



Khasho



News for NPA staff, friends and stakeholders

November/December 2008





Looking back on a successful year

The year 2008 has been a dramatic one for the NPA. That it happened to mark the 10th anniversary of the organisation's existence is quite symbolic. I do not know of any ten-year-old who has been through what the NPA has been through in its first decade. To add injury to insult, we wind down the year with the announcement by President Kgalema Motlanthe of his decision to relieve Advocate Vusi Pikoli of his duties as the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), following the process of the Ginwala Commission.

It has really been a difficult year – the fate of the Directorate of Special Operations (DSO) was finally sealed by the passing of the relevant bills in Parliament in September, which would ensure that this effective crime-fighting unit is incorporated into the South African Police Service (SAPS). The necessary processes to move the affected personnel over to the SAPS are in full motion to meet the February 2009 deadline for the new Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI) to be completed. The necessary communication to all affected parties in this regard has been, and continues to be disseminated to manage the change as best as we can.

While a further opportunity to address the members of the DSO and bid them farewell in an appropriate manner will arise closer to the time of their move, I would still like to take this opportunity to say to all of them: You have made



Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe

us proud. You continued to work hard and to remain focused and professional, despite all the forces that seemed to gang up against you. I thank you on behalf of all in the NPA for your good work and commitment, and I hope your work will be enhanced in the new environment. May you accept with honour the accolades bestowed upon you by the public; and with dignity the criticism from some quarters, so that the totality of the lessons from the past nine years are enhanced and raised to new heights in the new unit.

The difficulties were not only faced by the DSO. All of us in the NPA have had our fair share. I re-emphasise the difficulty of running such a complex organisation with so many acting positions at a very senior level. It is also for that reason that

I would like to thank the leadership of the organisation for helping to keep things going and making sure that the centre holds under trying circumstances.

I am even prouder of the successes that we have achieved as a team: the leadership, together with management and all members of staff. This can be measured by all the successful convictions that we achieved in all the courts across the country, the successful seizures and forfeitures that continue to give criminals sleepless nights, our increased focus on dealing with matters of gender-based violence and crime against women and children, and the successful protection of our witnesses. Significantly, I am thankful for the support from our corporate services, trusting that their renewed commitment to improving service delivery to the core business units will be realised in the new year.

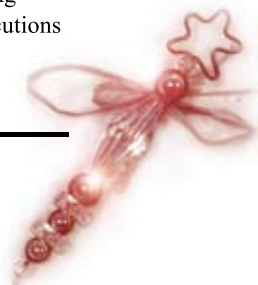
May I also take this opportunity to wish all of you and your loved ones a wonderful festive season and restful holidays. If you will be driving, do so safely and responsibly – don't drink and drive. Let's tackle 2009 on a high, in the determination that we are not doing our work to be popular, but to serve the public and, together with our partners, to strengthen the difficult fight against crime.

Happy holidays!

Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe - Acting
National Director of Public Prosecutions

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Paying tribute to Tlali Tlali

Tlali Tlali, the NPA's media spokesperson, was a finalist in the National BUA Award category of the Government Communicator's Awards for 2008. Bua means 'to speak' in Setswana, and this category caters for ministerial liaison officers and departmental spokespersons at individual or group level.



Tlali Tlali, NPA spokesperson and finalist for the National Bua Award.

At the NPA, dealing with the media largely means dealing with sensitive and complex matters that involve an intricate understanding of the law, the criminal justice system and the constitution. The responsibility of the NPA's spokesperson is to inform the public through the media about the work and mandate of the NPA. In the process, the spokesperson is expected to educate the public: not only about the NPA, but about the South African criminal justice system in its entirety.

The environment in which the NPA has to communicate has been highly politically charged due to the high-profile nature of matters that are handled. This has been the case particularly over the past year. There has been a high demand for vigorous engagement with the media to provide information and respond to enquiries – accurately, on time and within deadline. Tlali has consistently met this expectation, to the delight of many journalists.

“Our only allegiance is to the Constitution of the country, which compels us to prosecute serious matters, without fear, favour or prejudice.”

- Tlali Tlali



received via e-mail

From: Karyn Maughan
Sent: Thu, 2 Oct 08 11:49
To: Bulelwa Makeke
Subject: Tlali Tlali

Dear Ms Makeke

I feel compelled to write to you about the excellent work being done by the NPA's spokesman, Tlali Tlali.

I deal with a number of different spokespeople on a daily basis, but Mr Tlali stands head and shoulders above the rest. He is always available, professional and extremely diligent about giving intelligent and relevant comment whenever he can do so.

He is never rude or dismissive and, when confronted with a potentially problematic report, he does everything to present the facts calmly and clearly.

