



Strategy 2020 embraces all



Recognition: At the Stakeholders conference gala dinner on March 28, Minister Brigitte Mabandla and Adv Vusi Pikoli congratulated former National Director of Public Prosecutions Bulelani Ngcuka (left) and former NPA spokesperson Makhosini Nkosi (far right) on their contributions to the organisation.

Story on page 3

Proper burial for those exhumed

The remains of political activist Looksmart Ngudle were exhumed by the NPA

Page 10

KwaZulu Natal in focus

This month Khasho looks at how the KZN DPP meets its challenges.

Pages 6 & 7

Meet the new face of the NPA

Panyaza Lesufi is the new spokesperson of the NPA. Khasho profiles him in this edition.

Page 8

NPA committed to working with partners, stakeholders

The NPA's new Strategy 2020 launched at the Stakeholder Conference last week, strongly rests on joint problem-solving and co-operation between partners and stakeholders.

Invited at the conference were delegates from the seven stakeholder segments we have identified: Governors, Customers, (individuals, communities, industries & institution, the state and other states) Employees, Partners, Suppliers, the accused and civil society.

Indeed, very few elements in the NPA Strategy 2020 can be executed by the NPA on its own. The NPA has to work with its partners to solve, prevent crime and ensure the delivery of justice.

This requirement is reflected in the NPA's new Mission 2020: Guided by the Constitution, we in the National Prosecuting Authority ensure justice for the victims of crime by prosecuting without fear, favour or prejudice and by working with our partners and the public to solve and prevent crime.

The work statement that sets the NPA on the road to achieving its Vision 2020: Justice in our society so that people can live in freedom and security.

The NPA is firm in its resolve to work



National Director of Prosecutions
Advocate Vusi Pikoli

with partners and stakeholders to deliver justice for the greater good of South Africa and the continent. For this reason, the NPA made use of the Stakeholder Conference 2007 - and many other opportunities that will arise - to work together with partners and stakeholders to share experiences, lessons, information, skills, expertise and even resources where necessary.

We are doing this because we want to engage more regularly with partners and stakeholders as we are interested in their opinion and advice.

The NPA furthermore wants to be well-governed, and this calls for transparency.

We are hosting more events such as this one because we acknowledge that the NPA is answerable to its governors, partners and stakeholders. We therefore want to keep them informed of our strategic direction and performance.

The NPA is looking at consistently delivering value to its stakeholders within the parameters of the Constitution, the law and generally accepted governance principles.

To enhance our service delivery, we have to be informed of the needs of society and our customers - those vulnerable to crime, the victims and state witnesses.

Contents

3	"This strategy is informed by our stakeholders"	9	SCCU-Durban reaches out.
4	Prosecutors told to work with integrity	9	NPA granted right to request documents
5	Aiming for better service delivery	10	NPA exhumes Looksmart Ngudle's remains
6 & 7	Regional Focus: KwaZulu Natal	11	Staff news / DSO Team Spirit
8	Meet the new face of the NPA	12	NPA in the news / Upcoming Events

“This strategy informed by our stakeholders”

The NPA has engaged its stakeholders and partners to ensure a more effective criminal justice system at a three day conference held from 28 to 30 March at the Gallagher Estate.

National Director of Public Prosecutions Vusi Pikoli publicly launched Strategy 2020 at the conference saying that the strategy was a culmination of three years of crafting and drafting.

“Through this strategy we want to make sure that we have a happy workforce that conserves its responsibility towards the people of South Africa. This strategy is connected to the reality. It is a guiding light as we carry out our functions.

“As the NPA we want to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of ordinary South Africans. We want to contribute to a society that is free from want and free from fear. We want to contribute to an improved criminal justice system and that is how we want to be judged,” added Pikoli.

“This strategy is informed by our stakeholders and partners, and if we don’t work together with our partners it won’t work. Our front is at the local level and that is where our battle is defined and where it will be won,” he said.

