



NPA SMS Summit

IMU under the spotlight

Lengthy sentences for criminals

NPA goes for Gold at Royal Show



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LETTER FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

The IT downtime that we experienced recently impacted hugely on the production of Khasho, but we are now back on track even though we still experience some minor problems. We hope you will enjoy this edition as you have been doing. Our aim is always to keep you informed.

At the SMS Summit held in April, one of the interesting suggestions that emerged was to make Khasho accessible to external stakeholders as well. We take that recommendation as a vote of confidence that the quality of the content carried in this newsletter is considered to be of possible value to a wider audience. As our current contract for Khasho publishing services nears expiry, we are in the process of conducting a needs analysis exercise to ensure that the new contract will place us in a position to accommodate this request for expansion of our readership. Watch this space for the new developments which will shape up towards the end of the year.

This edition is packed with a lot of NPA interesting news, as usual. We bring you a snapshot of the SMS Summit deliberations that was held in early May. A reproduction of the DVD copies for each attendee of the Summit is currently under development. We hope that when these copies finally come out they will be worth your wait. Thank you for your patience.

In the Public Service governance calendar, May month is synonymous with Ministers presenting their Budget Votes in Parliament. The NPA together with its partners in the Justice family hosted exhibitions in Parliament, in support of the Minister's Budget Vote. In this edition, we bring you a breakdown of how the budget for Vote 24 – the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development, is allocated.

In May we continued in earnest with our community outreach events, including schools outreach where we



Bulelwa Makeke
Executive Manager: Communications

focus on raising awareness about key social issues that particularly affect the youth and criminality, including among others, the dangers of social media. Judging by the intense engagement between our presenters and learners, these outreach events seem to be a winning formula that is long overdue.

Feedback from parents, educators and the learners themselves fills us with confidence that we are making a contribution to empowering the youth to make the right, informed life choices that will not lead them to a path where they find themselves in conflict with the law, or being victims of crime because they were ignorant or misinformed. At all these schools outreach events, we find that the learners have a desperate need to access information and we are happy to be there to fill in that gap for them. Read about some of these outreach events in this issue.

Khasho would not be complete without us informing you about our successfully prosecuted cases. We take pride in informing you about these cases; the merits of the case, prosecution skills and above all the highlights or challenges experienced by a prosecutor in each case. In this edition alone, we feature five articles that speak to our core business – prosecution of crime. Read these articles and see how different sections of the law were applied.

Bulelwa Makeke is the Executive Manager: Communications



In April 2012, the NPA's senior management team from all over the country held a three-day summit in Johannesburg to explore innovative ways of improving organisational performance. The attendance was very impressive, but most importantly, I was humbled by the seriousness with which the leaders treated the summit.

This was not an ordinary summit. It was a summit born out of the urgency to address declining organisational performance, to take stock of the challenges that we are currently facing, and to deliberate on how best we can address them. Given the enthusiasm that I saw during the three-day gathering, I am very confident that realistic and workable solutions will be found and implemented. What encourages me is that there is willingness from everybody to turn things around.

For this reason I want to express my sincere gratitude for all SMS members who attended the summit and gave their valuable inputs. Special thanks also go to all the members of the Organising Committee who worked around the clock to ensure the success of the summit. The outputs of the summit provided context and food for thought for all present, and will help shape our thinking in going forward with refining our strategy to enhance and ensure service delivery and the reputation of the organisation.

Also in April 2012, the leadership team of the organisation had the opportunity to present the NPA's strategic plan 2012-17 and annual plan 2012-13 to the Justice Portfolio Committee. In that presentation we highlighted the fact that there was no significant shift in the organisation's strategic direction. However, we made it clear that our key focus was on improving performance due to a steady decline in the performance of the NPA in a number of areas over the past few years. We also highlighted the fact that lack of sufficient funds was hindering our efforts to increase capacity by employing more prosecutors, and hence made a plea to the committee to assist the organisation in lobbying for more funds. I am very encouraged by the Committee's commitment to consider the NPA's request during our budget review process later in the year.

On 17 May 2012 the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe, presented his budget vote for the 2012/13 financial year to Parliament. He indicated that a total budget of R15, 480 billion has been allocated to his Department for the 2012/13 financial year, which was lower by over R600 million from that of the previous year. Of this budget, R2, 816 billion was allocated to the NPA - of which R2,0-billion would be spent on Public Prosecutions, R158-million on witness protection and R130-million on Asset Forfeiture. In his speech, the Minister highlighted some of the following areas:

- **JCPS Cluster** – the cluster's concerted efforts to fight crime are continuing to yield results. The integration of Information and Communication Technology systems is enabling an electronic flow of information between the Police, the National Prosecuting Authority and the DOJ & CD.



Acting NDPP, Adv Nomgcobo Jiba

- **Combating Corruption** - more than 120 JCPS officials were convicted of corruption in the past year. The conviction rate on the corruption cases stood at 72%. The total value of assets seized by the AFU over the past 13 years is nearing R5 billion.
- **Case backlogs and court performance** – Although the number of criminal court cases finalised by all courts during 2011/12 is slightly down, the average conviction rate in our courts for the past financial year remains high and has increased from 88.3% in 2010/11 to 88.8% in the past financial year.
- **Sexual Offences** – incidents of rape and other forms of sexual offences have taken an upswing in recent times. A multi-disciplinary task team of the Cluster departments will soon be re-convened to conduct an urgent investigation for purposes of the re-establishment of Sexual Offences Courts which have proved to be successful in the past.
- **Court Infrastructure** - Work is underway regarding the conversion of the interim accommodation for the Mpumalanga High Court and this is expected to be completed by July this year. The completion of the construction of the High Court in Limpopo is envisaged by March 2013.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Adv Thoko Majokweni on her acting appointment as Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions (DNDPP) for the National Prosecutions Service (NPS). As you know NPS houses the core function of the NPA, and it was for this reason that we took a strategic decision to revert back to the original structure which includes NPS, headed by a DNDPP. Adv Majokweni is well-positioned to act in this position due to her vast experience as Head of the SOCA Unit. I am very confident that she will provide the necessary leadership and guidance in enabling the NPS to deliver on its mandate. I therefore urge all of you to continue offering her your usual co-operation and support.



BUDGET VOTE PRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT

Nomilo Mpondo

The Budget Vote for the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ) was presented in Parliament by the Minister, Jeff Radebe on 17 May 2012. The Budget Vote included budget allocations earmarked for Constitutional and statutory institutions that are part of the justice extended family.

