

October / November 2014

# KHASHO



ENSURING PROSECUTIONS WITHOUT FEAR, FAVOUR OR PREJUDICE



**Abuse No More  
Protocol**

**Ex-Police Captain  
Sentenced**

**Life Sentence for  
Trafficker**

**Know Your  
Contractual  
Commitments**



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## Letter from the Managing Editor

It is proper to acknowledge that the year 2014 was characterised by a mix of highlights and challenges for the organisation, and these we endeavoured to share with you via our communication tools. We are satisfied with what we have achieved so far in facilitating internal communication and fostering a culture of information sharing. However, we are here to serve the organisation in ensuring that we not only disseminate information, but that what we are doing is impactful in that it serves and empowers you as an internal citizen of the NPA. To this end, we are currently engaging our Research Unit to assist us with developing a survey to assess the impact and effectiveness of all our internal communication tools. We expect that the survey will be conducted early in 2015. We look forward to your candid and constructive feedback, as well as proposals for new things.

We thank you for the support you have given to Khasho during the year. The only driving force behind successful publication of the newsletter has always been you, our readers, making Khasho a trusted source of organisational information.

You might have noticed that our media statements published on the internal bulletin often highlight rape convictions. This is a reflection of what is going on in the country and we are pleased to see that our courts are hard at work in the fight to eradicate gender based crimes against the vulnerable groups.

In keeping with the 16 Days of Activism Campaign we publish an interview with a prosecutor from SOCA who contributed immensely in the development of a protocol called "Abuse No More" in the Western Cape.

The year has almost come to an end and it is

a good time to reflect on the achievements realised thus far. It is also a good time to look forward to what we still need to accomplish as the Business Units and Service Centres currently go through strategic planning sessions in support of the NPA's strategy.

The Office of the DPP in Mthatha took the bold step to host the first regional NPA Service Excellence Awards for 2013/14, on Thursday 6 November 2014. I had the honour of attending the awards ceremony, preceded by the region's strategic planning session with the senior management structures from all the related clusters and sub-clusters. I was first struck by the sincerity and commitment of this group of senior prosecutors in identifying challenges that impede service delivery in their respective jurisdictions, and proposing practical ways to overcome and address those challenges. The group also spent time on discussing the performance reporting framework, ironing out the processes and procedures of capturing and reporting court statistics.

The awards ceremony in the evening was very well organised. It emerged from the nominations and the winners that this region has a power injection of the young and upcoming prosecutors. It was encouraging to see so many awards going to the young District Court and Regional Court prosecutors, and this endorsed the mentoring and coaching that the seniors have clearly adopted. Well done to the DPP, Adv Barry Madolo and his entire office from leading with purpose.

We also look forward to the Khasho Year-End edition coming out soon. This edition will capture the NPA Year in pictures, which serves as a reminder of how the 2014 year has been like for the NPA in pictures. We hope you will enjoy it.



## Letter from the NDPP

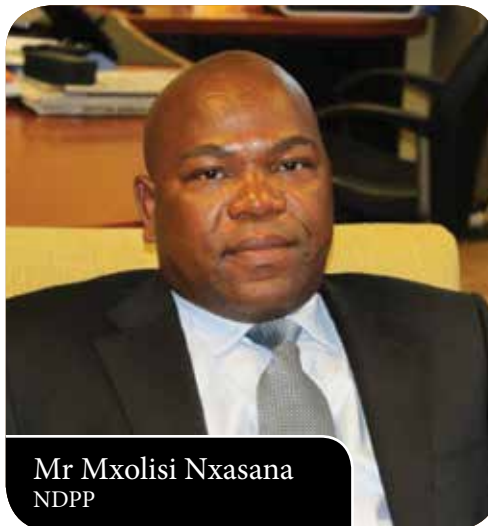
The time has gone by so fast. I'm now one year old in the organisation and it feels like yesterday when I came through the gates of the NPA for the first time. I thank all of you for the unwavering support that you gave me. I have made it this far because of you. Thank you very much.

It is a big deal that the NPA achieved a clean audit for the second year in succession. To all NPA officials that worked tirelessly to achieve this outcome, I say well done and keep the momentum going.

That exciting time in the organisation when hard working NPA officials are recognised for their service excellence is here again. The Service Excellence Awards provide an opportunity for the NPA to recognise excellent contributions made by individuals or groups outside the normal performance management cycle. The DPP Mthatha office was the first NPA office to host the awards ceremony this year, as they did last year. Well done to the office and organisers who pulled up a world class event. Congratulations to all those that received recognition, you are serving the nation well. I also wish to congratulate in advance all the other winners still to be announced in the other regions, right up to the ultimate recognition phase at the National Awards on 11 December.

The work of the prosecutors speaks for itself every day in all our courts across the country, and the dent our institution contributes in dealing a blow to acts of crime. This applies the same whether the cases receive high profile attention or not. In the category of those that are deemed high profile, it would be amiss of me if I do not thank the team of prosecutors who dealt with the Oscar Pistorius case that dominated the media space in the recent past. The case was the first to be broadcast live and I believe the benefits of that exercise far outweighed the challenges that have been considered in the legal circles and the public at large about open justice. Importantly, the trial served as an educational tool for the public, raising awareness about the criminal justice system and court processes. I was impressed with the way this matter was handled.

Another high profile case I'd like to highlight is that of the Diepsloot child murders. My appreciation



Mr Mxolisi Nxasana  
NDPP

goes to the prosecution team, community members and stakeholders of the JCPS cluster for the swift delivery of justice. The significance of these two cases, among thousands of others that we continue to prosecute successfully, is that they highlight successes in the fight against gender based violence, which is the focus of the 16 Days of Activism of no violence against women and children.

Whilst I recognise all the successful prosecutions, let me quickly point out my concern that the second quarter performance for the core business has declined compared to the first quarter. Let us use the remaining time to improve our efforts and I know without doubt that we will improve.

It will be disingenuous of me if I did not single out the Communications Unit for the sterling work that they do. I am particularly impressed with their profiling of the NPA initiatives through various outreach programmes. Through these initiatives members of the public get to know and understand what the NPA is all about and this cannot be underestimated.

The NPA Exco, Manco and I are working hard to address all issues that have the potential of tarnishing the image of the organisation, please don't lose hope. We are still in control and the NPA is still intact and is ready to weather the storms. Ours is a very important institution of our jealously guarded Constitution and we must remain committed to self-correct whenever the stormy waves threaten to engulf us.