I appreciate that the NPA is in the midst of a political minefield that requires its spokesman to be extremely careful about how he articulates the state's activities, attitudes and concerns. Mr Tlali somehow manages to do so.

His integrity and good nature make him someone that I trust and admire. He really is an incredible asset to your organisation.

Thanks, Karyn Maughan
Business Day

An e-mail from the media, one of many that confirms Tlali's professionalism and commitment to his work. Thank you, Tlali for a job well done. You make us proud, says Bulelwa Makeke, NPA Executive Manager: Communications.

THE NPA HOTLINE – 0800 212 580

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



Case managers take part in induction programme



The NPA's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit held an induction programme for case managers from 29 September to 1 October at the VGM Building in Pretoria. The purpose of this programme was to introduce the four case managers who had recently joined the unit and to revisit some of the processes that are in place in the case management project.

The project has been running for six years now and the unit already employs five case managers. They are deployed at various stations, and even though most of them are based at the court, they complement the staff members at the Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs).

Central to the case managers' work is the tracking, monitoring and facilitation of cases through the criminal justice system, which results in the smooth flow of court cases and improved conviction rates. Case managers must have electronic or manual case tracking systems, whereby sufficient information on all cases flowing from the TCCs to the Sexual Offences Court (where these case managers are placed) is captured in a database that can be easily accessed.

The information contained in the database must be communicated to the site coordinator on a daily basis. Case managers have a specific responsibility to ensure that all dockets reach the court in time. This must be done via follow-up visits and regular interaction with the SAPS. Case managers must return the dockets to the investigating officer for further investigation within three days. Different colours are used to indicate which cases have been on the roll for different periods of time (such as under three months, between three and six months, between six and nine months, etc).

A secondary responsibility of case managers is to oversee that state witnesses have gone through court preparation programmes and/or have gone for counselling. Case managers must follow up outstanding DNA-typing results, outstanding SAP 69s (previous convictions), pre-sentence reports, assessment reports, legal aid applications, matters where an accused has been sent for mental observation, as well as any other matter

overseeing and monitoring the case flow management system at a specific court by discussing and clarifying with the magistrate and prosecutors of the specific Sexual Offences Court what their responsibilities are in terms of the case flow management at that court.

Case managers secure the attendance of witnesses, investigating officers and accused persons in custody at court. Although it is not part of case managers' jobs to issue subpoenas and summonses, they are responsible for screening dockets and assessing whether subpoenas and summonses have been issued, as required. If this has not been done, case managers should immediately inform prosecutors, so that action can be taken. Case managers must contact all state witnesses to remind them of their court dates and that they need to be in court at 08:30. Furthermore, they must ensure that the investigating officers are at

court, should their presence be required. They are also responsible for all the arrangements with regard to expert witnesses whose attendance is required at court. Case managers must attach a list of all state witnesses involved in a specific case to the docket, for the prosecutor's ease of reference, not later than 13:00 on the day before the trial date. They must also ensure that the Department of Correctional Services brings all accused persons in custody to court.



Case managers who took part in the SOCA induction programme that was held in Pretoria.

that might have an impact on the trial-readiness of a case.

Case managers assist in managing the court rolls at specialist courts by ensuring that prosecutors are in possession of all the dockets and accompanying charge sheets for cases on a specific day. These documents must reach the prosecutors by not later than 13:00 on the day before the court date. This implies that all case managers are responsible for

They ensure a reduction of turnaround time in the finalisation of cases to nine months. All matters should be finalised within six months of enrolment on the district or regional court roll. Case managers must therefore ensure that all investigations are finalised within an acceptable period. They are responsible for arranging timely consultations between the prosecutor and all state witnesses. However, they may not conduct any trial consultations with complainants or other state witnesses. By overseeing and monitoring the court and case flow management system at the Sexual Offences Court where the case manager is based, all cases flowing from a Thuthuzela Care Centre are prioritised and placed on the roll for trial as soon as possible. Case managers must proactively address any trends, occurrences or incidents that might lead to a delay in the finalisation of cases.

Case managers play a crucial role in establishing and maintaining good functional relationships with all role-players who affect the implementation and outcomes of cases reported at the Thuthuzela Care Centre and flowing to the Sexual Offences Court.

They are the link between the Thuthuzela Care Centre and the relevant Sexual Offences Court and must ensure that information is conveyed accurately, precisely and timeously.

The following matters must be reported to the project manager immediately: challenges not resolved at stakeholder meetings, high-profile cases, delegations to visit the centre and requests by the media for information. Case managers, through their project manager, must at all times keep the relevant provincial and local structures of the National Prosecutions Service informed of the implementation of the project. They should liaise with the site coordinator and victim assistance officer at the Thuthuzela Care Centre on an ongoing basis.