As a preamble to the budget allocation, the Minister focused on the departmental issues that impact on a conducive and enabling environment for the proper administration of justice in the country, some of which are the following:

STABILISING THE NPA

- The appointment of Adv Jiba as acting National Director of Public

- Prosecutions, in view of the on-going court action regarding the appointment of Adv Simelane, has stabilised leadership and management of the NPA;
- A total of 150 officials were convicted of corruption in the past year. The conviction rate on the corruption cases stood at 73%;
- The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) of the NPA continues with its ruthless approach to crime and corruption which deprives the majority of the enjoyment of the fruits of our democracy;
- The value of assets seized by the AFU during the past financial year is R533, 4 million and the total assets over the past 13 years is nearing R5 billion;

- About R150 million recovered by the AFU has been allocated from the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) to build capacity in the Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) to intensify its investigative capacity; and
- During 2011/12, courts finalised 216 cyber crime cases with a conviction rate of 87, 5%.

STATE LEGAL SERVICES

In enhancing the administration of justice, the Minister announced that he would release the Framework on the Transformation of State Legal Services aimed at:



- Revolutionising the public legal sector to be able to provide legal services of the highest standard that protect and safeguard the interest of the state, and advances access to justice for the citizens.
- Addressing some of the shortcomings in the current system that result in government losing court cases it ought not to have lost, or embarking on ill-fated litigation where it ought to have considered other alternative forms of redress to litigation, thus resulting in huge costs to the fiscus.
- Broadening the pool of legal practitioners who are briefed by the state to ensure a fair representation of black and women practitioners consistent with the racial, gender and geographic demographics of our society.

Elaborating on the above point, he said scarcity of black women practitioners from the pool of practitioners who continue to dominate constitutional and other high profile litigations, has a consequential effect on the slow pace of the transformation of the judiciary as this profession is the main feeder to the judiciary.

COMBATING CRIME

- The Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster has made strides regarding the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems enabling an electronic flow of information between the Police, the National Prosecuting Authority and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.
- The ICT integration is being extended to other JCPS departments. In line with the Delivery Agreement, the cluster continues to strengthen the integration of the programmes of law enforcement agencies with a view to maximising our fight against crime and corruption.

CLAMPING DOWN ON RAPE

Condemning rape, the Minister said, “One aspect that continues to rear its ugly head is the scourge of rape incidents and other forms of sexual offences which have taken an upswing in recent times. I will soon be convening a multi-disciplinary task team of the cluster departments to conduct an urgent investigation for purposes of the re-establishment of Sexual Offences Courts which have proved to be successful in the past. The



task team will investigate the steps that ought to be taken to ensure that Sexual Offences Courts benefit all communities across the country and not only selected areas as was the position regarding the 62 Sexual Offences Courts which were piloted during the 2007/8 financial year. This task team will submit its report and recommendations by the end of August this year to guide the cluster on how to tackle these horrendous crimes”.

COURT PERFORMANCE

Court performance is measured in terms of time, cost and quality, namely, the time within which cases are processed through each stage of the proceedings from beginning to end; the cost of litigation in respect of each stage of the proceedings; and the quality of the outcome of each case.

- Cases finalised by the lower courts in the 2011/12 financial year show a decline when compared to the outputs realised in the previous financial year.
- The number of criminal court cases finalised by all courts during 2011/12, namely 448 760, is slightly down from 460 791 in the 2010/11 financial year.
- However, the average conviction rate for the past financial year remains high and has increased from 88.3% in 2010/11 to 88.8% in the past financial year.

The Minister assured the House that he remained on course to achieve an unqualified audit report at the end of this financial year. On this endeavour, he declared his indebtedness to the guidance and assistance of the Auditor-General, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Justice Committees of Parliament.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

A total budget of R15, 480 billion was allocated to the Department for the 2012/13 financial year to implement all programmes. This year's budget is lower by over R600 million from that of the previous year. Of this budget allocation R5, 284 billion is allocated to the Court Services Programme, R2, 816 billion is for the NPA and R1, 814 billion for Public Entities and Chapter 9 Institutions.

ENVISAGED SPENDING:

- R2,0-billion on Public Prosecutions;
- R158-million on witness protection;
- R130-million on Asset Forfeiture;
- R307-million on the Special Investigating Unit;
- R1,2-billion on Legal Aid South Africa;
- R101-million to the Human Rights Commission;
- R174-million to the Public Protector;
- R92-million on day to day maintenance; and
- R279-million on rehabilitation of court facilities.

NPA SMS SUMMIT

– IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Nomilo Mpondo & Tebogo Seate

The National Prosecuting Authority has undergone a number of radical changes over the past few years, such as the appointment of new leaders and changes in the organisational structure. The dissolution of the Directorate of Special Operations is one key example of such changes that the NPA experienced in recent years.

These changes have affected the organisation in a number of ways, and the performance of the organisation has come under intense public scrutiny. The media, on the other hand, are always critical of how the NPA handles certain prosecutions and all major decisions made by the organisation.

Furthermore, the NPA is also experiencing a decline in organisational performance, thereby calling for radical and innovative ways to raise the bar on organisational performance. It is against this background that the Executive Committee of the NPA decided to call a three-day Senior Management Summit to enable the leadership team of the organisation to debate and seek collective solutions to issues that confront the organisation. It, being the first in the history of the NPA, created a lot of excitement amongst senior managers.

The Summit took place over a three-day period from 2-4 April 2012 at Emperor's Palace, Kempton Park. The Summit was preceded by a gala dinner which took place on Sunday 1 April 2012.

In her opening address, acting NDPP Adv Nomgcobo Jiba urged everyone in the NPA to take the performance of the organisation very seriously. She said, "The NPA exists to prosecute those who transgress the law. No one else can do that, because we have absolute monopoly in this field. That is why we need to carry out our mandate with the seriousness it deserves. If we fail to achieve this, we fail the public we are mandated to serve; we erode their confidence in us, and tarnish the reputation of the country's criminal justice system. The last dispensation we



NPA SMS officials at the summit

would like to see in South Africa is the increase of incidents of mob injustice".

Adv Jiba stressed the importance of ensuring that the work of the NPA yielded tangible results, by achieving high conviction rates and ensuring finalisation of cases. She also urged everyone to make integrity the cornerstone of everything we do at the NPA. She said, "It should be deeply embedded in our conscience and be our guidance when faced with tough decisions to make. We all need to carry out our duties without fear, favour or prejudice".

One of the key guest speakers at the conference was Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, who encouraged the NPA to persist even under difficult challenges. He said most of the time challenges prepared people and organisations for greater things in the future. He said what makes extra-ordinary people are extra-ordinary contributions they make in serving other people.

Judge Mogoeng said the NPA has the power and ability to make an impact in society. However, he cautioned the NPA to guard against being obsessed with

celebrity status. He said regardless of what the media report about the NPA, the organisation must never veer off from its mandate. He urged prosecutors to stand firm as people of integrity and solid character. He said, "Abhor corruption with everything you have. Never sell your soul to the highest bidder, because that would be the worst betrayal of the aspirations of the people".