On a sad note, let me express my heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of Jabu Sibanyoni, a long serving Corporate Services employee who passed on last month. May his departed soul rest in peace!

We have reached that time of the year once again when most of us will go on holiday after a long and challenging year. We all deserve a good break and I wish all of you the best festive season. Enjoy it to the fullest, but make sure you do so responsibly and come back refreshed so as to take off where you would have left off.

Seasons Greeting and a prosperous New Year! I wish to see all of you back in 2015!







## Letter from the CEO



Ms Karen van Rensburg  
CEO

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to thank all staff for the dedication, energy and commitment they displayed during the year. It is through your individual and collective efforts that the organisation has managed to make inroads in important areas. I am mindful of the complexity of the environment in which we operate and the efforts required to ensure results in key performance areas.

I am particularly thankful to Corporate Services staff for the progress made in making support services more responsive and efficient. The most noteworthy achievement is the clean audit opinion that we received again – two years in succession. In recognition that all NPA achievements require a team effort that should be celebrated jointly, I want to recognise the efforts and support of the core business employees in the achievement of this remarkable milestone.

As far as governance issues are concerned, an Audit Action Plan has been developed by the organisation to address matters of emphasis that were identified by the Auditor-General. Progress is being monitored on a continuous basis.

So far, I am pleased with the milestones that have been achieved. I want to urge everyone to take cognisance of the requirement for disclosure of remunerative work outside the NPA. Officials who have companies registered in their names, and who do not have authorisation to perform remunerative work outside the NPA must urgently provide explanation of their involvement in the

registered companies. My motto in this regard is: “when in doubt declare.” Let’s err on the side of caution.

The strategic planning process is progressing well and innovation is high on the agenda for Corporate Services with the aim of improving service delivery and finding ways to assist the core business without compromising on legislative and other requirements.

The annual NPA Service Excellence awards are in full swing. Thanks to all the DPP offices and units that took up the challenge at relatively short notice. After all, it is not about us, but about the recognition of people that make this organisation the centre of excellence we strive for. Without pre-empting any winners – let me extend my gratitude to all NPA employees that are putting their heads down to getting the job done. You are valued and appreciated even if we do not say this as much as we should.

Finally, I know most of you will be taking leave in December and that things will slow down in the organisation next month. Let me take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and joyous festive season. I hope that you will come back refreshed and energised in 2015. For your safety and that of your loved ones, I encourage you to be vigilant on the roads as we all know how busy they become this time of the year. Take time to appreciate the ones that support and love you.

Thank you all!

# SATISFIED WITH THE SENTENCE HANDED DOWN TO THE MURDERER

Tsepo Ndwalaza



The NPA, family and friends of the deceased in the matter of State vs. Mutshutshu Milton Muvhango who was charged with the murder of his former girlfriend, then a 19 year old first year student at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), sighed with relief when the judge sentenced him to 15 years for murder and one year for the theft of her cellular phone. These sentences will run concurrently. It is alleged that on 20 June 2011, the accused visited his girlfriend, Tshepiso Sithole who resided at Gomery Place, Summerstrand.

The accused was a school teacher at Reitumetse High School in Pretoria. It is alleged in court papers that the deceased was a pupil at the same school and it is where she met the accused. They became involved in a love relationship. When the accused visited in June, he stayed in the room with the deceased. During this visit, it is alleged that the deceased and the accused

had an argument. The accused suspected that the deceased was seeing another man.

In the ensuing argument, the accused strangled the deceased with a computer cable, covered her body with a blanket and left her on the floor. He took her cellular phone and left. When the deceased failed to turn up for her examinations during the next week, friends and family became concerned. The father of the deceased phoned the owner of Gomery Place, where his daughter lived and requested him to enter the deceased's room to see if he could find anything.

It was then that the owner discovered her corpse on the floor. A post mortem was performed and the cause of death was confirmed to be consistent with strangulation. Soon thereafter, the search for the accused started but he could not be traced for some time but he was eventually arrested and brought back to Port Elizabeth to face his crime.

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## Commentary by Advocate Mzwamadoda Mnyani



My involvement in this case commenced late last year (2013) when it was assigned to me for prosecution in January this year. When I took possession of the case docket, I realised that it was not a straightforward case. There were no eye witnesses to the murder and the case against the accused was based on circumstantial evidence. This was a high profile case and the deceased was a first year civil engineering student at NMMU. She was the girlfriend of the accused who was her former high school teacher. They were both from Soshanguve, Pretoria. The case attracted lot of local media attention in the region. Another challenge that I picked up was that the majority of witnesses were from outside the Eastern Cape Province.

They were from different provinces across the country. Others were Zimbabwean nationals and were in Zimbabwe and it was very difficult to locate and to communicate with them. This presented a logistical nightmare as I had to be involved in their transport and accommodation arrangements, whilst at the same time I was busy with consultations and other court work. These were Zimbabwean nationals who were erstwhile students from NMMU University and their evidence was vital. They were reluctant to come forward but we managed to secure their attendance.

Now that the case is finalised, I feel a great sense of relief. It was a marathon trial that was draining and we spent 20 court days, leading the evidence of 23 witnesses. Because of the evidence that was presented before the court and the help of a dedicated investigating officer, Warrant Officer Smouse, I managed to overcome the challenges that I faced in prosecuting this case.

The lesson that I learnt is not to underestimate the power of technology –the evidence of cellular phone records played a significant role in the successful investigation and prosecution of this case. Furthermore, the thorough and proper investigation of the crime scene by forensic experts also played a vital role in ensuring that the accused does not escape conviction. Lastly, thorough and proper preparations are key to any success.

# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Jacobus Hayward

A Curriculum Vitae (CV) provides an overview of a person's personal information (details), education, qualifications, skills, knowledge and employment history (experience).

It provides one with the best chance of being invited for an interview for the post applied. It covers the essential information an employer or recruiter needs to make a decision on whether to shortlist an applicant for an interview or not.

The purpose of this article is, therefore, to advise employees about some important information that needs to be covered in a Curriculum Vitae.

The Human Resource Management and Development service centre has encountered several problems, in a large number of CVs of applicant with regards to the periods/dates of employment. It is not properly completed and the duties are not clearly/properly indicated. It should be noted that applicants' can only be considered for shortlisting if their CVs provide the information based on the inherent requirements of the post and can be properly determined or calculated.