Delivering her keynote address, Justice and Constitutional Development Brigitte Mabandla told the delegates that “as you launch Strategy 2020 you should also think about sustainable systems to take you there. There’s a need for greater synergies within the Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster. Access to services and the eradication of poverty requires collective action.”

Charles Leacock, Director of Public Prosecutions in Barbados, addressed the high profile conference focusing on crime challenges, giving an international and African perspective.

Leacock was followed by Finance Minister Trevor Manuel who dealt with the topic: The new struggle for freedom: the economic front in the face of crime.



Organised: The Stakeholder conference organising team was acknowledged for their hardwork in making the gathering a success.

Manuel said that government was committed to the fight against crime and has allocated over R55bn to the Criminal Justice System. To give the delegates a better picture of the crime situation,

Dr Johan Burger from the Institute for Security Studies, gave a presentation on crime trends in South Africa.

Wrapping up the first day’s proceedings, was a gala dinner in which Pikoli presented former NDPP Bulelani Ngcuka and former NPA spokesperson Makhosini Nkosi with special awards for their contribution to the work of the organisation.

“It’s two years eight months since I left the NPA but when I walked in I felt at home. I’m proud of you. When you hurt, I hurt and when you succeed I feel it,” said Ngcuka.

Nkosi added: “My stint at the NPA was not informed by any idea of receiving an award one day but by the noble ideal of working without fear, favour or prejudice.”

The second day of the conference started with a presentation by Deputy National Police Commissioner Andre Pruis. The presentation was divided in two parts with the first one dealing with the South African Police’s strategy and the second with the challenges and plans for the Fifa

World Cup in 2010.

The Human Sciences Research Council’s (HSRC) Director of Knowledge Systems Craig Schwabe gave a detailed presentation on the environment in

which crime was thriving, touching on the socio-demographic profiles, future trends and implications for the criminal justice system.

The delegates also got a chance to discuss the many challenges facing the NPA in the form of commissions. Some of the topics dealt with included the NPA’s role in building a broader morality to reduce crime (good governance); the NPA’s role in crime prevention; the NPA’s role in strengthening criminal investigations; the NPA’s role in resolving victimization justly, efficiently and effectively and the NPA’s role in building confidence in the criminal justice system.

The conference came to a close on the third day with report backs from the commissions.

No less than 95 organisations ranging from government departments, business, the international community, non-governmental organisations and civic organisations participated in the deliberations during the conference. CEO Marion Sparg thanked all that participated: “It’s not the end of the process as the NPA will continue to engage with stakeholders”.

It’s not the end of the process as the NPA will continue to engage with stakeholders

We want to contribute to an improved criminal justice system and that is how we want to be judged.

Prosecutors told to work with integrity

Without integrity we do away with the legitimacy of the prosecution services and bring into disrepute the whole justice system

‘Without integrity we disintegrate.” So said the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) Adv Vusi Pikoli during the opening of the Senior Management Conference held at Inanda Conference Centre in Fourways, Gauteng.

The three-day conference held early in March, brought together more than 200 members of the Senior Management System (SMS) of the NPA and attracted some of the country’s leading legal and management practitioners.

“Prosecutors without integrity become persecutors. Without integrity we do away with the legitimacy of the prosecution services and bring into disrepute the whole justice system,” said Pikoli.

Pikoli admitted that the NPA had in the recent past been subjected to all sorts of attacks, some valid and some without substance.

“However, the manner in which we do our work will vindicate us. We need to be fearless in carrying out our work because the moment we are scared, we won’t be able to do our work with integrity,” said Pikoli.

His opening remarks were followed by the ever thought-provoking Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional development Advocate Johnny De Lange.

The vice-chancellor of the University of South Africa Professor Barney Pitso, focused on “universal ethical orientation”.

The chairperson of Titan Capital Rule Khoza, focused on the African paradigm of leadership.

