Africa. He said children are very important because they are tomorrow's leaders.

At the end of the day, there was a mock trial as a practical exercise for the 20 girls. It was so interesting and educational because it demonstrated exactly what happened during trials. Characters in the mock trial were a magistrate (Advocate Douw Jacobs), an interpreter (Advocate Annah Mogoeng), a prosecutor (Advocate Leanda van Niekerk), a complainant (Advocate Moipone Moroka) and an accused (Vincent Maotoane).



*Letsatsing High School and DPP staff members during the Take a Girl Child to Work campaign 2009.*



# Child Protection Week

## in Bloemfontein

The Bloemfontein Cluster would not be left behind in taking Child Protection Week head-on to ensure that the message reaches the population, especially the learners. Why is it that children no longer play freely in the streets these days, but walk the streets doing some form of trade? Everywhere one looks, cases of child trafficking, abuse, pornography and prostitution are being reported. It is a mounting pandemic in South Africa.



*Comtech High School learners in Bloemfontein.*

The Bloemfontein Cluster teamed up with the NPA's Free State Regional Communications Office, the Tshepong Thuthuzela Care Centre and Motheo FM, a community radio station in Bloemfontein, to campaign for child protection from 25 to 29 May 2009.

The key objectives of this week included promoting the spirit of caring communities by raising awareness on children's rights at various schools, including Botlehadi, Comtech, Atlehang and Dr Viljoen High School, as well as the ways and means that the children can follow to raise their voices against abuse.

The learners were informed that, it was reported that both girls and boys as young as nine were selling their bodies for as little as R30. In an article published in the Gauteng newspaper, *The Star*, Molo Songololo, a Cape Town-based children's organisation, noted that "so many children involved in the sex industry are being targeted by criminal syndicates". This means that children are not only at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, but also of becoming addicted to drugs and being indebted to their pimps (syndicate ringleaders). It is a vicious circle. With the aim of getting them hooked, the children are given drugs, and once they are addicted, the ringleader of the syndicate demands money back for the drugs, as well as the clothes that they have bought for them. This then forces the children to sell their bodies for money to pay off their debts. South African children are in danger of exposure to a thriving worldwide sex tourism industry, according to Songololo's research. The report concluded that there is an increased demand for sex with children from both South African and foreign men. It seems that South Africa has



*Dr Viljoen High School learners in Bloemfontein.*

become a source for child trafficking and a destination for child exploitation and abuse.

The words of Ms Dimakatso Manong, manager of the Tshepong Thuthuzela Care Centre, echoed the statement that children who have run away from home due to difficult situations, such as abuse and poverty, are usually the targets of child traffickers, as they appear vulnerable and are easily lured. "According to a UNICEF report, approximately 1.2 million children are being trafficked every year as cheap labour or for sexual exploitation all over the world". Together with child prostitution, these forms of child exploitation are rising daily and are resulting in a booming sex trade.

To combat this ongoing problem, the South African government has launched various programmes in an attempt to protect children, including the provision of child support grants given to parents and foster care grants. South Africa is also a signatory to the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, which aims to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; and to protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights.



*Atlehang High School learners in Bloemfontein.*



# Kids get a taste of justice

**The criminal justice system plays an important role in society. Kids need to be taught early in life about the consequences of finding themselves on the wrong side of the law.**



*Children from the Thuthuka Montessori School in Randburg enjoying the mock trial.*

On Friday, 15 May 2009, the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit (SCCU) in Gauteng treated kids between the ages of five and seven to a mock trial in their specialised court, which turned out to be a fun-filled event in Court B.

The children, who were from the Thuthuka Montessori School in Randburg, enjoyed themselves and observed the proceedings carefully. These kids were a marvel to watch and observers were amazed at the level of intellect they possessed. It is also quite important to recognise this potential and to harness it for the greater good.

Advocate Suren Naidoo, Deputy Director of the SCCU, together with his team of dedicated staff, played a vital role in this session. They wrote a script and played roles in court. Characters in the play were a convener (Advocate Naidoo), a magistrate (Advocate Deneshree Naicker), two witnesses (advocates Aphiwe Kutshwa and Ronel Dookun), the defence

(Mr Steve Malebathi) a prosecutor (Advocate André Smit), and a court orderly (Inspector Sibisibi). The script was written by Advocate Leana Fick.

For these kids, this session will be a memorable one, much more pleasant than those for kids that have to attend court as victims, as part of the deep end of the justice system. If children also get an opportunity to learn about their rights, community structures can grow stronger every day. It is very sad to see children in juvenile centres or even jail for crimes they committed.

*Khasho* personnel distributed T-shirts to the kids with emergency numbers printed on them. After the event, they asked themselves: "What is the contribution we made in changing children's attitude towards the rule of law?" Children need to learn from an early age to respect the law and human rights, for they will be the leaders of tomorrow."