Format of the Summit

The summit was divided into two sessions – plenary and five break-away commissions, namely: Organisational Culture; Resource Capacity; Organisational Performance; Leadership & Governance; and Communication & Organisational Reputation. From these commissions, four areas within the NPA were identified which need improvement - leadership, management, communication and accountability. As one way of addressing these problem areas, on the last day of the summit the leadership made a pledge in which they committed themselves to doing the following:

- Become ambassadors of the

- organization and to improve its image.
- Capacitate the organization to optimally mitigate ethics risks.
 - Improve on our service delivery levels collectively and individually.
 - Be accountable and responsive to the needs and expectations of our employees and the public we serve.
 - Furthermore, we re-commit to live the values of the organization.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Jeff Radebe, also graced the occasion by closing the summit. He said he did not come to address the NPA but to interact with it.

He commended the NPA for holding such a summit, and said it was proof that the leadership of the organisation was committed to improving service delivery. He said contrary to the reports of some sections of the media, the NPA was not an embattled and unstable institution.

His speech focused mainly on what he thought the NPA needed to do in order to turn things around. At the top of his list he urged the NPA to make crime fighting a top priority and to avoid falling in the complacency trap. He also emphasised the importance of efficiency and professionalism in the way the NPA conducts its business, as this could boost public confidence in the country's criminal justice system.

Mr Radebe said he was aware that the complexity of certain matters made it impossible to finalise them in a short period of time, however, he also urged the NPA to look at new ways of doing things in order to ensure speedy finalisation of cases.

The Minister also touched on the issue of the justice cluster working together to find workable solutions to making the country's criminal justice system more efficient. He said, "Let us find ways of making the CJS more efficient. Let us all make contributions by identifying areas that are a stumbling block and find ways to resolve them".

The Minister praised the NPA for one case that has made headlines in the media, namely the successful prosecution and conviction of a reckless driver from the Western Cape who was charged with murder instead of culpable homicide. "The carnage on our roads is far too high. Hopefully this conviction will send a strong message to other reckless drivers, especially those who drive under the influence of alcohol, that they will face the full might of the law".

The Minister encouraged both prosecutors and support staff to work together to ensure that they were both aligned to common goals. He said "Roll back your

sleeves to ensure that all people in South Africa are and feel safe. As the Executive, we appreciate the work done by the NPA. We are aware of the challenges you face, but we commit ourselves to offering you the support you need".

WAY FORWARD OF THE SUMMIT

A focus team to monitor the implementation of recommendations and to develop an action plan for its implementation using the project approach was established.

FORMULATION CRITERIA:

- The focus team is made up by senior staff members who have the authority to make decisions.
- Focus team to report to EXCO on a regular basis.
- Focus team to hold mid-term, quarterly or semi-annual review meeting of progress.
- Only the focus team, relevant unit heads and the NDPP as a chairperson should attend.

The ANDPP closed the summit by saying the summit provided a platform for all SMS members to meet and lay bare all the things that made them uncomfortable. She said she appreciated the way in which people freely aired their views.



NPA SMS Local Organising Committee with the ANDPP Nomgcobo Jiba and Chief Justice, Mogoeng Mogoeng at the centre

VOX POP

Khasho interviewed a few of the senior managers and this is what they had to say when asked about their expectations:



Willie Hofmeyr, Head of AFU

It is a very important occasion for the NPA to bring its whole management together to really take stock of where the organisation is in terms of both the standing of the NPA in the country and our performance, and just about what we are contributing to fighting crime in SA.



Nkebe Kanyane, DDPP, SCCU

One thing that I would like this summit to discuss is transformation. I would like to know what is the organisation doing to empower women.



Matric Luphondo, Chief Prosecutor Pretoria Magistrate Court

We have always had these kinds of workshops that map the wayforward on issues that affect prosecutors. It has always been a conference that has been bearing results for prosecutors.



Zolekile Phafa, Corporate Manager, Bisho

I've come here with a positive attitude – we all live in a changing society, it is apparent that every organisation has to redefine itself. My expectation therefore is to improve on the mandate given to the NPA and the expectation of the peoples of this country.

Karen Van Rensburg, Acting CEO

It's many years we haven't had this opportunity to bring all the top management together. This is a big think tank that we are planning to do in the next three days. It is exciting that everybody can take part in the decision making and interrogate issues that we have to deal with as an organisation. I am very optimistic that at the end of these three days we are going to come up with some plans to address performance issues both in the lower and higher courts, culture and values of the NPA.



Prince Mokotedi, Acting Executive Manager, IMU

There are certain things that should be done in respect of culture. We need to shake it up to unfreeze things that are holding us back to maximise our performance.



Tara Appalraju, Project Manager: SOCA

It seems as if It's going to be quite a phenomenal event. Everyone that is supposed to be here seems to be here. We hope this will be a successful conference..



Adv Ivy Thenga, DPP Northern Cape

This presents an opportunity to know one another as management within NPA.



Adv Thoko Majokweni, Special Director: SOCA

As a summit moderator I am very happy and ecstatic. The turnout is good. This is what we were hoping for. We have almost all senior managers of the organisation; they have come in big numbers.



MEET IMU ACTING EXECUTIVE MANAGER – PRINCE MOKOTEDI

Tebogo Seate

THE INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT UNIT (IMU) IS ONE OF THE UNITS WITHIN THE NPA THAT HAS A MAMMOTH TASK TO CARRY OUT, AND OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD BY MOST EMPLOYEES.

To most people, IMU conjures images of some “big brother” watching over people all the time, monitoring their every movement, and ready to send them away should they make any slight mistake. However, Khasho spoke to Mr Prince Mokotedi, the Acting Executive Manager of IMU to find out exactly what his unit does.

What is the role of IMU?

To cut the long story short, the role of IMU is two-fold, firstly, to increase the levels of integrity of employees through education, awareness and training on the ethics of the organisation, and secondly, to increase the levels of organisational integrity by ensuring that our systems, policies and procedures encourage a culture that is intolerant of unethical conduct. We want to build an organisation with high ethical standards, where people comply voluntarily with all the policies and procedures of the NPA. In other words, we want to achieve a dispensation of voluntary compliance, where people do the right things all the time even when no one is watching over them.

How would you rate the levels of voluntary compliance within the NPA?

There are some pockets of voluntary compliance within the organisation which one can rate quite highly, and this is most notable in respect of employees’ positive response to disclosures of financial interests and applications for remunerative work outside the NPA. I am always humbled when people come forward to make such disclosures without being pushed to do so.

I find that negligence and ignorance play a major part in the failure to comply by most people. However, there are instances where employees blatantly act in ways that result in non-compliance. For example, there was a prosecutor in Rustenburg who was running a construction company and as a result his duties suffered quite tremendously because he was never in court. When the IMU discovered this and confronted him

he resigned on the spot. So it is clear that the prosecutor in question was only using the NPA to get extra cash because he devoted almost all of his time to running his company.