Transnet CEO Maria Ramos, stressed humility and visibility as the essence of



Maria Ramos

leadership. “A leader’s conduct informs the organisational culture,” she said.

Corporate governance guru Judge Mervin King told the conference that leadership was about “quality and not quantity” and urged the participants to create a culture of intellectual honesty in the workplace.

Academic and BHP Billiton Chairman Dr Vincent Maphai told the conference that “the power of an individual or organisation lies in their moral credibility.”

Joel Netshitendze head of policy in The Presidency, decried what he called a “fear of outrage.”

Netshitendze also urged the NPA not to “squander the public goodwill” saying rules and regulations alone were not enough?

Judge Bah who addressed the conference on the last day, from the Witwatersrand Local Division, told the managers that “the country, society, and even the bench appreciate the work you do.”

The judge stressed that the “role of a prosecutor excludes any notion of winning or losing.

“His or her function is to assist the court to deliver justice based on the facts”.

Also attending the conference was Member of Parliament Adv Might Madasa, who posed probing questions throughout the proceedings.

Asked what his impressions were after three days of deliberations, Madasa commended the NPA for organizing a conference of this nature, saying it was



Joel Netshitendze, head of policy in The Presidency urged the NPA not to squander the public’s goodwill.

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well-structured and had good speakers.

“The atmosphere was conducive for good discussions and interaction.

“My sense is that this should not be a once-off conference. It needs to be expanded.

“I guess one of the challenges facing the NPA leadership is to depoliticise the institution in the eyes of the public.

“Communication with the people who go to court is the biggest challenge facing the NPA,” added Medasa.

Aiming for better service delivery

The National Prosecuting Services (NPS) have for the first time, held a conference for its administrators to ensure a coordinated and better service delivery.

The conference which attracted over 300 delegates was held in Durban from February 28 to March 2 under the theme: A coordinated approach to ensure better service delivery.

The main speaker, Adv J Smit who represented the Head of NPS, Adv MJ Mpshe SC said administrators played a crucial role in ensuring that the office of the NPS was effective and efficient.

He told the delegates that they were a critical link in the team.

The role of administrators in ensuring the success of Strategy 2020 was also highlighted. Strategy 2020 aims to improve efficiency within the criminal justice system by promoting a closer working relationship between the NPA and its partners and stakeholders. The session proved to be popular with many of the delegates as one said, "I am very grateful to finally understand the NPA Strategy 2020."

Motivational speaker Buyane Zwane encouraged delegates to think outside the box when executing their work.

"You are not just working, you are serving people of this country, your mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers...so do it with love," are some of the words of wisdom he shared with the administrators.

On the last day of the conference, heads of various units, namely Human Resources, IMSC and Communications, committed themselves to improving their units.

Most delegates said they have gained a lot from the conference and felt motivated to do more and better.



Important roles: Administrators play a crucial role in ensuring that the offices of the National Prosecuting Services run effectively and efficiently.

ence and felt motivated to do more and better.

"I feel valued by my principles. It is good to know that administrators are also as important as everyone else in the organisation. I appreciate that there was a conference focusing on the role of administrators; I wish we had included all NPA administrators, not just from our business unit," were some of the comments from the delegates.

NPS Corporate Manager Charity Mpofu challenged delegates to visibly demonstrate a coordinated service delivery. "The whole organisation will be watching whether we deliver on our promises or not," she said

Scenes from the Stakeholder conference



Coming together: (left) Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and special advisor in the office of the National Director of the NPA Kalyani Pillay at the Stakeholder conference on March 28.

(middle) Strategy and Risk Executive Manager Mariaan van Kaam, Minister Brigitte Mabandla and Adv Vusi Pikoli share a light moment.

(right) Deputy National Police Commissioner Andre Puis presented the SAPS strategy on the handling the plans and challenges it would face with the 2010 FIFA World Cup

Meeting the challenges head on

Khasho spoke to the Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu Natal Adv Shamila Batohi about the challenges facing the region and its areas of focus.