They regularly follow up with relevant role-players by attending monthly implementation meetings at the Thuthuzela care centres, as well as monthly Local Project Oversight Committee meetings.

Case managers address issues of concern at both these meetings and channel information back to representatives at the other meetings on a monthly basis, keeping record of matters arising from these meetings, as well as the outcome of these matters.

Case managers are indirectly responsible for the conviction rate at a specific court and are assessed accordingly. If any circumstances exist that negatively impact on the conviction rate, this should be communicated to the project manager as such circumstances arise.

Project managers may request case managers to conduct additional tasks as may be required by the scope of the project, the mandate of the SOCA Unit or tasks that are appropriate in terms of the SOCA Unit's growth and learning principles.

Case managers must submit monthly reports to the project manager not later than the 7th day of the following month. These reports cover the first to the last day of each month and must include proper statistics according to a designed template. It must refer to all the key performance areas, and must specifically mention challenges and threats to the project. The project manager may also request case managers to submit reports on an ad hoc basis and where necessary.

DON'T LOOK AWAY

ACT AGAINST ABUSE



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THIS CAMPAIGN

- Wear a white ribbon for the 16 days from 25 November to 10 December.
- Collect the special "16 Days" postcard, free of charge, at your nearest Post Office. There is a special tear-off section on the postcard, which you must sign and post back. It will cost you nothing but it could make a big difference. For every signed card returned, R10 will be raised for victims and survivors of abuse.

TOLL-FREE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE

Lifeline 086 132 2322
Child Line 080 005 5555
AIDS Help Line 080 001 2322
Crime Stop 086 001 0111
Stop Gender-Based Violence 080 015 0150
Batho Pele Gateway Call Centre 1020

If you are being abused, or know of someone who needs help, don't look away – get help.



Opening of the Ikageng Community Court

The Ikageng location in Potchefstroom was abuzz with activity when the North West Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ & CD) officially opened a court in the Ikageng location, bringing justice to the people. Distinguished guests included the Head of the DOJ & CD in North West, Mr Tsietsi Malema, chief magistrates, magistrates, Councillor Maphetlhe Maphetlhe, the Executive Mayor of the Tlokwe Local Municipality, and members of the executive management of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster.

At the opening ceremony, Father Mothibedi delivered a sermon and encouraged the community of Ikageng to utilise the community court to its optimal capacity. He said the community must take the initiative in fighting crime and promote a culture of dialogue and *ubuntu*.

Mr Malema outlined the purpose of the day. He told delegates that the gathering was to celebrate the official opening of the Ikageng Community Court. The purpose of establishing the court was primarily to encourage community participation in the criminal justice system. The court has also been established to make it easy and affordable for the people of Ikageng and the surrounding communities to come to the courts. The costs of travelling to town will thus be reduced and witnesses and ordinary members of the community will be able to play a key role in the fight against crime.

The senior superintendent of the SAPS at Ikageng, Kedibone Bosman, called upon the community to support the fight against crime. She indicated that the crime prevalent in Ikageng emanated from social behavioural patterns and disorientation of the community. She said that this was mainly because people resorted to alcohol abuse and domestic violence. She encouraged the community to work together with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as these stakeholders are critical to the success of the fight against crime.

The Chief Prosecutor of the Klerksdorp cluster, Jacques Swanepoel, said it was important for provincial government to establish recreational and sports facilities to keep young people away from alcohol and drugs. He also made delegates aware of the broad objectives of community prosecutions: to identify

and build strategic partnerships with other branches of government, the community and civil society in order to jointly address the underlying causes of public insecurity and to alleviate pressure on the courts. The Legal Aid Board and the Department of Social Development also made presentations and requested the community to work closely together with the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster in fighting crime. A cultural group and the Boikhutso High School provided musical entertainment during the intervals.

The keynote address was delivered by Councillor Maphetlhe, who told the community that it was indeed an honour and a great privilege to be offered an opportunity to address this important gathering. He said the most common priorities of all three spheres of government were to ensure that integrated social crime prevention initiatives were undertaken across all levels. He further mentioned that involvement took into consideration external factors that impact on peace and stability in local communities, such as unemployment, illiteracy, housing infrastructure, health issues and the shortage of recreational facilities.

He also encouraged the community to work together to fight crime. The programme ended with the official cutting of the ribbon.



Delegates attending the Ikageng Court opening.



A cultural group and the Boikhutso High School provided musical entertainment during the intervals.

Khasha wishes its readers a peaceful holiday season.

May you make use of this period to spend time with your loved ones and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

May the new year find you ready for the exciting challenges that 2009 will bring.