What ethics issues were identified at the SMS Summit and what is the IMU planning as a way forward?

It was agreed at the SMS conference that in general, there is really no crisis in the NPA regarding the ethical conduct of employees and the integrity of the organisation as a whole. However, it was also agreed that there is a need to continue encouraging employees to behave and conduct themselves ethically in whatever work and circumstances they may find themselves. My view is that management agrees that we should continue to strengthen the ethical infrastructure of the organisation.

You have developed a system called Early Warning System. What is it about?

The purpose of the system is to assist the organisation to detect ethical challenges and gaps beforehand, and to respond to those swiftly and decisively. For example, in the past there was a senior manager who had a problem with gambling, but he was still allowed to handle large amounts of cash. He used the money to gamble and he ultimately lost his job, and he is now facing criminal, fraud and embezzlement charges. You see, if we could have detected his problem at the beginning, we could have intervened and put him through counselling. With the Early Warning System, a situation like that could have easily been prevented. You are also aware that one of our prosecutors in the former DSO was sentenced to ten years in prison on corruption charges.

What would you regard as your main problematic areas as far as ethics are concerned?

In the past it used to be fraud committed within the finance and procurement environment. But these days there is a slight shift and we are beginning to receive



Prince Mokotedi

more and more cases of prosecutorial misconduct. Unfortunately the perception of prosecutorial misconduct tends to affect the public trust in the organisation. Our goal is to get the public to trust our prosecutors and the decisions made by the organisation, but when corruption meddles with our operations, it becomes increasingly difficult to achieve that.

Do you have any message for NPA staff in general?

My message is quite a simple one: let us all strive towards building a working environment that is really fulfilling, where people can trust and help each other to grow. We must all put our hands on the plough to deliver services that will contribute towards a safe and prosperous society.

Furthermore, I encourage people to behave and conduct themselves in an ethical way without big brother having to watch over them – and make it one of their core values in life, both at work and in their dealings with society in general.

GRUESOME MURDER OF YOUNG COUPLE

Natasha Ramkisson

On 30 August 2006, a young courting couple (Sikhumbuzo Tuta and Nolwazi Faku) from the Kokstad area went missing. Family members of the man, Sikhumbuzo, realised that something was wrong when he did not return home by midnight. They tried to contact him on his cell phone. It was only two days later that they managed to get through to a young man working in a tavern.

This man confirmed that he had received the SIM card from Xolani Makhaveni Silangwe. The police, believing they had nothing more serious than a missing person enquiry on their hands, questioned Silangwe, who also allowed them to search his house. In it they recovered a pair of bloodstained trousers, a pair of sunglasses and a clothes shopping bag, which were seized as exhibits and positively identified by family members of Mr Tuta's. A car stereo system was also found elsewhere and linked to Jomo Mboto and Unathi Mboniswa

On 17 September 2006 patrolling crime prevention members came across the remains of a burnt out motor vehicle in a ditch on a farm near Kokstad. As the car was an Opel Corsa and as the missing couple had been in a Corsa, it was suspected to be the same car. In the boot was found the badly charred body of Mr Tuta. A few metres from the car was what was described by one of the officers as 'what looked like a piece of flesh'. It was all that was left of the female deceased, Nolwazi Faku, and was nothing more than a portion of her lower spine, her pelvis and the upper parts of her legs.

Blood samples were then taken from the parents of the missing couple and undamaged bone marrow was recovered from both bodies. These were sent for DNA testing and in due course a comparative DNA analysis confirmed that the remains found in and near the car belonged to Miss Faku and Mr Tuta. A post mortem was performed and it was established beyond doubt that the deceased had been alive when the fire had started.



Advocate Wendy Greef

Meanwhile an independent witness had been traced who was able to say that early on the morning of 31 August 2006, the three accused had been in her home and that Silangwe had been wearing bloodstained trousers matching the description of those recovered by the police at his house.

Strangely during the trial, Silangwe did not dispute that the bloodstained trousers were found in his house. He even went so far as to say that he had been told by the independent witness to take the trousers away from the vicinity of her house, and that he had done so and had thrown the trousers through the window of his own house. He also at some stage during cross-examination, claimed that Mboniswa had in fact worn the trousers that morning. Mboniswa on the other hand corroborated the evidence of the witness, and confirmed Silangwe had been wearing the trousers. When the trousers were sent for forensic analysis, it was established that it was 2 trillion times more likely that the blood had come from Miss Faku than from any other person on earth.

Mboniswa had done a pointing out

which was admitted after a trial-within-a-trial, and in it he agreed that he and his co-accused had tied the victims up with ropes, had set the vehicle containing them alight, and had pushed the vehicle off the main road. It had thereafter run by itself down a slope, and into the ditch where it was eventually found. In his evidence he denied he had used the word 'we' when he had done the pointing out, but maintained that he knew it was the work of his co-accused, as they had all come across the parked vehicle on the night of 30 August 2006, and had decided to steal something from it in order to get drinking money. When he saw the car was occupied he claimed to have fled, but said that the following morning his co-accused had showed him the burnt vehicle, and had told him they would kill him if he told anybody what they had done. Eventually after he was convicted he admitted that the three of them had all perpetrated the offences together.

In reaching his decision, Judge Piet Koen found that the evidence linking the bloodstained trousers to Silangwe was overwhelming. He also had no hesitation in accepting the evidence of the witness who had stated he had received the

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END OF THE ROAD FOR EASTERN CAPE'S MOST DANGEROUS GANG

Luxolo Tyali

The reign of terror by the infamous five led by Sakhi Mvoko, came to an abrupt end when retired Judge Collin White sentenced them to no less than 25 years imprisonment in the Mthatha High Court recently.

They escaped from legal custody at least three times, in one instance nearly fatally shooting a correctional services official. During their short freedom outside, they robbed two banks of millions of rands, robbed a police station of a number of firearms and killed at least four people, among other things.

During their trial they had to be transported daily from a facility in Kokstad, more than 200 kilometres away from Mthatha High Court, by a motorcade of more than six vehicles, because they were considered too dangerous to be kept at the Mthatha Correctional facility. Even a retired judge had to return to the bench to preside over the marathon trial, which lasted a total of 86 days with 84 witnesses called to give evidence.

Sakhumzi "Sakhi" Mvoko, the eldest, barely 30 years old, Simthembele Zibi, Odwa "Oros" Sithole, Bongani Same and Mthuthuzeli Sisilana were sentenced after they were found guilty of no less than 18 counts, including robbery with aggravating circumstances, possession of illegal firearms, attempted murder and car theft.

In what was reminiscent of a Wild Wild West Movie, the five men branded by the police as the "Eastern Cape's most notorious", went on a robbery spree during the period between April 2007 and July 2007, targeting Fidelity Cash Services, a company which conveys large sums of money from different places in the Eastern Cape. They committed the robberies in different small towns around the former Transkei: the first one in Willowvale, then Mthatha, Ngqeleni and Tsolo.