*Children show off their NPA justice and speak out shirts.*



*Children listen attentively to the mock trial.*

# Aids Candlelight Memorial 2009

**The International Candlelight Memorial is the longest and largest grassroots mobilisation campaign for HIV and AIDS awareness in the world. It was first commemorated in 1983, and has since been observed internationally on the third Sunday of May every year.**

For the past 25 years, the Candlelight Memorial has brought people together to honour the lives of those lost to AIDS-related illnesses, give support to people living with HIV, and raise social consciousness about HIV and AIDS. The 2009 theme for the International Candlelight Memorial campaign was *Together, we are the solution*. This theme seeks to affirm the importance of government and civil society working together to ensure the best possible delivery of prevention, treatment, care and support programmes in the country.

On 20 May 2009, the NPA joined the rest of the world in the commemoration of the HIV and AIDS candlelight memorial. The event was held in the Mmabatho Tusk Hotel in Mafikeng in the North West Province.

**“It is important for employees to serve as ambassadors for disseminating the message of hope, education and a change of behaviour with regard to HIV and AIDS.”**

The programme was officially opened by Advocate Mampo, and the Director of Public Prosecutions: Mmabatho region, Advocate Johan Smit SC, welcomed delegates. He told delegates that it was important for employees to make a commitment and serve as ambassadors for disseminating the message of hope, education and a change in behaviour with regard to HIV and AIDS.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the NPA, Dr Khotso De Wee, gave a brief history on the emergence of HIV and AIDS. He also shared some startling statistics on HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms Mercy Makhalemele, an AIDS activist, gave a motivational speech and message of hope to the audience. Mercy found out that she was HIV-positive during her pregnancy. She was the first HIV-positive woman to openly speak at the South African Parliament in 1995. In 2000, Mercy established the Tsa-Botsogo Re-awakening Centre, a healing centre for HIV-affected individuals.

Mr Cornelius Lebeloe, Director of the HIV and AIDS Unit in the North West, emphasised the importance of working together to fight the pandemic. He also gave statistical information on new infections, and concluded by encouraging people to be open and commit to the fight against HIV and AIDS in South Africa.

The keynote address was delivered by the Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe, SC. He outlined the key milestones of the NPA to continue to institutionalise and

upscale services to fight HIV and AIDS. These include training and awareness workshops to change people's attitudes and behaviour, voluntary counselling and testing services to encourage employees to proactively protect their health, workshops on HIV/AIDS and the law, psychological counselling services to support infected and affected employees, and monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the NPA is compliant with the National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Advocate Mpshe pledged executive support to all the NPA initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of HIV and AIDS and enhancing the wellness of its employees.

At the conclusion of the event, Ms Rachel Nengovhela, Chief Prosecutor of the Molopo Region, thanked Advocate Mpshe and the executive management of the NPA for the role that they play, and Advocate Johan Smit for his leadership.

NPA management supporting the

## 2009 Aids Candlelight Memorial



*Front row: Ms Mary Seletisha, Chief Prosecutor: ODI Cluster, Ms Mercy Makhalemele, AIDS activist and Chief Prosecutor: Molopo Cluster, Ms Rachel Nengovhela. Back row: Dr Khotso De Wee, Acting CEO, Mr Moses Rantao, Corporate Manager, Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe SC, Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Anna Mogoeng, Senior State Advocate, and Advocate Johan Smit SC, Director of Public Prosecutions: Mmabatho Region.*

# Love to Live campaign a success

The Love to Live edufair was held at the Protea sportsgrounds in Pietermaritzburg in late May. The event was aimed predominantly at learners, but the information was applicable to adults alike. The theme was 'love to live', thus trying to create positivity among the youth and the community at large. Speakers enlightened learners about crime prevention, child protection and road safety, as well as living a positive life and making good choices.

The coordinators of the event were Senior Public Prosecutor, Zubeida Khan, and Court Preparation Officer, Louann Shuttleworth (from the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court), who worked hard to get other departments and NGOs to participate in the endeavour.

The end result was lauded as a phenomenal success with an estimated 5 000 learners attending. Learners were treated to displays by the SAPS bomb disposal unit, the Road Traffic Inspectorate and the fire department. NPA Regional Communications Manager, Natasha Ramkisson, addressed learners on the justice system and how the various departments

worked together in crime prevention and crime solving. Groups from the attending schools also put on performances such as dramas, poems, dances and singing (rapping) to display their interpretation of what it means to 'love to live'.

An attendee and participant in the initiative, Mr Muhammad Khan, commented on the success of the edufair, "This event was superbly organised and marketed; and the NPA savoured the opportunity, for which it is always on the lookout: to engage and interact with the youth in a context that is far removed from the intimidating environment of the courts. The opportunity also gave us an insight into the needs of the youth. We look forward to the Love to Live campaign next year."