Ensuring the safety of child victims



The children's intermediary room at the Pinetown Magistrate's Court in KwaZulu-Natal recently underwent a makeover as part of a joint project between the court officials and a company called Authentic Life. Since the room is used to provide child victims with a secure environment from where to testify, the makeover was a most welcomed initiative.

According to the Chief Public Prosecutor in the Pinetown Cluster, Advocate Amy Kistnasamy, the idea of the revamp started when a member of the public testified at the court. "This lady saw that the room was not fully child-friendly and put Authentic Life in touch with us," said Advocate Kistnasamy. "They were glad to assist as they ran a project called Umngane Wami (My Friend), which focused on community outreach and youth leadership development."

Authentic Life coordinated the project and secured generous sponsorships from various companies such as Decorland, Inyathi Kitchens and Metropolitan Health, as well as learners from His Church School, who painted furniture, raised funds and helped create murals for the walls. The sponsors provided necessities such as furniture, paint, blinds, wallpaper, books, toys and even volunteers.

"We wanted to create an environment that is full of colour and fun; a reprieve from their lives that are full of trauma and fear," said Mandy Minnaar, Director of Authentic Life.

"We also wanted to assist the dedicated team of people in the court who are faced with this emotionally taxing task of dealing with the abused on a daily basis. When I met them I was utterly struck and humbled by their commitment and determination."

The Pinetown Sexual Offences Court services eight police stations in its jurisdiction and enrolls an average of 30 new cases involving children on a monthly basis. The ages of these children range from six months to 16 years. Many of these children do not have anything to eat before coming to the court and often give evidence on an empty stomach. This has motivated Authentic Life to start a feeding scheme for the children, where they get a sandwich and a biscuit on arrival.

And the response from the children? "The makeover has done wonders for the children's morale," said court preparation officer, Bonnie Mngoma. "The children feel more comfortable and I think that an environment like this is important for the children to tell their stories without feeling threatened."



From left: Jabu Ngcobo, Senior Public Prosecutor, Bonnie Mngoma, Court Preparation Officer, Linda Kisten, Regional Court Control Prosecutor, Amy Kistnasamy, Chief Public Prosecutor, and PK Naidoo, Senior Public Prosecutor, in the intermediary room.



The intermediary room provides a safe and happy environment from where children can testify.

UKZN speaks out against sexual violence

“Zero tolerance to sexual violence”. That was the core message at the week-long awareness campaign held at the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) early in September.

The aim of the campaign was to create awareness on this issue among staff and students at the university. The campaign culminated in an information day where the NPA, together with other relevant stakeholders, such as the SAPS and Life Line, exhibited their services. The campus lawns came alive with students enjoying the beautiful sunshine and the performances put on by the Drama Department. The NPA’s exhibition was visited by several students and staff members with queries ranging from domestic violence and maintenance issues to careers with the organisation.

Sexual violence is a reality in South Africa and affects all facets of our community, including students at secondary and tertiary levels. International statistics suggest that most incidents of sexual assault occur when the survivor is between the ages of 16 and 24, which is also the age group for the majority of students. Research conducted in the USA estimates that about 25% of students at tertiary level have experienced either sexual violence or attempted sexual violence. In South Africa, statistics indicate that about one third of all women have experienced either sexual violence or attempted sexual violence. Survivors of sexual assault tend to be at a higher risk of depression, substance abuse, excessive anxiety and numerous interpersonal difficulties.

Paul Bushell of the Student Counselling Centre says: “By bringing awareness to this topic, the centre hopes to communicate the message to perpetrators and survivors of sexual violence that UKZN has adopted a zero-tolerance approach to any form of sexual violence.”



From left: Ndumiso Grantham, HIV/Aids Counsellor at Life Line, Nicole John and Veerasha Bhujan (students at UKZN) and Arthi Sookraj, case manager at the SOCA Unit.

Victims of crime have constitutional rights

The South African Service Charter for Victims of Crime, which was developed by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in 2004, affords all victims of crime legal rights when they encounter the criminal justice system. It contains the following seven rights (based on the constitutional rights) that all victims of crime are entitled to when they enter the criminal justice system:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for their dignity and privacy
- The right to offer information
- The right to receive information
- The right to protection
- The right to assistance
- The right to compensation
- The right to restitution.

A victim of crime is defined as a person who has suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of his/her fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of our criminal law. Victims also include those who assist or intervene to assist the victim or the police.



Transkei region comes **tops** in the country

The Transkei region of the NPA has been declared a best performing region in the country by the NPA's Directorate of Public Prosecutions. It came tops in April and September 2008 in terms of case finalisation and court hours.