In order to accomplish their first mission they robbed a mini truck in Mthatha, which they used to travel to Willowvale where they committed the robbery on 24 April 2007.



Advocate Ndooyisile Lamla

Barely a month after the first robbery, they went on to commit another one at Excelsior Complex in Mthatha, where they made off with more than R300 000 in cash, airtime vouchers, a motor vehicle and cellular telephones.

The following week they stole a motor vehicle at Mthatha Plaza shopping centre and proceeded to Tsolo where they robbed another Fidelity Cash Management Services vehicle. They were at it again two weeks after that robbing another cash-in-transit vehicle between Libode and Port St Johns. They continued until they were arrested by the police.

The accused were found guilty on all the charges, with Judge Collin White saying the evidence presented against the accused was overwhelming, including that of the Section 204 witness, who was initially part of the gang.

The five men still have more than four outstanding cases for the offences they committed when they escaped from custody.

COMMENTARY BY ADVOCATE NDOYISILE LAMLA

This was a very long and involved case and it took us almost seven months to finalise. The trial was delayed for four years as two of the five accused persons escaped from lawful custody of the police on several occasions before the trial commenced.

They also challenged the constitutionality of Act 9 of 1983 (Transkei Penal Code), which, combined with their changing of attorneys on numerous trial dates, took a lot of court time.

The accused were very arrogant throughout the trial. When they testified in their own defence they accused the investigating officer and the prosecuting counsel of conspiring with witnesses to falsely implicate them in all the offences. Their alibi defence was raised, for the first time in their defence in chief. In total ten defence witnesses were called to support the accused's alibi defence.

In this case I learnt that when you are dealing with dangerous criminals you must be cool, calm and collected as they will always attempt to intimidate you so that you do not prosecute their case freely without fear.

I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the investigating officer, Warrant Officer Xolile Mdepha, and his team who did a sterling job in solving and investigating these armed robberies. Whenever Sakhumzi Mvoko and Odwa Sithole escaped from lawful custody, the team always ensured that they were arrested and brought to court. He also through his thorough investigation, uncovered and stopped a long series of vicious attacks by the Mvoko gang on cash-in-transit vehicles and their operators in the Transkei area.

Luxolo Tyali is the Regional Communications Manager for DPP: Mthatha

SOUTHERN CAPE ATTORNEY COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE LAW

Eric Ntabazalila

Mossel Bay attorney Hans Jurie Zietsman has been sentenced to five years direct imprisonment and has had his name removed from the roll of attorneys after he was found guilty of stealing trust funds and fraud. Zietsman was charged with one count of theft and two counts of fraud.

Between 2007 and 2009, Zietsman was the sole director of Jurie Zietsman Attorneys Incorporated. Sums of money were entrusted to his firm by its clients and the monies were supposed to be held in a trust until certain matters had been completed, certain creditors of the said clients had been paid and generally until the amounts held in the trust were due to be paid back to the said complainants. Instead the accused withdrew and used the trust funds from the firm's trust account for purposes other than for which the monies were intended to be used.

When the activities of Jurie Zietsman Attorneys Incorporated were suspended on 15 June 2009, a deficiency of R2,234 million was found and neither the accused nor his firm were in a financial position to replace the monies.

Zietsman also applied for loans to finance service companies on behalf of some of his clients without their knowledge and consent. These loans were made for the clients to buy property. Once the applications were approved, the monies were paid into Zietsman's bank account. He defrauded the finance services companies.

Advocate Phistus Pelesa, representing the state, had such a strong case against the accused that he opted for a plea and sentencing agreement. Zietsman, who was a member of the Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope, reported the shortfall on the firm's trust account to the law society. The law society initiated an investigation and Zietsman's practice was closed down and criminal charges were brought against him. The law society applied for him to be struck off the roll of attorneys and not be allowed to practice as an attorney.

Zietsman was forced to sell all his assets including the family house in order to repay those who suffered losses. As a result all the stolen monies



Advocate Phistus Pelesa

were repaid apart from R33 487.17 that remains outstanding to a finance company. Another mitigating factor in Zietsman's favour was that he was deeply involved in community work including being a member of the Round Table Organisation. He also supported Operation Hunger and local welfare organisations. His welfare work included offering free legal advice, assisting the needy to apply for pensions and assisting them to obtain insurance payments.

COMMENTARY BY ADV PHISTUS PELESA

The accused, Mr Jurie Zietsman, practiced as an attorney in Mossel Bay, Western Cape Province, under the name and style of Jurie Zietsman Attorneys. Several claims, involving unlawful use of trust funds and fraudulent application of short term loans using client's personal details and information, were reported

to the Department of Priority Crimes Investigations' Commercial Crimes Unit in George. These claims were investigated by Sgt P. A. Piedt and subsequently, a number of dockets were registered against Mr Zietsman.

In total Mr Zietsman administered trust funds in a reckless and cavalier manner and caused a trust shortfall of plus minus R1.9 million. In addition he made two fraudulent applications for short term loans totalling R400,000.

The State's case against Mr Zietsman was strong and an agreement in terms of Section 105A of Act 51 of 1977 was inevitable. Mr Zietsman paid an amount of R2.2 million to the complainants. In addition, the accused was sentenced to 8 (eight years) direct imprisonment, of which three years have been suspended on conditions contained in the plea and sentence agreement.

Eric Ntabazalila is the Regional Communications Manager for DPP: Western Cape

PROFESSIONALISM, INTEGRITY, SERVICE EXCELLENCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CREDIBILITY

55 YEARS FOR ATM CRIMINALS

Frank Lesenyego

On 17 February 2012, the North West High Court sitting in Temba sentenced three ATM bombers to a total of 55 years each. The accused came from Mabopane, Mamelodi East Extension and Brits respectively.

They were found guilty of murder, malicious damage to property, theft, possession of suspected stolen property and possession of explosives, and were each sentenced to 55 years by Judge Hendricks.

The court heard that during the early hours of 7 August 2008, the suspects, armed with fire-arms and explosives, proceeded to an ABSA Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) at Majaneng Supermarket in Temba, Hammanskraal, and thereafter bombed the said ATM, stealing an unknown amount of cash. They fired their way out and made good escape in two vehicles.

The same night while the investigations were underway in Mabopane, the police received information about a white VW Polo and a white Ford car which matched the description of the two vehicles involved in the ATM bombing.

After receiving a tip-off from informants, the police spotted the same vehicles passing them. The said vehicles were driven to a residential area. They eventually stopped in one of the houses. The suspects came out of the vehicles carrying bags and entered the house. The police officials knocked at the door and informed the suspects that they were police officials. Upon hearing this, the suspects opened fire at the police from within the house, then police returned fire as a result one of the accused was fatally wounded. On realising that they were overpowered by the police the suspects surrendered and were arrested immediately. The police searched the house and recovered a cash amount of

R 40 960. 00, fire-arms, ammunition as well as explosives.