How does geography present challenges for your office?

We're one of the largest regions, with 29 percent of the country's population.

It's a large geographic area which presents its own challenges. We have courts in very remote areas. With so many loyal and hardworking prosecutors, I'm always amazed at how many are prepared to go the extra mile and deliver.

What do you see as key areas of focus?

Looking at the NPA broadly, we need to focus on clearly defined goals in a few critical areas. The most important challenge for us is to increase

efficiency in the courts therefore the case flow management project is one of the key projects here in KwaZulu Natal.

One of our big strategic objectives is to contribute to the growth of the South African economy. Therefore our focus on environment and wildlife crimes speaks to that.

Also in as much as our core business is traditional criminal cases, we need to start focusing on the environmental crimes. It's our planet at stake and for generations to come, they will look back to what we put in place for them.

Traditional organised crime is also a national focus. I feel passionate about this. We have to work hard to make an impact by focusing on the market of these criminals.

It's about supply and demand and that's where I feel we're missing the boat.

The people who provide the market for these criminals should be dealt with severely.

The only way to get to grips with this is to focus on crime prevention and restorative justice to reduce recidivism.

We have the NGO Khulisa, a national crime prevention initiative piloting a restorative justice project in Phoenix.

That area was selected because prosecutors there were already working within the restorative justice mindset.

Housebreaking has been identified as one of the priority crimes in the region, and it's on the increase. If people can't feel safe in their own homes, we have a real problem.

In Pietermaritzburg we've implemented special housebreaking courts which have proved very successful, and we have plans to roll this out to the rest of the province.

Tell us more about the Guilty Plea project.

It started around 2003 and is specific to our region. We sensitise police and prosecutors towards suspects who want to plead guilty at the outset. In these instances the investigating officer will contact a high court advocate and the case will go onto the high court roll immediately. It takes approximately 5 days for the case to finalise from the date of incident.

We've involved the justice centre to ensure that the rights of the accused are looked after. An example of this speedy justice in action was the Rattray murder case, where the accused was convicted within seven days of the murder. Around 30 to 40 cases are prosecuted in this manner each year since we started.

It's being driven by High Court Adv Engelbrecht and Adv Sheriza Ramouthar.



Adv Gert Nel is responsible for co-ordinating the prosecution of wildlife crime in KwaZulu Natal

Nipping wildlife crime in the bud

More than 1 000 environmental crime cases are in court in KwaZulu Natal, ranging from minor contraventions to serious organised crime matters.

And, if unchecked, environmental and wildlife crimes could have a devastating impact on the province's economy, says Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Adv Gert Nel.

Nel is responsible for co-ordinating the prosecutions of wildlife crime in the province and works with the Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG).

A partnership between Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the South African Police Service and the NPA, the working group was established in August 2002, in terms of the uMkhuze Declaration, in response to concerns about the lack of capacity to deal effectively with wildlife crime in the province. It is the first such collaboration in the country since police units dealing specifically with these crimes were shut down, leaving an enforcement vacuum.

For the past five years the working group has been slogging to overcome its challenges, which include having a vast area to police in a province which hosts one of the busiest ports in the world, porous borders with Mozambique and Swaziland, a lack of resources and capacity, apathy and a lack of knowledge among enforcement agencies and the public.