Mr Humphrey Lusu, Director of Public Prosecutions, revealed the news to an elated crowd at an award ceremony initiated by the NPA's Willowvale subcluster (Idutywa, Willowvale, Engcobo and Cala) of the region. Mr Lusu applauded the good work that is being done in the subcluster, which has contributed greatly to the success of the entire region.

He commended the manner in which stakeholders such as the South African Police Service, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and the Legal Aid Board are cooperating with the NPA to ensure that justice is served in the communities.

"The spirit of working together, in particular the initiative by the cluster to ensure that individuals are recognised in this manner for the work being done, will go as a first in the history of the CJS," he says.

Mr Lusu also noted that the region is no stranger to receiving such recognition for its work. "It was our Advocate Mthunzi Manga who succeeded in prosecuting one of the first truth and reconciliation cases in the country. This, to me, displays that there is a lot of talent in this area. We just need to tap into it for the betterment of our society."

Senior Public Prosecutor of the Willowvale subcluster, Mr Frans Dlamini, says that the cluster aims to be a performance-driven office. He says the awards are about developing a measuring stick for the subcluster's performance. Speaking to his colleagues, he said that the work of the NPA is not about the pay day, but about working towards ensuring that the community lives in a safe environment.

The Cala team took the top accolades of the subcluster as its members were the best performers from May to October, followed closely by the Idutywa team, which has been producing excellent work.

Workshop **empowers** young girls

On 25 October 2008, EVE, a non-profit organisation that mentors young girls in partnership with the NPA's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit, facilitated a workshop focused on victim's rights.

Advocate Hilda Limson, Senior Maintenance Prosecutor, Mr Sipho Mkhonza and Ms Thembisile Masondo, Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) site coordinators, addressed approximately 30 girls from marginalised communities in Eersterust, Mamelodi and Nelmapius.

SOCA's expertise and knowledge was extremely useful and the girls, aged 15 to 18, were specifically interested in the different types of abuse, with particular emphasis on date rape, domestic violence, incest and maintenance matters. It was of extreme importance that the girls were exposed to issues concerning human trafficking, where they received a local perspective on the problem and solutions not to become victims.

This outreach programme to a younger audience helped build a network of informed and talented youths who are well positioned not only to protect themselves, but also their peers, family and their community. EVE mentors appreciated SOCA's enthusiasm in conducting the workshops and realise how effective and important programmes like these are to the youth, especially with the hurdles facing South Africa's communities in combating abuse against women and children.



EVE is not just an organisation; it is a movement driven by the sole mission to empower, value and bring out the exceptional qualities of the girl child in Eersterust, a coloured community in the heart of Pretoria. EVE is what one would call a mentorship programme, where the mentors are successful, professional young women of the community. These women strive to mentor these girls, and steer them towards making the right career and life choices.

NPA joins the GCIS in Nelson Mandela Bay



The NPA stand at the GCIS Motherwell event.

On 30 October 2008, the local branch of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Eastern Cape invited the NPA to participate in its campaign of bringing government services to the people. This was held at the Raymond Mhlaba Sports Centre in Motherwell, where the community was informed about the Thusong Centre that will be opened soon.

This event also gave the NPA an opportunity to tell the community of some of the services that it provides. The event was well organised and the turnout was impressive. Staff members were able to maximise the NPA's presence by disseminating as much information as they could with the help of prosecutors, who provided assistance on legal enquiries and issues of domestic violence and maintenance.

The NPA believes that it will continue to use these platforms to ensure that it educates the public about its programmes, so that they can make use of them whenever they need to do so.

NPA joins the NCOP in Lady Frere

The NPA has participated in a number of exhibitions where it was able to interact with the public and where it had the opportunity to share information about the services that it provides to the communities.

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) held a string of sessions in Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape from 3 to 7 November 2008, where people were given an opportunity to interact with parliamentarians, voice their concerns and make suggestions about how to fight poverty in their communities. The theme for these sessions was *Taking parliament to the people*.

Government departments such as the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), the NPA and the Umsobomvu Youth Fund are some of the departments that were in attendance to assist people from the different communities. Thousands of people came to the NPA's stalls for assistance.

The NPA representatives had the opportunity to inform the public about the types of services the institution provides to the communities. They distributed a lot of information in the form of brochures about domestic violence, maintenance, understanding the criminal justice system and children's rights. Speak-out brochures, children's T-shirts and information about the different units of the NPA were also available for public consumption.

These sessions were well attended as people from the surrounding towns were bussed in by the hundreds to attend. This provided the NPA with a rare opportunity to interact with people from the rural areas of the Eastern Cape.



Know your rights in terms of **maintenance**

“The right of every child and the responsibility of every parent” - Adv Thoko Majokweni

Courts may order a person to help provide financial support for another person. This is called maintenance. It is usually regular payments of money. Child support is mostly the responsibility of the biological or adoptive parents.