Whilst shooting at the police, the suspects were quite aware of the possibility of retaliation by the police and also the possibility of fatalities, nevertheless, they persisted in their reckless conduct whether or not death ensued.

All accused were charged with murder, malicious damage to property, possession of suspected stolen property, unlawful possession of firearms, possession of ammunition and possession of explosives.

COMMENTARY BY ADV TAKALANI MUNERI

I was relieved when the case was finalised. This was a troublesome matter. There was no investigating officer due to the changes made by the Gauteng Organised Crime Unit when they relocated from Germiston to Vereeniging. The docket was in our office awaiting a decision when they relocated, and when we had finished, the local police could not help in preparing for trial. I had to personally visit different witnesses in their respective workplaces for consultation.

I had to soldier on despite all the difficulties that were facing me. I had to use whatever was available to me to prove that the accused were guilty, and in the end I was the winner. I believed right from the beginning that this was a case which the State would not afford not to prosecute.

This case has taught me the importance of full co-operation and the spirit of team work amongst all stakeholders when prosecuting criminal matters. On my own I would not have made it. Like I mentioned, there was no investigating officer in this matter. However, through the help of the police officers who apprehended the accused and became witnesses during the trial, I managed to secure a successful conviction against all the accused.



Advocate Takalani Muneri

Frank Lesenyego is the Regional Communications Manager for DPP: North West

PROFESSIONALISM, INTEGRITY, SERVICE EXCELLENCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CREDIBILITY

NPA AMONGST FIRST FIVE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO HAVE ETHICS OFFICERS

Cynthia Mogola

Government is moving in the direction to legislate the appointment of Ethics Officers.

Legislation was already adopted (Companies Act) to legislate the appointment of social and ethics committees for the private sector. In anticipation of this, the NPA has embarked on a process of training its own Ethics Officers.

What is an Ethics Officer?

An Ethics Officer is someone who aligns the practices of the workplace with its stated ethical standards to assist leadership and officials to live up to them. Special qualifications are not required to be an Ethics Officer although Ethics Officers are expected to have excellent ethical conduct and lead by example. The NPA, as an organisation which promotes integrity, has spent valuable amount of resources in training some of its employees as Ethics Officers.

Presently, the NPA is amongst the first five government departments in the country to have its officials to be trained as Ethics Officers and the first to have in-house training for its officials.

The NPA has ten certified Ethics Officers and the majority of them are in the Integrity Management Unit (IMU). The IMU is the custodian of ethics management in the NPA. The officials were trained by the Ethics Institute of South Africa (EthicsSA) and the course is accredited by SETA at NQF level 5.

Why Ethics Officers?

It is in everybody's best interest to adhere to the organisations' ethical principles, but specific individuals are needed to drive the process of protecting, nurturing and improving the ethical culture of the organisation.

Ethics Officers will assist the organisation in the following ways:

- Assessing its ethics-related risk and vulnerabilities;
- Implementing and managing its ethics infrastructure;
- Increasing their understanding of the roles of ethics in corporate governance; and
- Understanding ethics concepts and developing ethical, reasoning skills.

As an Ethics Officer, one is able to:

- Assist in ensuring that appropriate ethical standards are established and adequately communicated in their respective business units;
- Be in a position to be a resource for other employees with their questions and concerns; and
- Contribute to building a culture of integrity where ethical dialogue is encouraged and wrong doing is discouraged or actually prevented and reported.



Some of the NPA's Ethics Officers, from left to right: Khanyisile Mavuso, Petunia Moagi, Salomon Hoogenraad-Vermaak, Audrey Sibanyoni and Kenny Lehutso.

MAN SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT FOR DEALING IN DAGGA

Tsepo Ndwalaza

The accused, a 56 year old male of Philippi in the Western Cape, was charged in the Regional Court, East London, with the offence of dealing in drugs.

According to the police officers who gave evidence for the State, on the night of 26 August 2010 they, as members of the SAPS K-9 Unit (AKA the Dog Unit) were patrolling the N2 between East London and the Kei Bridge. At about 01:45 they saw an eight ton closed truck approaching apparently from the side of the former Transkei, from the direction of the Kei Bridge. The truck was hired from Budget Rental and Van Hire.

Upon being asked about the nature of his load, he said he had boxes which he was to deliver to DHL in East London. He could produce neither invoice for the said "boxes", nor keys for the back of the truck. The truck was locked at the back with a padlock and a seal. The police drove the truck to the East London fire station where the seal was broken and the truck was opened. Inside the truck 135 bags of dagga were found. Some mothballs and other detergents were also found next to the door of the truck, apparently placed there to disguise the smell of dagga. The accused was kept in police custody and later released on bail of R10 000.

The trial commenced on 29 August 2011, when the accused pleaded not guilty to the charge of dealing in dagga, as well as the alternative count of possession of dagga. The evidence as stated above was then led. The only witness who was not a member of the SAPS was the director of the company in whose premises the dagga was weighed. This witness testified as to the calibration of the equipment used to weigh the dagga. He was, like other state witnesses, cross-examined at length.

On 14 March 2012, the Court found the accused's story not to be reasonably probably true and convicted him on the main count of dealing in drugs. On 15 March 2012, he was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. An application on his behalf for leave to appeal was opposed by the State and refused by the Court.



Advocate Callaway Mtwana

It transpired that the accused was known to members of the Department of Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI) in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape as "the druglord of dagga" prior to this incident. They had been trying to catch him but could not, as he apparently hitherto avoided dirtying his hands. The Hawks could not hide their excitement at having the accused locked away for such a long time.

COMMENTARY BY THE PROSECUTOR – ADV CALLAWAY MTWANA

I took over this trial from one of my colleagues, Adv Nomawethu Mvume, when it was already partly heard. I therefore feel she also deserves credit for excellently presenting the State's case in the initial stages of the trial.

I encountered some difficulty in that one of the samples was missing, indicating possible tampering with the evidence before it reached the laboratory, according to the defence attorney. The investigator had sent 135 samples, yet the analyst had tested only 134. My own extensive prosecution experience had to come to play in dealing with this potentially fatal flaw in the State's case.

The accused gave evidence in his own defence, and was the only defence

witness called. He tried his best to play dumb and convey to the Court a picture of an unsophisticated rural old man whose only mistake was to accept a job offer as a truck driver. He was extremely evasive under cross-examination and failed to give any direct answer to my questions. However, in argument I drew the court's attention to the fact that according to his own version the accused lived in Philippi near Cape Town, and he had been driving trucks around the country since 1974. The fact that his original home was in Gatyana in the Transkei was irrelevant. He therefore could not be as unsophisticated as he wanted the court to believe. His version that he was oblivious of the nature of his load was rejected by the Court, hence the conviction.