The message of UMgungundlovu District Mayor, Mr Yusuf Bhamjee, to the learners was to believe in the concept of 'love to live' by first respecting themselves, then their parents, friends and members of society. "You should know that there will always be challenges and you need to unpack such challenges and chart a way forward. By so doing, you will give meaning to the 'love to live' concept," said Bhamjee.

## A day in the life of Lusanda Ntwanambi



*Ms Lusanda Ntwanambi*

### When did you join the NPA?

I joined the NPA in 2002 on contract as an administrative assistant for the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) unit. My appointment was made permanent in 2007, still as an administrative assistant.

### What position do you hold and what do your daily duties entail?

I am executive secretary to the Head of the SOCA Unit, Advocate Thoko Majokweni. My daily duties entail managing the diary, attending to

correspondence, managing personal affairs, assisting in public awareness campaigns such as the Thuthuzela leadership, planning, organising and coordinating events, meetings and workshops, and summarising my manager's daily e-mails and making her aware of those that need her urgent attention.

### What are the challenges you face with your position?

Dealing with difficult callers and handling the office pressure – one must be able to handle all the ad hoc matters that are part of our lives in the SOCA Unit.

### If you had a choice, would you still work for the NPA?

Definitely, more especially for the SOCA Unit, because of the growth and exposure it gives to its staff members.

### Is your Manager demanding?

I have learnt to understand that she is a very busy person and her work is very demanding. As her PA, I am supposed to be there for her as her support system. The good relationship I have with her

also makes it easy for me to get along well with her.

### What did you learn during the time you spent at the NPA?

I have learnt to understand different personalities and cultures.

### If you were allowed to be the NDPP for the day, what would you do?

I will give all the best performers the deserved merit awards. To be honest, I haven't noticed any gaps that might need to be filled; according to what I see, he is doing an excellent job.

### Should you be allowed to have breakfast with Advocate Mpshe, what would you say to him?

I will ask him to revisit the secretary/PA posts and re-evaluate them.

### Any message to the NPA secretaries/admin staff?

Work hard and be the best person you can ever be. Perseverance pays. Look at me: I started as an admin assistant on contract, and today I am an executive secretary.



# Five life terms for serial rapist

## in Port Elizabeth High Court

On 13 May 2009, Zukile Sindelo Thafeni was convicted on 18 of the 21 counts he faced, including rape, robbery, attempted murder and assault. The judge described Thafeni as a “cruel, sadistic person” who had no respect for human life. The judge further said that Thafeni must be removed permanently from society because there is no chance of him being rehabilitated. She also said: “Thafeni was a sexual predator with sadistic taste and had no respect for life.” She handed down five life terms, coupled with one of 117 years.



The NPA expressed its satisfaction for the sentencing, as it believes that this will send a very strong message to those that break the law. A successful conviction such as this also restores public confidence in the criminal justice system. Attending the sentencing were friends and families of the victims, as well as members of various non-governmental organisations that are fighting against women abuse in the community. Berenice Jacobs-Malgas, Director of the Rape Crisis Centre, welcomed the judge’s decision, saying that it showed that justice had been served. A mother of one of the victims who seemed very distraught said: “I am very pleased with the sentence handed down and I hope he does not get released on parole.” Judge Revelas commended the investigating officer, together with the prosecutor who handled this case, for their hard work.

*Left: Jason Thyse from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions in Port Elizabeth sighed with relief when the judge sentenced Thafeni, and went on to say that he will sleep better now, knowing that justice has been served.*

# Triathlon advocate goes international

Advocate Victor de Bruyn is a senior state advocate in the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit of the NPA’s Directorate of Public Prosecutions in Bloemfontein. He is a very hardworking prosecutor and a very dedicated sportsman. He is passionate about triathlon, which comprises swimming, cycling and running.

For a period of two weeks, he trains for an average of seven to eight hours a week using an intensive method of training, followed by a one-week recovery programme, which is less intense. The training programme includes swimming sessions of 30 to 45 minutes during the week. On Saturdays, he cycles for at least two hours. The key things that keep him going are endurance and utmost discipline.

On 21 February 2009, he took part in the Free State Triathlon Competition held in Bloemfontein. He emerged as the overall winner. This victory enabled him to represent the province in the South African Triathlon Championship held in Germiston on 21 March 2009, where he finished in eighth position in his age group category.



*Advocate Victor de Bruyn*

He qualified for the national team, and will represent South Africa in the International Triathlon Championships at the Australian Gold Coast from 11 to 13 September 2009. He made a promise to do well in the competition and not just to add to the numbers.

After the tour, he will take a break of three to four weeks, and then start with his training in preparation for the next season, which will start around November. “I will never stop taking part in my favourite sport, triathlon,” he says.