Employees must therefore ensure that their CV's are comprehensive when they apply. The periods/dates of employment at every employer and in every rank/position and the duties performed at the time should be clearly indicated. For example: Aspirant Prosecutor, from 01 July 1999 to 31 March 2000. Duties: Institute and conduct criminal proceedings on behalf of the State in the district court, study case dockets, prepare cases for court, draft charge sheets etc. Employment as a District Court Prosecutor, Regional Court Prosecutor, State Advocate, etc. should be clearly distinguished with relevant

dates of employment and duties.

The dates of employment must be properly completed on the CV, as this is used to calculate whether an applicant meets the years of experience required as per the advertisement, when shortlisting is done. Employees should avoid writing periods like 2005 to 2006 (that is without the start and end day and relevant month), as this cannot be calculated as two years and will be regarded as two days, in the example cited.

Also avoid writing periods as July 1999 to March 2010 (that is without the start date and the end date) on the CV because this may also disadvantage applicants, as periods like these are interpreted as 31 July 1999 to 01 March 2010. This means that if the applicant has worked for five different employers, and actually started on the first day of the month and ended on the last day of the month, the applicant will lose 10 months in the experience calculation.

Employees must be aware of the fact that only information in the application (CV) can be used by a panel when shortlisting is done. Personal knowledge of the experience of an applicant cannot be used when shortlisting is done. Should a CV, therefore, not contain all the relevant information and fully completed dates, the applicant may fail to be shortlisted.

Employees are, therefore, encouraged to update their CVs to comply with the above in terms of dates and duties, and further, to regularly update their CVs with the latest information and ensure that not more than one period of employment ends with the words "to date".





# DPP SOUTH GAUTENG ADVOCATING AGAINST CRIME



Phindi Louw

Driven by a passion to advocate against crime, the Randfontein Court embarked on a crime awareness campaign to five high schools in Mohlakeng during the month of July, as part of commemorating the fallen icon, former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

At the forefront of this campaign was prosecutor Mzolisa Madolo, who believes the organisation is well positioned to drive various messages to ordinary citizens of our country. A champion in public speaking, Madolo recently showcased his writing skills when he developed a booklet for the crime awareness campaign, as part of empowering the youth in a quest to deter them from wrongdoing.

The first school to be visited was Thuto Lehakwe Secondary School on 22 July 2014 with Randfontein High School scheduled for the last, on 28 July 2014. The topics were structured to educate and inform learners about the consequences of committing crime. Madolo started his address with a brief outline of the Child Justice Act and moved to the reasons (ranging from peer pressure to adult influence and ignorance) that child offenders commit crimes. He further explained to the learners the realities of what happens to people who commit crimes. "You end up in prison and/or with a criminal record" he said. To test their knowledge he asked learners if they knew from what age a person can be incarcerated. Without hesitation they shouted "18". They were very surprised to learn that it is from 14 years of age. This affirms the belief that many young people commit crime with a notion that they can never be sent to jail. He further emphasised the point that he was referring to a real prison and not a place of safety, like Bosasa.

With the assistance of Jessica Mabena, he addressed the learners on the Diversion Programme, educating them on what it means, under what circumstances it happens and the results thereof. The learners were further empowered about repeatedly offending and why these offenders cannot be sent for diversion but must face criminal proceedings.

Learners listened attentively as he explained how one acquires a criminal record and how it affects one's future. "Sometimes just having an indication that you were once arrested, even if you were not found guilty, can have an adverse effect on your prospects of being employable" he said in trying to place emphasis on the dangers of committing crime.

Lastly, Madolo educated them about the prevalent crimes committed by youth offenders. This includes drug possession and/or use, assault, theft and a fast growing crime in Randfontein which is linked to harmful religious practices such as Satanism. Under drugs, he talked about dagga and the fact that most child offenders think that it is not a drug or that it is a very mild drug. He extended his topic to talk about people who develop drug induced psychosis from smoking dagga. He cautioned learners about an escalation of assault with intention to cause grievous bodily harm, which carries a stiffer sentence. The learners were briefly taken through the statistics which indicates an increase in murders amongst the youth, where Satanism is the main core.

As a deterrent, he shared the minimum sentences for all crimes discussed above. The teachers welcomed the initiative with great enthusiasm because of the struggles they face with learners involved in criminal activities. As a plea from parents, the programme was extended to many other schools during Woman's Month.

## Commentary by prosecutor Mzolisa Madolo



Going to the schools opened my eyes and made me realise the great need that exists to teach young children about the consequences of committing crime and the heavy burden carried by the education fraternity in moulding the future leaders of this country. On 29 July 2014, I addressed the same topic on the Rainbow fm - the volume of calls received from parents was an indication that our efforts are noticeable and more of these ventures are needed, and what better organisation to drive the message, than the NPA.

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# Clean Audit Celebration

Sibongile Mogale

The NPA celebrated yet another clean audit for the 2013/2014 financial year. The celebration took place on 23 September 2014.

The event was held at the new auditorium which was also officially opened on the same day, after being revamped. The new refurbished auditorium is beautiful and very different as compared to the old one.

Since the opening was held a day before Heritage Day, the day was also used to celebrate Heritage Day. It was a big event that culminated in the celebration of three events, namely, a clean audit, the opening of the auditorium and Heritage Day. The auditorium was declared opened by symbolically cutting the red ribbon. The staff, in their traditional regalia, entered the auditorium so that the proceedings of the day could begin.

In his opening remarks, the NDPP outlined the procedures that were followed in order to obtain the clean audit, that is, leadership, collective ownership and sound financial management and attributed the success achieved in the past two financial years to these.

He also informed the staff that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the staff worked tirelessly towards ensuring that the NPA receives yet another clean audit, two years in succession. 'We have a desire to succeed and we must be proud of this achievement', the staff

was reminded.

The former Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Gordon Hollamby was also thanked for his contribution to this success. The NDPP further stated that the former CFO left a well-oiled machine that will continue to function effectively.

In addition to the remarks made by the NDPP, the CEO added that this was also a celebration of the diversity of the people in the NPA that has been shown and proven to all.

She reiterated the success of a clean audit and said that the NPA will take forward the lessons learnt from this audit and any lessons from the past and will remain fearless in its endeavour to attain the same in the future.

She said, 'We take ownership of this clean audit as a collective and we are proud of it'.

She reminded the staff that the clean audit was a joint effort by Corporate Services and all business units within the NPA in ensuring a clean audit. During this session, all business units were given an opportunity to report on their specific business unit.

What a celebration! After everything was said and done, the staff members were spoilt to a traditional lunch, in celebration of Heritage Day.