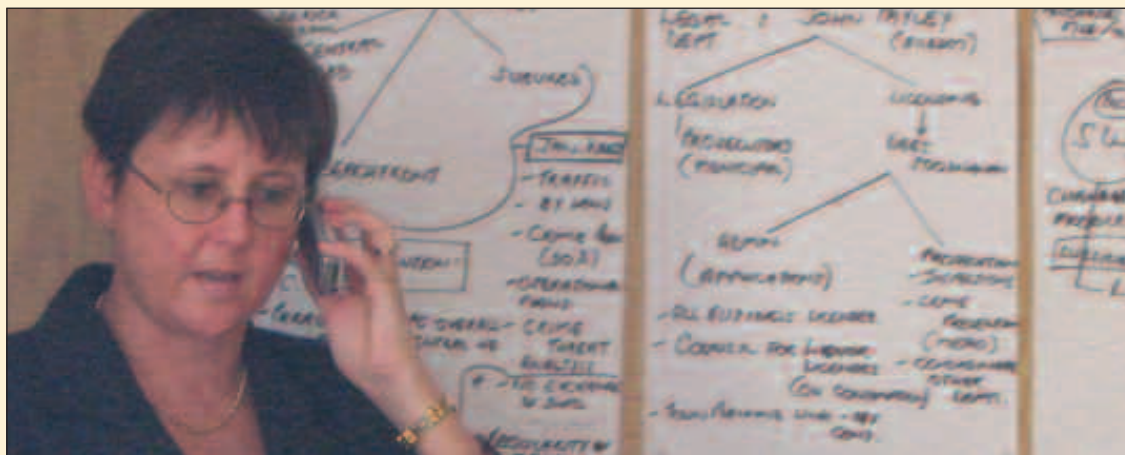
With environmental crimes there is usually no single victim, Nel says, making it more difficult to investigate and prosecute such crimes. To overcome this, the working group has embarked on a province-wide education and awareness campaign.

"We are struggling through this process. It's not easy," says Nel, but adds that he is hopeful the pioneering initiative will continue improving its effectiveness and give the country a successful model on which to base a national strategy.



Adv Shamila Batohi

High hopes for Community court



On the job:
Senior Public Prosecutor Val Melis says: "I'll never clean up all of Point, but as long as I can make a difference to the lives of the area's people, I will be satisfied."

Point Road in Durban has always been a difficult area to police.

Recently renamed Mahatma Gandhi Road, it and the surrounding area attracts pimps, prostitutes, drug dealers and homeless children, in addition to thousands of holiday makers each year.

But the area, which forms a belt around some of Durban's most beautiful beaches, is also an old residential district which is undergoing dramatic development as the city tries to clean up and boost its revenue.

It is no surprise then, that a community court was situated at the Point Road police station as part of a national pilot project which has nine such courts around the country.

Headed by Senior Public Prosecutor

Val Melis, who is based in a small "caravan" office on the police station premises, the court's two prosecutors finalise about 150 cases a month.

Melis, who has been on the job for about two months, says she is slowly building relationships of trust with the police and different communities in the area.

She was on the ground when police shut down seven illegal nightclubs in the area which residents identified as notorious drug dens.

She is impressed with the station's intelligence gathering and crime analysis abilities, but says the challenge now is to "try to persuade the police to open dockets and fingerprint every person they detain".

"My view is that this will eventually reduce crime in the area," she says, adding that the Point police station is no worse resourced than any other. "There is a great deal of fear in the Point community and we have to work really hard to change this."

The pilot project is supported by the Independent Projects Trust. There is no telephone in the caravan, but Melis's office is hi-tech nonetheless. The trust supplies the office with a cell phone, a laptop, 3G internet connection and a digital camera.

What about the future of the pilot project?

"We almost cannot afford to let it [the community court] not carry on," says Melis.

Fast facts

Working Languages: Zulu, English and Afrikaans

Address: 301 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg

Director of Public Prosecutions: Adv Shamila Batohi

Deputy Directors of Public Prosecutions:

Adv Sheriza Ramouthar, Adv Gert Engelbrecht (Pietermar-

itzburg), Adv Ross Stuart (Pietermaritzburg), Adv Rita Blumrick (Pietermaritzburg), Adv Gert Nel, Adv Themba Mjoli (Specialised Tax Unit)

Chief Prosecutors:

Sagren Naidoo (Pietermaritzburg), Eric Sibeko (Durban), Philile Sibeko (Empangeni), Ray Sansom (Port Shepstone), Andre Loubser (Ladysmith), Amy Kristnasamy (Pinetown)

Corporate Manager: Mfanafuthi Simelane

WHO'S WHO IN KZN



Deputy DPP: Adv Sheriza Ramouthar



Adv Malini Govender



Adv Monty Naicker



Dep Admin Mng: Edna Rudder



Deputy DPP: Adv Ross Stuart



Deputy DPP: Adv Gert Engelbrecht



PA to the DPP: Pam Saltmarsh



Newly elected spokesperson Panyaza Lesufi says this is a tough position but he's ready for the challenge.

Meet the new face of the NPA

The former spokesperson for the Gauteng Department of Education Panyaza Lesufi, has joined the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

Lesufi takes over from Makhosini Nkosi as spokesperson for the NPA.

Lesufi says he is aware the position is a mammoth task but he's up for the challenge.

Asked why he decided to join the NPA, Lesufi says, "I've never really chosen where I go in my career. It is how this country evolves that places me in the various positions that I've held up to now. I must be honest, I never imagined myself being here, but I'm happy I am."

He is a seasoned communicator who has sharpened his skills in the various posts he has held at different government departments in the past ten years, mostly in Gauteng.

Prior to that, he led students as president of the Student Representative Council

(SRC), while studying for a Business Administration and Marketing degree at the then University of Natal which is now called the University of KwaZulu/Natal.

A soccer enthusiast and a Moroka Swallows fan, Lesufi also served as a trustee and spokesperson for the Ellis Park Disaster Fund.

"This is a tough position; I realise that, but I'm not fazed by it," he says. "I'm aware that comparatively speaking, this job deals with much more serious and sensitive issues than what I have dealt with in the past. The field of law enforcement is new to me and I still have to learn the jargon."

Having said that, Lesufi acknowledges that although different in some ways; his previous work experience will contribute greatly to his success at the NPA. "Without

my past experience, I would sink in this job."

Most importantly he says, "I have taken this job in order to entrench the democracy

we fought so hard for; and to ensure that lawlessness is not allowed to prevail in our country. There are many people who had to die fighting for this democracy and we have to protect it by making sure that those who break the law are called to account"

His vision is to beef up media relations at the different regional offices of the NPA. "We would not have given a true reflection of our work, if we don't tell stories of what we do in the regions."

Tladi Tladi will be working with Lesufi as deputy spokesperson. He was previously a Senior Special Investigator at the Directorate of Special Operations.

I have taken this job in order to entrench the democracy we fought so hard for; and to ensure that lawlessness is not allowed to prevail in our country

SCCU-Durban reaches out

The Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit (SCCU) in Durban has adopted a community of children orphaned by AIDS.

The outreach programme, organised and co-ordinated by Advocate Reshma Athmaram cares for children from the Valley of a Thousand Hills, just outside Hillcrest.

Close to 50 families in the area, are headed by children.

According to a study by the Actuarial Society of South Africa, 40 percent of people living in the area, are HIV-positive.

Last year, prosecutors collected food and clothing which they dropped off on various visits to the Valley. "The joy and appreciation from old grandmothers was indescribable," says Athmaram.

A needs assessment conducted by the prosecutors found that many of the children did not have social grants, or the other set of grandparents was illegally collecting the children's grants.

The prosecutors teamed up with investigating officers from social welfare and arranged a session to assist the grandparents and orphans. "The aim was to leave the adopted community empowered for the future," Athmaram says.

She says what they are doing is in line with the NPA's 2020 strategy on crime prevention. "Crime prevention begins with community care.

We need to create an enabling environment not just for the sake of these orphaned children or our consciousness but for the future of our own children and grandchildren," Athmaram says.

Members of the Durban Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit brought fun and laughter to dozens of orphans and their grandmothers at the Valley of a Thousand Hills. They brought clothes and food which had been collected last year.