When do I take action?

If the father or mother of your child is not regularly providing assistance for the child. If the person legally responsible for the maintenance is not obeying the maintenance order.

How do I claim maintenance?

The maintenance officer at your local court will help you to fill in an application form and tell you what to do. You need the following documents:

- Your ID, and, if available, the ID number of the person you wish to claim maintenance from.
- Your contact number and address; if available, the address and contact number of the person you wish to claim maintenance from; and if possible, the address of his or her employer.
- Your children's birth certificates.

- Your bank statement if you have a bank account.
- A list of the needs of your children.
- Water and electricity bill, grocery receipt, clothing accounts and medical records.
- Divorce decree and divorce agreement (if you are divorced).

What happens next?

The maintenance officer will give you a case number and a court date if the father/mother can be found. He/she will issue a subpoena for you and the person you are claiming maintenance from to appear in court. On the court date, the maintenance officer will discuss the amount to be paid with both of you. If agreement cannot be reached, the case will go to court. After it has been heard in court, a maintenance order will be granted. This says how much maintenance needs to be paid, how it is to be paid, and who needs to pay it.



Eastern Cape celebrates 10 years and launches values

For the NPA employees and stakeholders in the Eastern Cape who attended the ten-year celebrations and launch of the organisation's values, 24 October 2008 will be a day to remember for a very long time.

The NPA has been holding a series of events in different provinces to celebrate the ten years of its existence and to launch its values. All these events have been successful and the Eastern Cape: Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown Cluster's event was no exception.

Advocate Karl 'The Truth' Fischer was master of ceremonies and kept everybody entertained with his eloquence and humour. Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Lungisile Mahlati, welcomed the guests. This was followed by a breathtaking stage performance of the NPA's five values by an industrial theatre group, Kula Productions. Ms Karen van Rensburg, Acting Executive Manager: Strategy, made a presentation entitled *My NPA, My Values*, and Mr John Preller provided the community's perspective.

In his speech, the Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe, said: "We have gathered here today to celebrate a decade of existence, but also a decade of existence with a history of excellent service delivery. As we celebrate, we look back at the past years with pride, as we can – without a shadow of doubt – proudly list a number of achievements attained by this organisation, some of which were realised at infancy stage and others realised at the peak of the most challenging times in the history of the NPA."

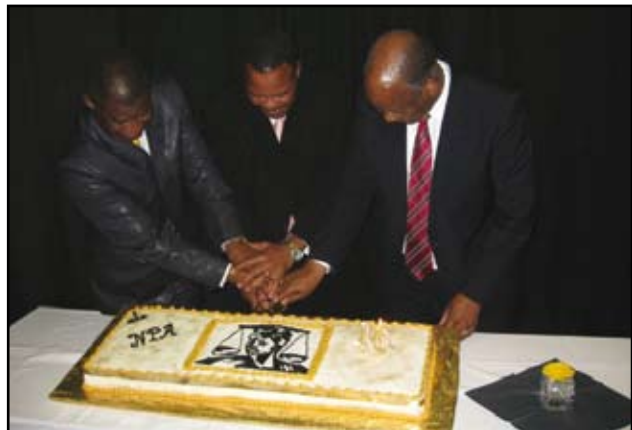
During his speech, he also endorsed the importance of the five values when he said: "We cannot expect our subordinates to live by the values we are launching today if we fail to do so ourselves. With today's launch of the NPA's organisational values, our aim is primarily to inform our clients, stakeholders and partners about what we stand for as the NPA. To the employees of the NPA, we are saying:

- "Service excellence: Let us strive to serve with excellence.
- Credibility: Let us strive to maintain a reputation that is beyond reproach.
- Professionalism: Let us strive to perform our duties vigorously and in accordance with the highest standards of our profession.
- Integrity: Let us continue to create and promote a culture of integrity in the NPA.
- Accountability: Let us try to maintain a culture of accountability where all are held responsible for their actions."

A number of high-profile people attended the event, including Ms Bulelwa Makeke, Executive Manager: Communications, the Honorable Judge-President Cecil Somyalo, Judge-President of the Eastern Cape, Mr Peter Rothman, Chief Magistrate, Ms Thami Beshe, Regional Court President in the Eastern Cape, Mr Vuyani Mguqulwa, Regional Head in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Commissioner Mpumelelo Landu, Provincial



Celebrating the launch (from left): Advocate Marlini Moodley, Advocate Hannelie Bakker, Advocate Lizette Williams, Urcelle Appolis and Tracy Brown.



From left: Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe, Acting NDPP, Advocate Lungisile Mahlati, DPP Eastern Cape and Ciskei, and Cecil Somyalo, Judge-President of the Eastern Cape.