An eventful day that the NPA can be proud of.





# Ndabezitha Imbizo Comes to KZN

Natasha Ramkisson-Kara

The province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) recently hosted a Ndabezitha Imbizo as part of the regional events that are being held countrywide. The event was organised by the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) unit, in conjunction with various stakeholders including the National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL).

Khasho spoke with Advocate Johanna Mabote, a senior state advocate with the SOCA unit to get more insight on the Ndabezitha Izimbizo. Advocate Mabote who joined the NPA in 1999, is the Ndabezitha project manager and coordinator of the Izimbizo

## What is the Ndabezitha Project initiative about?

The Ndabezitha Programme is a collaborative initiative between government and civil society to end domestic violence in rural communities. It is an exclusively rural-based programme, collectively formulated by the following key partners: NPA SOCA Unit, Chief Directorate of the Promotion of the Rights of Vulnerable Persons: Court Services, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL) and Malibongwe Women's Development Organisation.

## When was the Ndabezitha concept launched?

Ndabezitha project partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2005 in Pretoria, to jointly embark on initiatives aimed at reducing and preventing the scourge of domestic violence in rural communities. Through this initial tripartite partnership, the Ndabezitha Programme, led by the NPA was borne. A multi-disciplinary programme(s) was developed in terms of this Agreement that includes domestic violence intervention activities such as the training of the party members (inter alia, traditional leaders, clerks of the court and prosecutors); and public awareness programmes in rural communities

## What are its aims?

It is aimed at coming up with collaborative intervention mechanisms between partners, relating to the integrated management of domestic violence cases in rural communities

and empowering community members, more particularly, the vulnerable groups. It is a project that seeks not only to bridge the gap in service provision between urban and rural communities, but also between men and women, and boys and girls. Through this project, the Ndabezitha Partners are sending the message that citizens based in rural areas are equally important as those in urban areas, and are, therefore, equally deserving of the protection of the law. It is through this project that men and boys will be vehemently encouraged to join hands in the fight against domestic violence. The male perpetrators will also be empowered with information that will help them acknowledge that their conduct is not only abusive, but also amounts to a serious crime in terms of our law.

## Why was Jozini chosen for the most recent Imbizo?

Take note that traditional leaders are trained during the first phase of the project. The hosting of traditional leaders in the Intenga Traditional Council, Jozini, is one of the Ndabezitha graduates. Part of the agreement is that sites that are identified should fall within the area of jurisdiction of the Ndabezitha project graduates, hence, this area was chosen.

## Were the project expectations met? Did you achieve what you had set out to do?

Our target audience was the majority of men and boys of no particular age but included women and girls. The reason for focusing on men and boys is to challenge them to take the lead against domestic violence. We want them to say "No, not in our name". From my observation of the overwhelming attendees, I believe that we managed to reach the relevant targeted audience. Different stakeholders presented on collaborative work against domestic violence from the traditional leadership's perspective to the criminal justice system. I believe men and boys who attended the Imbizo will definitely take the batten and join the fight against domestic violence. I hope they will report incidences of domestic violence even when they are not the primary victim; and that communities will stop looking at domestic violence as a private matter between partners.



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# A Pound of Flesh – Eastern Cape

Nico Henning

William Shakespeare referred in his play, *The Merchant of Venice* to “mercy” in the following terms: “The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath”

This has become a very well-known quotation, and has become an integral part of the approach for a trial court when imposing sentence on an offender. In the same play, when the judge has to rule on a merchant’s claim for repayment of a loan, the judge determines as follows: “A pound of that same merchant’s flesh is thine: The court awards it, and the law doth give it ... and you must cut this flesh off his breast: The law allows it, and the court awards it.”

This is what AFU is about when it comes to the proceeds of crime. They will have their pound of ill-gotten flesh back from the criminal where-ever and how-ever.

AFU’s determination was recently demonstrated in an Eastern Cape prosecution. Nkosinathi Kewuti and his two co-accused robbed a Hofmeyr farmer, Louis Trout and his family in their farm home. Trout sadly did not survive the robbery and the robbers escaped with a large amount of cash and other stolen property including the deceased’s vehicle. The two co-accused were apprehended within a few hours in

a neighbouring town and the car was recovered by police. Kewuti, however, managed to escape with the stolen cash and was traced to George a few weeks later.

During his brief stint as a fugitive from justice, Kewuti managed to spend the cash and bought amongst other things, a pre-owned Opel Corsa vehicle for an amount of R34000-00 which he registered in the name of a cousin.

Kewuti’s freedom was short lived – in no small measure attributable to excellent police work but also to the commendable candour of family members who were prepared to divulge his whereabouts. After Kewuti’s arrest, the vehicle was also seized and impounded at the police vehicle pound.

At the commencement of the trial in the Eastern Cape High Court, Grahamstown, the prosecutor alerted AFU in Port Elizabeth to the recovery of the Corsa. The AFU wheels were set in motion and the vehicle was eventually sold for R21000-00 and the proceeds of the sale were handed to the executor of Trout’s estate.

The three accused were convicted of housebreaking with intent to rob, robbery with aggravating circumstances and murder. They all received lengthy prison sentences, and are currently serving their sentences.



# THREE LIFE TERMS FOR RAPING AN EIGHT YEAR OLD

Mashudu Malabi-Ndzhagi

The accused, Simon Tladi, came to South Africa from Lesotho at the beginning of 2010 in search of work. He found accommodation at the complainant's house in Kimberley, Gaeleshewe. An eight-year old girl was staying with her grandmother and her uncle.

The accused stayed in a shack which was situated at the back of the house. During his stay there, he befriended the complainant and would often give her money to buy sweets and chips. The complainant became so relaxed around the accused that she would go to his shanty after school to play a game of cards.

At the beginning of June 2010, the relationship changed. He started with kissing her on her mouth and ultimately led to sexual intercourse. The complainant did not report the matter immediately because the accused bribed her with money and made her promise not to tell anyone.

One afternoon, the uncle to the complainant went to the accused's shack to look for him. Upon entering the shack he saw the complainant seated on the lap of the accused, facing each other. The accused's hands were close to the private parts of the complainant, but they were both dressed. The uncle was concerned about what he saw and informed the grandmother of the complainant. The granny then called the complainant, who then informed them that the accused had been having sexual intercourse with her, including anal sex.

A case was opened and the child was taken to a doctor who found injuries on her private parts. The accused was convicted on three counts of rape and sentenced to three life sentences on September 2014 in the Gaeleshewe Court.