I believe the custodial sentence imposed in this case will send a strong message that the courts will regard trafficking in drugs in the same manner as they regard robbery, murder, rape etc., and impose stiff sentences. Drug syndicates will now know that it will not be sufficient for them to collect funds from their ill-gotten gains for a fine whenever one of them has been caught. It is a pity though, that the court in this case accepted the age of the accused as a substantial and compelling factor in justifying departure from the minimum sentence of fifteen years imprisonment prescribed in terms of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1997 (Act No.105 of 1997).

GANG OF SEVEN GIVEN LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCES

Frank Lesenyego

A group of seven men from Dinokana Village were given lengthy prison sentences by the North West High Court in Mafikeng on 27 February 2012.

The accused, all from the same village, were charged and convicted for the kidnapping and murder of Billy Thobegane.

The Court heard that on 11 October 2008 at around 12pm, the accused went to fetch Billy Thobegane from his home, accusing him of having an unlicensed firearm. As they did not find him the first time, they came back later and managed to apprehend him and tied his hands. He

was taken away and after a while they brought him back bleeding profusely. He was instructed to hand over the firearm and they continued to search his home for the firearm in vain. They then left the premises with him, and one of the accused even threatened to pour acid over him if he did not give them his firearm.

The victim was never seen alive again. He was later found dead, two weeks after his disappearance.

During the trial, it was established that the victim was assaulted with bare feet and fists and was also tied with a rope. He was brutally assaulted

because he did not reveal where the firearm was kept.

Initially, ten people were accused for Thobegane's murder but charges against the other two were withdrawn due to insufficient evidence whilst the third accused passed away during trial.

A post mortem was not conducted on the late Billy Thobegane because his body was badly decomposed. Not all the accused pleaded guilty to the murder. However, Judge Kgoele found them guilty and sentenced them to a maximum of 16 years for kidnapping and murder.

COMMENTARY FROM ADV TAKALANI MUNERI

I feel relieved knowing that the family of the deceased can now go on with their lives and regard this as a closed chapter. The deceased died in 2008 and it took almost three and half years before the family could see justice being done. At some stage the process became unbearable for the family. The number of people who were accused contributed to the delay in this case.

I knew that I was going to secure a successful conviction despite their version that the deceased ran away and could have died of something not related to their actions. They were taking advantage of the fact that we could not conduct a post-mortem to determine the cause of death because the body was recovered after two weeks and in an advanced state of decomposition. They also argued that DNA analysis should have been done. However, I am glad that they were all convicted after we argued that there was circumstantial evidence to that effect.

What have I learnt from the case? It is true that life is a learning process and indeed this case taught me that before the prosecution I should have investigated if it would not have been possible to get matching DNA evidence. But I am happy that in the end, justice was served!



Advocate Takalani Muneri



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ADV HOSEA RAPULA MOLEFE
SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
PROSECUTIONS – NORTH WEST

Khasho is a step in the right direction in informing, educating and enhancing standards of knowledge and productivity within the NPA. It should therefore cover all the areas within which the NPA operates both “big and small”.

BONOLO CENGETHE, SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR
- DPP NORTH WEST

I find the publication enlightening and educational. Since I started reading it, I have a better understanding of the Criminal Justice System and successful prosecutions of the North West office. A story that caught my attention is that of a taxi driver in Cape Town which Adv Galloway proved beyond reasonable doubt the negligence and irresponsible conduct of Mr Humphreys. The newsletter must keep on improving in order to cover all the areas of the organisation.

SENIOR STATE ADV JACOB TLOUBATLA
– DPP SOUTH GAUTENG

Khasho is good as it keeps employees informed and keeps regions in touch with one another. It would be good to make provision for a column like, the Lawyer’s Corner, where advocates can share information on the latest legal developments / legislation as well as information that can be of assistance to others.

SENIOR STATE ADV NERISSA REDDY – DPP SOUTH
GAUTENG

It is always good to know what the NDPP thinks and plans. I enjoyed the crossword puzzle; it gave me a breather off my court work and please publish the answers of previous crossword puzzles on the next issue of Khasho.

Continued from page 10

car stereo system from Mbotho. This evidence was also corroborated by Mboniswa.

The accused were all convicted of robbery with aggravating circumstances, two counts of murder, and a count of malicious damage to property relating to the burning of the car.

Silangwe and Mbotho each received 15 years imprisonment for the robbery, 3 years for the malicious injury to property and life imprisonment for the murders, which the judge described as ‘atrocious’.

Mboniswa, on account of the fact he had been only nineteen at the time, had no previous convictions and had shown some

remorse by admitting many things and by apologising to the Tuta family, received 10 years for the robbery, 18 years for each murder and 3 years for the malicious injury to property. All sentences were ordered to run concurrently. Silangwe, on the other hand, had a string of previous convictions escalating in seriousness, and the judge remarked that he was already well on the way to being a hardened criminal.

COMMENTARY BY SENIOR STATE PROSECUTOR WENDY GREEF

I usually deal with organised crime cases, so working on a murder case with

DNA evidence provided an interesting challenge. This was definitely the most horrific murder docket I have seen in 25 years as a prosecutor. Interacting on a daily basis during the trial with the Tuta family gave me a greater awareness of the fact that the deceased are far from being the only victims.

The Tuta family believes that listening to the evidence of the post-mortem, where the pathologist confirmed the deceased had been burned alive, was the cause of their elderly father’s sudden collapse and death the following day. I was proud to be able to help ensure a verdict and sentence with which this tragically bereaved family was satisfied. I am also pleased with the result, and hope that the families of the deceased will find closure now.

Natasha Ramkisson is the Regional Communications Manager for DPP: KZN

NPA EVENTS

NPA IN ALEXANDRIA

Tsepo Ndwalaza

The kwa-Nonkqubela Township in Alexandria community members turned up in large numbers for the NPA Road Show where all the members of the criminal justice cluster rendered their services to the community on 13 April 2012. Other stakeholders participating were, the South African Police Service, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Social Development, Community Policing Forum, Community Based Organisations, Legal Aid South Africa and Religious Organisations in Alexandria.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Lungisile Mahlati addressed the community about the role of the NPA in the criminal justice system and the role of the prosecutor. He also went on to explain issues relating to bail and bail conditions, court interdicts, maintenance and also answered questions from the community during the questions and answer session.

We were also joined by the councillors from the Ndlambe Municipality under which Alexandria falls and they also addressed the community. They also thanked the NPA for this effort and were particularly grateful for the approach that we adopted, that of including all the members of the criminal justice cluster as they also believed that the impact will be much bigger in terms of educating the community about our services.