Commissioner of the SAPS, Ms Ntsiki Jolingana, Regional Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services, Mr Thembile Mtati, Head of the Legal Aid Board, as well as deans of the faculties of Law of the University of Fort Hare, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Rhodes University, who attended with two students in the faculty from the Law Society.

As the NPA, we would like to thank all the people who attended the event and shared the joy of celebrating these milestones with us, and to all those who worked so hard to ensure the success of this event. Keep up the good work. You make us proud.

My NPA, My Values

launch concludes an eventful decade

Professionalism, integrity, service excellence, accountability and credibility were the order of the day during the *My NPA, My Values* launch, which was held in Pretoria on 14 November 2008 for members of the NPA in Gauteng. The event also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the organisation.



More than 900 NPA staff members attended the event that was held at the VGM soccer field. Advocate Mokotedi Mpshe, Acting National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) graciously welcomed all staff. Of all the values of the NPA, he specifically emphasised integrity. "Believe me, it's been an interesting and challenging decade for the NPA," said Advocate Mpshe. "Achievements of the past decade make us feel great satisfaction. The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) has taught perpetrators of organised crime that crime does not pay." It was stressed that in all its areas of work, the NPA must sustain the highest levels of integrity.



NPA values unveiled.

Advocate Mpshe also expressed the joy of launching the new NPA values against all odds. "Uncertainty, uncompetitive salaries in key positions, a limited budget and lack of cooperation from other stakeholders in the criminal justice system have proven to be the main odds for the decade," said Mpshe. "As a consequence of this, scores of employees have jumped ship, hampering the success rate the NPA desired to achieve and uphold."



NPA Gauteng celebration of the values and ten-year anniversary.

Advocate Mpshe toasted the work done by NPA staff by pointing out that the workload executed over the past period could stand the test of time and compete with the rest of the world.

Guest speaker, Dr Zolile Mlisana, Chairman of Heartlines, spoke about the value of values and what it means in everyday life.

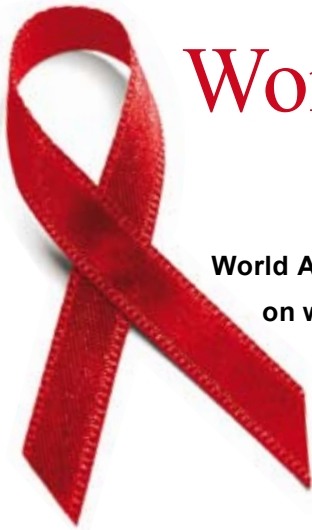
Activities of the day included the individual unveiling of the five values, the cutting of an anniversary cake and a play by Pillar to Post in respect of the NPA's new values.



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World Aids Day:

hope, love, courage and humanity

World Aids Day is celebrated worldwide on 1 December each year. It is the day on which we remember the people who are infected and affected by Aids and who have died from the disease. The NPA was no exception in celebrating World Aids Day.

The day was honoured by the NPA's Directorate of Public Prosecutions at St Albans cathedral in Schoeman Street, Pretoria. Dr Khotso de Wee, Acting CEO, opened the event. He congratulated the staff who participated in taking HIV/Aids tests. He further explained that people should not make the mistake to think this disease won't affect their families or themselves. It may not happen in the next three years, but when it does, it may affect everyone in some way personally. In conclusion, he encouraged everyone that when they leave the cathedral, they should go and talk about this to their children and family.

Advocate Bredenkamp also welcomed the guests. He told the attendees that HIV/Aids only hits home when it affects a person directly – your family or yourself. He explained to the attendees that the World Aids Day commemoration is thinking about

those who are infected and affected by HIV/Aids. Since this year's theme is about leadership, the leadership of the organisation should take a stand to try and convey the message out there.

Ms Matshidiso Mtsweni was called upon to light a candle. She requested people to stop discriminating and stigmatising fellow people, because by doing that they are lessening humanity by pinning their dear friends down. She further said that if people joined forces, they would be able to stop HIV/Aids. She asked everyone to stand up, and as she lit the candle, she explained that she was lighting it to wish for hope, love, courage and humanity.

Attendees lit their candles from the big candle that Ms Mtsweni had lit and they passed it on to each other. After those few words, she asked everyone to put out the candles using their fingers without applying any saliva, and without expressing any sign of pain.