## Commentary by Advocate Keageletse Ilanga



I inherited this case from one of my colleagues, the challenge I faced was to go through the transcribed records of witnesses who had already testified in order to proceed with the matter. Like many cases involving children, it was challenging to convince the court that the evidence of the child complainant was satisfactorily in all material aspects. There is a cautionary rule that applies to child witnesses, and this was even more challenging because she was the only witness to what had happened to her.

The other challenge was to convince the magistrate to sentence the accused to life imprisonment, and not just one life term but three life terms.

When the grandmother of the complainant heard that the accused was sentenced to three life terms, there were tears of relief and she stated, "I am happy that justice has been done and that this man will pay for what he did to my grandchild." That moment reaffirmed my belief that I have a responsibility towards the victims of crime, and to perform my duties with diligence and determination. I realised what it actually meant to be the Peoples' Lawyer!





# COMPLETING THE NOMINATION OF BENEFICIARY FORM (WP1002) FOR EMPLOYEES WHO BELONG TO THE GEPF

Jacobus Hayward

As a new member of the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF), all employees must complete a Nomination of Beneficiary Form (WP1002). However, the result of changing circumstances such as marriage, life partnerships, births of children, adoption or even death, necessitates employees to update personal information.

The WP1002 Form is equivalent to a living WILL but only as it relates to one's pension benefits, as pension benefits do not form part of one's estate. Upon death and whilst still in service or within five years after retirement, the WP1002 Form assists the NPA and more importantly the GEPF in fulfilling the members last wishes pertaining to who and how the pension benefits (Gratuity Payments only) are to be dealt with, without delay and/or having to pay to underserving claimants.

It is therefore very important for GEPF members to review nominated beneficiaries at least once a year or after experiencing any significant life event. Outdated nomination forms are often the cause of delay in the payment of pension benefits to beneficiaries upon the death of a member. The beneficiaries would have already lost income and support from the principal member and therefore it is important to avoid any further financial hardship for them by ensuring that all information is up to date and relevant.

You may nominate any related or unrelated person or even a registered entity as a beneficiary. It is important to note that in terms of section 22 of the Government Employees Pension Act, 21 of 1996, the GEPF Board may on the death of a member, change a member's nomination in the interest of all beneficiaries. Therefore, it is important that minor children should not be excluded from being nominated as beneficiaries, irrespective of whether they currently live with you or not.

The benefits must be allocated percentage-wise to each of the nominated beneficiaries and the total percentage allocation must add up to 100% and need not be an equal amount for each. This allocation only applies to the gratuity amount that is due to the member.

The WP1002 Form is available on the NPA intranet, under forms. Members are urged to complete the form and forward it to their local Human Resource (HR) office for onward submission to the Human Resource Management (HRM) at head office who will then submit it to the GEPF, after copies have been placed in the personnel file of the employee. The following documents should also be attached to the completed form:

- A certified copy of an identity document (ID) or passport of the member (certified within the last 6 months).
- A certified copy of an ID, passport or birth certificate of each of the nominees (certified within the last 6 months).
- If an institution is nominated, proof of registration of the entity needs to be provided.
- A certified copy of the marriage certificate, alternatively a certified copy of a customary union certificate or "Lobola" affidavit.
- If the member's status is "Life Partner", setting out the nature of the relationship, and supporting evidence (preferably with supporting documentation), of that relationship.
- If any minor child is registered (biological or adopted), a certified copy of the birth certificate.
- For any other person that is financially dependent on the member, a certified copy of the person's ID/passport and proof of financial dependency should be attached.

Should there be more beneficiaries than provided for on the form, complete and attach a separate form with each form clearly numbered at the top of the page. For example, "Form 1 of 2".

Where an ESTATE is applicable, the details must be provided.

**NB:** Please note that the submission of photostat copies of forms are not permissible and only original documentation will be accepted by the GEPF.

# MOUNT FRERE REGIONAL COURT EXCELS

Luxolo Tyali



Mthatha Division DPP Barry Madolo gave the Mount Frere Regional Court team a special acclamation for consistently exceeding its targets, despite the unique challenges posed by the extremely remote and rural nature of the area it serves.

The Mount Frere Regional Court was ranked second in the country for the 2013/2014 financial year for its sterling performance. It serves the rural villages under the districts of Mbizana, Lusikisiki, Mount Fletcher, Ntabankulu, Mount Ayliff as well as Flagstaff. "This clearly shows that there are pockets of excellence in the region which can be emulated by other teams performing under similar conditions as Mount Frere," stated DPP Madolo. He added that the Mount Frere court is a living example that with the right attitude, coupled with proper planning, a lot can be achieved.

"The Mount Frere performance has been the pride of the region and their display of triumph over challenges, gives hope that nothing impossible," said DPP Madolo.

The court consistently strived to reach its targets, a fact that is evident in the performance ratings. Its records reflect that the court has achieved its court hours, higher conviction and finalisation rates this financial year, and the dedicated team of prosecutors has ensured that more than 12 life imprisonment sentences were meted out to criminals.

Asked about the recipe behind their success, the control prosecutor Tozama Diko said that it was ensuring that the basics and little things were put together and applied consistently that ensured good results. She further stated that team work, diligence and preparedness to put the extra effort were the underlying values that have yielded the results that they were able to

achieve.

Analysing their roles, she said that the duty of the control prosecutor in a court where there is no channellisation court, is that of procurement. The duty of the control prosecutor is to organise court rolls from screening, checking evidence; oral and documentary, identifying witnesses; ordinary and experts, seeking their reports and having trial ready cases before they are enrolled.

"If that is done meticulously, it leaves little room for postponement for reasons associated with the investigations. "Basically all cases are ready on the first appearance, witnesses and experts are before court and copies of the contents are ready for the defence," Diko said.

She added further that in court, the prosecutor only has to consult and proceed with the trial.

She proudly stated that she has the best team of prosecutors who give their best, without fail, on a daily basis.

She explained that the enrolment of new cases on Mondays and consulting on the same day of the enrolment if witnesses are available and proceeding with trials the next day, results in optimal utilisation of court's time.

"Adopting the idea of continuous roll by all role players is one of the things that has worked for us and we have achieved strengthened collaboration with partners," she said.

Diko cited three main challenges that they are confronted with, namely, there are no specialised sexual offences courts in the region, no adequate office space for prosecutors and very limited access to telephones in periodical courts, as well as transport problems for witness from remote areas, resulting in courts having to resume late and finish early.