## New appointments

### Chief Public Prosecutor

- Advanced District Court Prosecutor: L Moolman, Y Mamphadeni (Nelspruit), LA Mahumapelo
- District Court Prosecutor: M Khumalo, M Ndlovu (Pietermaritzburg), N Mazamisa (Witbank), TP Nyamate, B Mqoboli, CE Merrington (George), JP Maluleke (Polokwane), P Mulaudzi (Vaal Triangle), MP Moabelo (Pretoria), N Lugaju (East Rand)
- Senior Administrative Assistant: L Smith (Port Shepstone), S Fihla (Port Elizabeth)
- Administrative Assistant, General: F Fortuin (Mitchell's Plain), PM Njemla (Wynburg), S Tshabalala (Bellville)
- Court Preparation Officer: ME Mosotho (Durban)
- Court Control Prosecutor: MM Ponye (Mitchell's Plain)
- Head Control Prosecutor: H April, A Ngiba (Bellville)

### Directorate of Public Prosecutions

- Switchboard Operator: EL Boucher (Port Elizabeth)
- Finance Manager: S Raman (Cape Town)

### Asset Forfeiture Unit

- Senior State Prosecutor: P Jagnath (Johannesburg)
- Junior State Advocate: JS Cubungu (Johannesburg)

### Finance

- Assistant Manager: M Mqokozi
- Administrative Assistant: PJ Ramaphoko (Operations)

### Communications

- Manager: Marketing and Advertising: K Mdhuli

### Human Resources Management and Development

- Senior Manager: MT Molefe
- Executive Manager: TM Modise

### Integrity Management Unit

- Deputy Manager: P Twala

## Contract appointments

### Chief Public Prosecutor

- Regional Court Prosecutor: N Sepeng (Brits)

### Communications

- Chief Administrative Assistant, General: NE Maphatiane

### SOCA

- Court Preparation Officer: KV Maduna

## Contract extensions

### Chief Public Prosecutor

- Advanced District Court Prosecutor: NH Sass (Bellville)
- Regional Court Prosecutor: CS Botha (Ladysmith)

## Promotions

### Finance

- Chief Administrative Assistant: MJ Mphafudi (Finance Operations)
- Finance Manager, Budget: MS Mofokeng (Finance and Procurement)

### Chief Public Prosecutor

- District Court Control Prosecutor: M Fanaphi (Pinetown), RK Tshite (Bloemfontein), MD Molobya (Klerksdorp)
- Regional Court Prosecutor: F Steenkamp (Nelspruit), JN Maseko (Middelburg)
- Advanced District Court Prosecutor: EX Zakwe, C Rothman, N Minnaar (Middelburg), AP Manganye (Thohoyandou), CS Jansen van Vuuren (Port Shepstone), J Chellan (Durban), RN Tshamano (Klerksdorp)
- Relief Prosecutor: TJ Malesa (Witbank)
- Head Control Prosecutor: I Singh (Pinetown)

### Directorate of Public Prosecutions

- Junior State Advocate: K Essack, SA Mazibuko (Durban), S Scheepers, ZG Mshololo, K Germishuis, NK Ramkhelawan, CA Pillay (Pretoria)
- Advanced Deputy Manager, General: P Sali (Kimberley)
- Court Preparation Officer: ME Mosotho (Durban)

### Integrity Management Unit

- Advanced Manager: J Chetty (internal investigator)

## Relocations

### Chief Public Prosecutor

- Head Control Prosecutor: DM Phiri (Middelburg)
- Regional Court Prosecutor: NO Nhantsi (Cape Town).

## Law Market Day at Rhodes University

On 5 May 2009, the Faculty of Law at Rhodes University's Law Society invited the NPA, the Legal Aid Board and many other private law firms to a law market day. From the very onset students showed a lot of interest.



Some of students who visited the NPA's stand for information with Mr Njobe from Fort Beaufort Magistrate's Court. Some of them received lanyards for answering questions about the NPA correctly.

Advocate Nico Henning from the Grahamstown Cluster enjoyed giving students information and answering their questions at the stall. Students from the first year level, to more senior students, were very excited to interact with the various exhibitors. The NPA gave out information on the Aspirant Prosecutor Internship Programme as well as other brochures, including the understanding the criminal justice system and values brochures and general NPA information.



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

Publishing Editor:  
Janet de Jager,

NPA Communications  
Publication management,  
editing and layout:  
Janine Smit Editorial  
Services: [www.jses.co.za](http://www.jses.co.za).

Main contributors:  
Janet de Jager  
Tsepo Ndwalaza

Natasha Ramkisson  
Sandy Godlwana  
Nico Simasiku  
Frank Lesenyego  
Mona Moerane  
Sibongile Mogale  
Kopano Ramashala  
Kabelo Ikgopoleng  
Baile Maunye