In his address, Advocate Luphondo said that attendees were not there to honour death and sickness. He said that he was happy about the HIV/Aids policies that the NPA had, but that it would not be enough if there was no change in people's behaviour. He further said it would be good if people could start acting. Talking without acting is not good. He encouraged people to get tested, because the sooner you know your status, the better. HIV/Aids should not be regarded as a death sentence. There are many people who are infected who still live normal lives. Many people still die, not because of Aids, but in other ways, such as in accidents or because of terminal diseases like cancer. The problem with people is that they begin to label you as a dying person the moment they know that you are HIV-positive. He further said that if you have never been tested, consider yourself HIV-positive. It is very strange that people who suffer from cancer, for instance, are not afraid to talk about it because there is no stigma attached to it. Some years back, people had the



NPA staff honouring Aids Day at the St Alban's Cathedral.



Ms Matshidiso Mtsweni lighting an Aids remembrance candle.

following thoughts about HIV/Aids: it was for the poor, sex workers, and we, as the NPA's prosecutors would not get it. It is most unfortunate, because it started to hit us the most. He closed his speech by encouraging people to go out there to preach and talk to people about this. "Change of behaviour and attitudes is the best medicine."

Mercy Cowper (nee Makgalemela) was the day's motivational speaker. Born and raised in Soweto, Mercy (as she preferred to be called) has been living with HIV for 17 years and is not on treatment yet. Mercy said that her mom used to say: "If you taught one person, you taught the world." She indicated that the challenge around HIV/Aids is purely sex. "What is needed is the balance between the brain and sex. Whether we like it or not, Aids is a disease contracted through sex. Until people start to learn to respect and love each other dearly, they will not protect each other."

She further said that the NPA and other organisations celebrate World Aids Day once a year. This kind of celebration must be celebrated daily, as HIV/Aids affects us daily. People need to be reminded of this thing daily.

She told of that the four key things that she believed in and that had made her

live for so many years were the following:

- Intellectual ability of understanding HIV/Aids – know how to manage the disease.
- Acceptance – she forgave her husband who infected her with the disease and those who discriminated against her (some years back before there were any policies around HIV/Aids, she lost her job).
- Aids comes with physical change and people who are infected should know that.
- Spiritual belief – what do you believe in?

Ms Phuthi Semenya of EWP was the last speaker of the day. She first highlighted the services that EWP offered to the NPA staff. She reminded them of the 24/7 hotline number that people could use anytime when they needed to talk to the counsellors. The number is 0800 23 93 55 and it is toll-free. She further passionately thanked all the speakers, attendees and, more especially, Matshidiso for lighting the candle. Ms Semenya requested everyone to send messages via e-mail of what they thought of the day's event. The messages will be consolidated into one big article and sent back to all employees.



Sibongile Mogale honouring Aids Day in prayer at the St Alban's Cathedral.

After Ms Semenya's speech, attendees were each given a fruit basket as a token to thank them for coming. People were also given opportunities to test for HIV/Aids and diabetes, and neck massaging was also done.

What a beautiful and well-organised event. We hope, as Matshidiso had explained when she lit the candle, "that the light will burn in our hearts and that people should always remember that a friend with HIV/Aids is still a friend."

If we love, care and respect each other we will overcome HIV/Aids.

Wynberg prosecutors visit Children's Hospital

The prosecutors of Wynberg's regional court visited the Red Cross Children's Hospital on 28 November 2008.

They donated money, and made up 25 gift packs for the children. These gift packs consisted of a face cloth, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, a teddy bear and small toy, chips and sweets. Everybody wore Father Christmas hats to create a festive atmosphere for the children. It was heart-warming to see the faces of the

children as they received their gift bags. Sadly, it was also heartbreaking to see some of the children who were so sick and unable to get out of bed. The prosecutors left the hospital with mixed feelings. On the one hand, they experienced how heart-warming and harsh life can be, while on the other they acknowledged how blessed they



were to be in good health. They will visit the hospital again soon.

NPA values



INTEGRITY

A mirror reflects what stands before it, without distortion or bias or duplicity. Integrity is represented in its true reflection.

PROFESSIONALISM

Fire-sticks remind us that professionalism rests on skill, discipline and commitment.



CREDIBILITY

The marula tree symbolises justice that is truly 'out in the open' and transparency, where no agendas are hidden, nor favours solicited, and service is for others, not self.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for actions. A mother with her child symbolises the epitome of responsibility: it is a sacred duty.



SERVICE EXCELLENCE

The egret is a symbol of a caring and careful worker; one who single-mindedly focuses on surveying others faithfully and well.

2009 Public Holidays

1 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
10 April	Good Friday
13 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
1 May	Workers' Day
16 June	Youth Day
9 August	National Women's Day
10 August	Public Holiday
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

2009 International Days

8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
15 May	International Day of Families
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
26 June	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking
12 August	International Youth Day
21 September	International Day of Peace
1 October	International Day for Older Persons
20 November	Universal Children's Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
1 December	World Aids Day
3 December	International Day of Disabled Persons
9 December	International Anti-corruption Day
10 December	Human Rights Day



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