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Mount Frere Regional Court team from left to right: Tamsanqa Qebeyi, Tamsanqa Vinindwa, Bonani Duda, Tozama Diko, SPP Gcinusapho Jubase and Mluleki Shude (Absent are Pumzile Nyusani and Banele Mhlongo)

# EX-POLICE CAPTAIN SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS FOR THE MURDER OF SUSPECTED CELLPHONE ROBBER

Frank Lesenyego

On 10 September 2014, in the North West High Court, 46 year old ex-police captain Shane Jacobs, 48 year old Frank Anthony, 26 year old Nathan Niewoudt and 28 year old Solly Ferris were all found guilty of the murder of Patrick Aobakwe Modukanele by assaulting him with amongst others, a chair, clenched fists and booted feet.

On the evening of 19 December 2010, the deceased allegedly robbed Joslyn Peacock of her cellphone and fled. The deceased was captured, assaulted and later dragged to Frank Anthony's house where he was further assaulted by amongst others, the four accused.

The deceased's assault at the house of Frank Anthony, continued until the police arrived at

the scene. The deceased was later transported to the hospital and died on the following morning. According to the post-mortem report, the deceased died due to blunt force head trauma.

The North West High Court sitting in Vryburg, sentenced Shane Jacobs accused No. 1 to 18 years' imprisonment; Frank Anthony, accused No. 2 to 15 years imprisonment; Solly Ferris, accused No. 6 to 15 years imprisonment and Nathan Niewoudt, accused No. 5 to 16 years imprisonment. After sentencing, their application to appeal was granted and bail was fixed at R10 000 each, pending the outcome of the appeal.

Khasho asked Advocate Nkhetheni Munyai some questions about the case.



**How do you feel now that this case is finalised?**

This was a lengthy and protracted trial and I am glad that it is finally over. There is a sense of fulfilment for I took over the matter when it was halfway towards finality. This meant that I had to study and familiarise myself with what was already on record and plan the way forward. I managed all this and I am happy that four of the seven accused were convicted of murder. At the end, justice won.

**What was your position during the trial?**

It was not an easy ride to take over a partly heard matter. Counsels for the accused persons were so confident that my involvement in this case would compromise the state's case, for not only had I taken over the case midway through the trial but I also did not attend the "Inspection in loco" proceedings. With my focus completely on pursuing the ends of justice, I knew that it was never going to be. I am delighted that justice was served.

**Any lessons learnt from this experienced as you move forward to deal with other cases?**

Of course, the main lesson is to always strive for justice. Another lesson is that one should be prepared to take over the prosecution at any stage in trial should the original prosecutor not be able to proceed for whatever reason. One last important lesson is that the responsible prosecutor must keep comprehensive notes of the proceedings, which will then make it easier for the prosecutor taking over the trial to familiarise him/herself with the case. Determination is the key.



# SEVEN LIFE SENTENCES FOR FREE STATE RAPISTS



Phaladi Shuping

The Free State High Court sitting in Kroonstad, sentenced two men from Rammolotsi in Viljoenskroon to seven life sentences and 108 years in prison, after they were found guilty of seven counts of rape and five counts of armed robbery.

On 30 June 2014, Judge Shamin Ebrahim sentenced Hendrik Tsotsotso (26) to four life sentences after he was convicted on four counts of rape and 18 years for each of the three counts of armed robbery. The second accused, Peter Mosotho, 18, was found guilty on two counts of rape and another two counts of armed robbery. He received a life sentence for each count of rape and 18 years for each count of armed robbery.

The sentences will run concurrently.

The third accused, who was a minor at the time that the crimes were committed, was given an eight-year suspended sentence.

The court heard that the accused terrorised the community of Rammolotsi from December 2012 to December 2013 by targeting people from the tavern, in the early hours of the morning.

The accused pounced on their first victim on 16 December 2012. The complainant was walking home with a male companion from a tavern at around 02h30 when they were attacked by the accused. The accused pelted the complainant and her companion with stones and they both ran away. They however, caught up with the complainant, forced her to the Rammolotsi stadium and raped her repeatedly.

Four days later, they pounced on their second victim. The woman was walking home with her boyfriend. They were confronted by the accused when they approached the cemetery. The boyfriend ran away and the complainant was forced into a toilet with a broken bottle and was repeatedly raped.

The third victim was also raped and robbed after she was found walking with her male companion in the early hours of the morning.

On 1 January 2013, a 16-year-old minor was walking home with a male companion when they were approached by the accused. They fled when they realised that they were in danger. The accused caught up with the minor and raped her repeatedly.

On 22 February 2013, Tsotsotso followed his fourth victim while she was walking home with her boyfriend from the tavern. He hit the boyfriend with a bottle and proceeded to rape the complainant.

In most of the incidents, the accused robbed the victims, aged between 16 and 20 years of their personal items like caps, cell phones, spectacles and many others items.

State prosecutor, Adv Colin Steyn demanded that the accused be removed from society by being

sentenced to life imprisonment because they terrorised the sleepy township of Rammolotsi and would have continued with their evil deeds, if they were not arrested.

"The accused terrorised the community for a very long time and I am convinced that had they not been arrested, they would have continued with their evil deeds. I don't see them being rehabilitated and the only way the court can protect society from them, is to remove them permanently from the community", stated Adv Steyn.

Tsotsotso was already serving a life sentence for rape when he was sentenced to an additional four life sentences and 54 years in jail.

## Commentary by Advocate Colin Steyn



It is unbelievable that such crimes were committed in a Township like Rammolotsi because it is such a quiet and peaceful community. These crimes shocked the community to the core and people were living in fear.

Many facts had to be taken into account, considering the number of victims. I had to ensure that I had all the relevant facts and had to present it to the court in chronological order, to ensure that the court understood what actually transpired. The sequence of events made it easy for the state to determine the modus operandi of the accused.

Dealing with this case was like grouping feathers together in a room. I had to bring all the facts together in order to build a formidable case to ensure that the court had a clear picture of the kind of people that we were dealing with, in the accused.

The facts presented were like a rope around the necks of the accused, ensuring that there was no way that they could escape imprisonment.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Editor,

The office of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), Commercial Crime Investigations Unit (CCIU) wishes to extend a word of appreciation to the work done by Advocate Ketani of your office.

The assistance given by the advocate came at time when our office was faced with a huge challenge of moving forward on a registered project in which the lead investigator had challenges with some of his colleagues in the Eastern Cape DPP's Office. As a result of personal problems, the investigations stagnated.