We would like to thank all the those departments from the criminal justice cluster who made this day a great success, the entertainment from the local schools, the programme director who also happened to be Reverend of the Church that provided us with the venue for the event for free. My colleagues, who assisted in the event, keep up the good work!!!!



Advocate Lungi Mahlati

SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Tsepo Ndwalaza

On the 19 April 2012, the NPA was invited by the principal, Mr Nophotho of Soqhayisa High School in Motherwell, Port Elizabeth, to educate learners about the law and how they can avoid being involved in criminal activities. Engaging with the learners was senior prosecutor Ms Portia Maliza, stationed at the New Law Court in Port Elizabeth.

Using both English and vernacular, Ms Maliza encouraged learners who do not follow mathematics stream to choose law after they matriculate. She engaged the learners about the role of a prosecutor in the justice system chain and about court processes. She also mentioned the importance of social media e.g. twitter, facebook, Whats App etc., but also told them that these media platforms could also be very dangerous if they were not vigilant when using them. She explained and appealed to the learners to use these platforms to improve their lives and

avoid the urge of sending/posting naked pictures of themselves.

She also spoke at length about the need for learners to concentrate on their studies and not to engage in sexual activities as these can get them into trouble because underage sex is considered as a crime and can be prosecuted. She informed them that there are a lot of opportunities for them if they are interested in studying law and gave information and subjects that will allow them to follow this line of work.

After this session there were questions from the learners as well as teachers who were very impressed with the fact that we actually visited the school and provided their learners with

vital information. The Life Orientations teacher, Mr Skenjana on behalf of the school, expressed his gratitude for the NPA's effort. He said with the kind of information that we shared with the learners the life orientation periods in the entire school will never be the same.



Soqhayisa High School learners

Tsepo Ndwalaza is the Regional Communications Manager for DPP: PE

NPA GOES FOR GOLD AT THE ROYAL SHOW 2012

Natasha Ramkissoon

As part of the NPA's education and awareness programme, the NPA once again participated in the Royal Show which took place in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal, from 25 May to 3 June 2012. The NPA exhibition team did not come back barehanded – our exhibition stand won the prestigious GOLD MEDAL AWARD in recognition of our excellent display and customer service.

The NPA stand achieved a score of above 80% for the stunning display as well as the way NPA staff received members of the public who visited the stall, looking for assistance and information. In addition, the NPA also received a trophy which was awarded to all participants in Hall 8, for being the best and most interactive exhibition hall. The hall consisted mostly of our partners in the JCPS cluster and other crime-fighting organisations.

This year's Royal Show was the 161st show since its inception in 1851, making it South Africa's oldest and largest mixed exhibition. Although the show is primarily about agriculture, it also provides the government and its various institutions with an opportunity to bring service delivery closer to the public. The NPA has, over the past few years, participated in the show as part of its awareness programme to reach out to as many people as possible.

The NPA exhibited alongside its partners in the JCPS cluster. The theme for this year was **Championing Safety and Security**.

Our activities during the show included some of the following:

- A demonstration by Court Preparation Officers of how the court process works using puppets in order to make the educational process more interesting;
- Prosecutors also used the opportunity to educate school learners about the Sexual Offences Act; and

- Staff from the Edendale Thuthuzela Care Center (TCC) shared the platform with the NPA to create awareness about the TCC.

Congratulations to all our DPP KwaZulu colleagues who enabled the NPA to win the award, but more importantly, by being good ambassadors of the organisation through the excellent customer service they offered to visitors!



NPA officials displaying awards



The Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Sbu Ndebele, was among some of the dignitaries who visited the NPA stall.



NPA LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH WEST

Frank Lesenyego

On 18 April 2012, the DPP North West gave a public lecture to law students based at the Mafikeng campus of the University of North West. The lecture was aimed at empowering law students from the university to learn more about the functions of the NPA as well as its role in the Criminal Justice System.

The team from the NPA consisted of the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in the North West, Adv Hosea Rapula Molefe, together with the Deputy Manager of Human Resource Management, Ms Flora Kalakgosi.

In his opening remarks, Mr Viljoen, from the University's Faculty of Law, welcomed the NPA and expressed his gratitude for the contribution that the NPA was making towards creating awareness amongst the law students.

The lecture focused on what the NPA and other cluster departments were doing in fighting and preventing crime, and how the Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster were working together to address the government's priority to ensure that all people in South Africa are and feel safe.

Adv Hosea Rapula Molefe spent some time explaining in detail why the NPA was established, the meaning of its

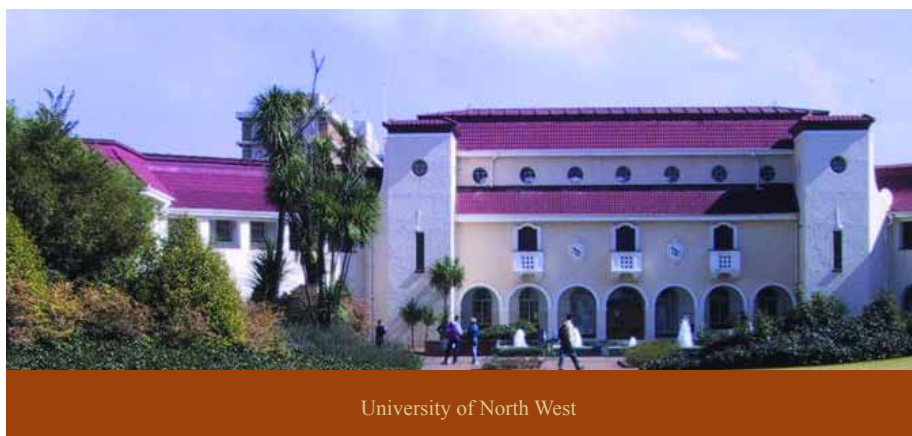
vision and mission, and how prosecutions were contributing towards eradicating crime.

Students were also given an opportunity to ask questions. Some of the questions they raised were: would the NPA employ someone with a criminal record; does the NPA also consider students from other countries, and whether the NPA had training and development programmes in place to assist prosecutors to grow in their ranks.

In his response, Adv Molefe said it was the responsibility of every jobseeker to disclose their criminal record to their

prospective employer. He said the NPA gave first preference to South African citizens in order to reduce the high levels of unemployment as per the South African Programme of Action.

Adv Molefe also spent some time explaining how the NPA's Aspirant Prosecutor Programme worked. He said it was a unique recruitment drive used by the organisation to attract and develop prosecutorial talent. Most of the people who have graduated from the programme have moved on to become successful prosecutors. He strongly encouraged them to consider applying for the programme.



University of North West

Frank Lesenyego is the Regional Communications Manager for DPP: North West

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EDITOR:

Nomilo Mpondo
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Bulelwa Makeke

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Send your news and letters to
khasho@npa.gov.za

or

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012 843 2120