An appeal made by this office to the National Head of SCCU, resulted in investigations which were handled by the lead investigator, taking a huge step forward. Advocate Ketani was also assigned to assist in other investigations which could not be transferred to other investigators.

His approach in ensuring that no time is wasted in preparing the charge sheets and always being prepared, resulted in two priority cases being placed before the court in a short space of time. He is a great team player and a good listener who is open to suggestions by other members of the team.

The Component Head of CCIU of the DPCI has been personally involved in investigation dialogues with advocate Ketani. He was impressed with the manner

in which the prosecuting advocate and the investigating team worked together and described it as a healthy and professional engagement and expressed the hope that this will continue and be the case in all investigations.

I wish to extend an unconditional appreciation to Advocate Ketani for his hard work and for the record breaking achievement which this office has never achieved before and within a short space of time. This office regards his dedication and enthusiasm with the highest esteem.

### From:

**Brigadier Sibidla**  
Commercial Crime, Provincial Office,  
Eastern Cape Directorate for  
Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI)  
(Hawks)



Advocate Ketani, SCCU Head Office

### Dear Editor,

#### RE: TWO MEN SENTENCED TO LIFE PLUS 23 YEARS FOR FARM MURDER

The above mentioned headline which appeared in the Internal Bulletin on 05 November 2014 refers:

In the media statement which details the successful prosecution of two men in an Ixopo (KZN) farm murder, reference is made to Advocate Elsa Smith who finalised the matter. In an attempt to capture the essence of the prosecution, the following must be noted:

The matter was prosecuted by Advocate Melanie Naicker, who dealt with it right until conviction.

She was then promoted to Deputy Director Public Prosecutions at the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit (SCCU) in East London and Advocate Smith took over. She led evidence on sentence and dealt with the application for leave to appeal.

The NPA wishes to congratulate Advocate Naicker on the hard work and effort that was put into this matter and apologises for not mentioning her in the statement.

### From:

**Natasha Ramkisson-Kara**  
Regional Communications Manager  
DPP KZN

# LIFE SENTENCE FOR TRAFFICKER

Natasha Ramkisson-Kara



Regional court prosecutor, Russell Sithembile Mngoma secured one of KwaZulu-Natal's first human trafficking convictions. Mngoma, who has been with the NPA for the past four years, is based at the Nongoma Regional Court. The accused in the matter, Alima Nahimana (33) was charged with human trafficking (trafficking of a girl for sexual purposes) as well as rape (on the alternative). However, a conviction on the main count was secured and the accused was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The incident occurred in May 2012 with the complainant 16-year-old at the time. She was in Ulundi central, on her way to the library when she realised that she was being followed by three people of whom two were men (foreign nationals) and a woman (Nahimana).

According to the complainant, Nahimana threw something on the floor and as the complainant walked over it, she became dizzy. When she regained consciousness, she was in a taxi that was full of people and Nahimana was sitting next to her. She was still in a daze when they arrived in a city that she did not recognise and was later told that it was Durban. By now, the complainant had no recollection of her past, was given another name and was told that the accused was her mother. The accused left her with the two men who repeatedly raped her. She was then sent back to live with the accused

who forced her to have sex with numerous men for money. Nahimana took all the proceeds from this prostitution.

When Nahimana got the girl a job at a shop she was forced to take the accused child with her to work and made to lie to the employer that the child was her own. The accused made her do this for some time. One day the girl's aunts spotted her in the shop. She called the girl's mother who in turn called the police. When her aunt greeted her, calling her by her original name, she did not respond. She wondered why this stranger was calling her by another name. She called Nahimana saying that there was a stranger alleging to be her relative. The accused arrived and when asked by the aunt as to whether she knows the girl, the accused denied knowing her, picked up the child and left.

The police followed Nahimana to her residence and again asked her if and how she knew the girl. This time she said that she had found the girl on the streets and that the girl told her that she was an orphan. She also claimed that the girl was married to one of the foreign nationals.

The two men who assisted Nahimana are still at large. The complainant has been reunited with her family and she is currently being treated by a clinical psychologist.

Khasho asked prosecutor, Russell Sithembile some questions about the case.

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## What evidence did you lead?

I used the evidence of the victim. She was very clear and straight forward. She expressed herself confidently and was very articulate. Her aunt, as well as the police officer and the clinical psychologist also testified.

## How do you feel about the sentence?

I am delighted with this sentence. I feel that I have done my duty to the victim, her family and to society at large. I know that this sentence will not in any way replace the trauma that this young girl endured for four long months. However, it will go a long way in as far as closure is concerned.

## Do you have any other comments?

The elements of this matter are typical of human trafficking as the complainant was vulnerable. She was young and from a rural area and she was alone at the time of the abduction. The accused had already plotted against her and she was caught unaware. In short, human trafficking is modern day slavery. The complainant was tricked and taken against her will. She was sold for sexual purposes, degraded and used for the financial gains of her abductor.



# Advocate Lizelle Afrika on launch of 'Abuse No More Protocol'

Eric Ntabazalila



The 22nd of October 2014 marks the re-launch of Abuse No More Protocol. The purpose of this protocol is to assist all learners who are victims of perpetrators of child abuse, deliberate neglect or any sexual offences. This document will be used to by educators and employees of the Western Cape Education

Department to identify, intervene, report and provide support in cases of child abuse, deliberate neglect and to children who are victims of sexual offence. Lizelle Afrika Senior Prosecutor from Sexual Offences and Community Affairs unit represented the National Prosecuting Authority in drafting the Abuse No More Protocol, she tells us about her involvement.

## What is the Abuse No More Protocol?

Child abuse, deliberate neglect and sexual offences against children are challenges that our communities and educational institutions throughout South Africa are faced with on a daily basis. As a result of its high prevalence, this protocol document has been developed to help institutions, employees and learners of the WCED to deal with this challenge in the most efficient and effective way possible. The aim therefore is to manage disclosure without contributing to the secondary trauma victims may face. It further highlights the multi-disciplinary aspect of service provision and how these services can be accessed to assist victims.

## What is the purpose of this document?

To assist all learners who are victims or perpetrators of child abuse, deliberate neglect or any sexual offence; to provide a prescribed approach for educators, employees at institutions under the jurisdiction of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), district and provincial offices to execute their responsibility as mandatory reporters in the process of identifying, reporting, supporting and intervening with regard to Child Abuse and Sexual Offences against children as per the relevant legislation nl. the **Children's Act 38, 2005** and **Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32, 2007** respectively.'

**How important is it in the fight against women and children abuse? How**

## important is it in the fight against crime particularly against children?

The disclosure process is very important and it must be managed correctly and sensitively. The management of disclosure and the reporting procedures contained in the protocol document may therefore be used by learners, educators, employees, parents, caregivers or any other person. All WCED employees must be conversant and have an understanding of the content of the document and their role and function in managing the process to assist with the combating of child abuse and sexual offences against children.

## What was the involvement of the NPA/ Soca in developing the protocol?

I was the only SOCA/NPA representative on the task team which comprised of three school social workers as well. We redrafted the document and made it relevant in light of the current legislation pertaining to children and made it more user friendly so that it can serve as quick reference for principals, educators and WCED personnel.

## When did you start working on this project?

It was started in 2012. It was a long and challenging process and the completion of this document was achieved despite very demanding schedules of all the individuals involved.

## Who were the other stakeholders that you worked with?

The task team was responsible for the drafting and redevelopment of the document and once a draft was available, it was circulated to all relevant provincial government departments and NGOs via the Gender Justice Forum. The Forum held us accountable to very stringent deadlines and provided valuable input which we included in the final document.

## Why did you decided to undertake this type of projects?

Effective management of disclosure and reporting procedures as well as aspects pertaining to support can only be achieved if they are based on a strong legal foundation. I assisted with the inclusion of the relevant legislation contextualising it in relation to this protocol document. My experience in prosecuting sexual offence against women and children and the exposure and experience I received through working for the SOCA unit enabled me to assist with the drafting of the document and making

it relevant to the criminal justice process so that victims and perpetrators who are children can be dealt with adequately from the onset. My experience further assisted in guiding the process with regard to what should be included in the document and how it should be structured and the editing of the content.

Our case managers' at the various TCC's work very closely with the schools in their areas and a number of reports of sexual offences made to educators at schools were inadequately dealt with. The victims in those instances invariably were exposed to more trauma because of the manner in which the disclosure and the eventual reporting was dealt with. Often the matter as not even reported to the police.

Our provincial office has had a long standing relationship with the WCED and we assisted with a number of training sessions prior to working together on this document. When the opportunity presented itself to correct and assist with the manner in which educators dealt with and responded to child abuse and sexual offences matters, I was more than willing (with

the support of my immediate supervisor Adv. Bronwyn Pithey by making this one of my responsibilities for the duration of the process) to make myself available to assist with the drafting of the protocol document.

### Would you suggest that your colleagues also get involve with this type of projects?

Where gaps in service delivery or effective management of child abuse or sexual offences is identified in our communities, and as prosecutors we can make a contribution to effect change; we should definitely grab the opportunity to do so. A number of colleagues across the country have already in small and in some big ways become involved in various initiatives that is aimed at addressing such inconsistencies or gaps in service delivery. Any input no matter how small can go a long way to improving services to victims and ensuring that their involvement in the criminal justice process does not have a negative impact on their lives.



## "Operation Clean Audit"

Did you know non-compliance on contractual commitments may lead to an audit query?

**What is a contractual commitment? Think about this scenario** - You just moved to the city to start your new work at the NPA. You were lucky enough to get accommodation close to work - a nice one bedroom apartment.

Yesterday you signed a lease agreement that stated you will lease the apartment for the next 12 months, monthly rent is R3000 per month and deposit must be paid to the value of two months' rent which the landlord keeps as compensation for loss of income or breakages.

This is a typical example of a contractual commitment.

The NPA has contractual commitments that work on the same basis as described above and have an effect on available budget and financial reporting. The National Treasury wants to know what amount of budget the NPA received has already been committed and to this end the National Treasury prescribes the reporting format of commitments for all departments in the Modified Cash Standards (MCS). To ensure that the NPA is able to provide accurate and complete information, each Business Unit on a monthly basis reports on commitments as part of their Budget reports. To keep track of new commitments, payments and reduction of existing commitments each Business Unit maintains a commitment register.

This register contains some of the following information and is compared to the information contained in the Transversal Systems (BAS and Logis) to ensure completeness and accuracy.

### Commitments within the NPA:

The NPA records its commitments, at cost as at the reporting date and the NPA discloses the following different commitments:

- **Approved and contracted commitments** are disclosed if an existing contract or order for the goods and services have been issued. The following criteria must be met:
  - » Contracts should be non-cancellable or only cancellable at significant cost; and
  - » Contracts should relate to something other than the routine, steady, state business of the department e.g. salary payments.
- **Approved but not yet contracted commitments** should be disclosed if the procurement of goods or services has been approved by the delegated official/committee.
- **Lease commitments** are reported separately. SCM (photocopiers), Fleet and Facilities (accommodation and vehicles) submit this information as part of their monthly reporting to the office of the Chief Director: Financial Administration.
- Goods and Services obtained on an **"as and when"** required basis.

These are excluded from commitments amounts reported in the financials as there are no penalties (cost) involved if the goods or services are not requested.

All Head of Business Units/Director of Administration must verify all contracts within their areas of responsibility on a monthly basis. Orders issued where a contract or SLA exists should be verified and updated on the SharePoint link:

<http://npamoss/cs/finpro/afs/Reporting/InternalControl/Commitments/ContractExpenditure/>.



# NPA ATTENDS A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION AT PORT ALFRED

Tsepo Ndwalaza

October / November 2014

NPA News



DPP demonstrating the importance of the criminal justice system and its work

On 29 October 2014, the NPA was invited by the SAPS provincial office to be part of a community engagement session which happened at the Nemato Community Hall in Port Alfred. The DPP Lungi Mahlati (SC) addressed the community on various issues that were raised by that community, from issues of domestic violence and trust on law enforcement agencies and etc. A number of community leaders were also present to share information about problems affecting their community.

As the NPA we had an exhibition stall through which we distributed information on understanding criminal justice system, information on the Thuthuzela Care Centres and the role that they play in the community. We also interacted with the community and

grade 11 learners from the local high school also attended the event and they were so impressed with our stall and most of them said they would like to work for the NPA one day. We gave them information on the choice of courses to prepare them for the possibility of studying law one day.

There were also other departments from the criminal justice cluster such as Safety & Liaison, Correctional Services, Legal Aid Board, Social Development Department as well as representatives from the Department of Justice. It was really a great opportunity for us to interact with the community in an attempt to bridge the information gap between the government departments and the community in which we operate.

## Acknowledgements

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