NPA granted right to request documents

KZN Deputy Judge President Phillip Levensohn has granted the NPA request for a letter asking Mauritian authorities to hand over documents pertaining to alleged meetings between African National Congress deputy president Jacob Zuma, convicted businessman Schabir Shaik and French arms manufacturer Thint.

The documents include the 2000 diary of Alain Thetard, the former chief executive of Thales International's South African subsidiary Thint(Pty) Ltd, which reportedly details a meeting in March

2000 between him, Zuma and Shaik. The NPA alleges that an agreement on a R500,000-a-year bribe for Zuma was reached at this meeting.

In his judgment, Levensohn rejected Zuma and Thint's assertion that legal proceedings against them were still pending. The NPA was still bound by a March 2006 order issued by Judge Pete Combrinck that any letter of request would have to be granted by a trial judge.

"I reject this submission," said Levensohn. "In my view when a case is struck

off the roll prior to plea the criminal proceedings pending are terminated."

Speaking shortly after Judge Levensohn handed down his decision, Zuma's attorney Michael Hulley said Zuma would lodge an application for leave to appeal against the decision. He said it "would be improper and premature" to indicate which points of Levensohn's ruling would be contested in the appeal.

Should Levensohn reject this, Zuma may petition the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein.

NPA exhumes Looksmart Ngudle's remains

Ngudle's family seeks to give him a proper burial once DNA tests have confirmed that the remains are his

The community of Mamelodi came out in their numbers to give support during the exhumation of the remains of struggle activist Looksmart Ngudle.

The National Prosecuting Authority's Priority Crimes and Litigation Unit began investigations to locate Ngudle's remains last year at the request of his son Siyanda Ngudle.

After going through a number of records, they located Ngudle's remains.

The exhumation was conducted on March 1 by Luis Fondebrider, President of the Argentine Anthropology Forensic Team; together with Morongoa Mosothwane from Wits University's Archaeology Department and Thabang Manyapelo from the University of Cape Town's Anatomy Department.

Ngudle was the first recorded political activist's death in detention.

He, together with a group of Umkhonto we Sizwe members from Cape Town, were detained and taken to Pretoria where they were interrogated and severely tortured by members of the police force.

Ngudle's involvement in politics began



Tshwane mayor Gwen Ramakgopa comforts members of the Ngudle family.

The monuments around the country will help educate the youth so they never take for granted the freedom they enjoy today

in the 1950s. He was an active member of the ANC, the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the South Africa Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

In May 1963 an order banning Ngudle from participating in political activities was issued and he was confined to the Wynberg Magisterial district in Cape Town.

Two months later, police swooped on his place of hiding.

He was arrested and moved to Pretoria where he was detained at Pretoria North Police cells.

In September 1963, Ngudle was found

hanging in his cell.

Tshwane mayor, Gwen Ramakgopa also attended the exhumation.

During her address, she emphasised the importance of giving proper honour to individuals like Ngudle who died fighting for freedom and democracy.

"That is why the government is building a number of monuments around the country, which will not only serve as a reminder of the selflessness of those who laid down their lives but will help educate the youth of our country so that they never take for granted the freedom they now enjoy," said Ramakgopa.

Ngudle's family seeks to give him a proper burial once DNA tests have confirmed that the remains are indeed his.

Advocates take silk



Three Senior advocates have been granted Senior Counsel status (sometimes referred to as 'taking silk') by the President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki. Director of Public Prosecution in Johannesburg Charin de Beer, Senior State Prosecutor in Cape Town Anthony Stephen and Deputy Director of Public Prosecution in Grahamstown Chris de Klerk have received this honour.

New appointments



Tladi Tladi has been appointed deputy spokesperson of the NPA. He was previously a Senior Special Investigator at the Directorate of Special Operations.

Directorate of Public Prosecutions - Bloemfontein

Newly appointed advocates:

Adv K J A Ntimutse
Adv F J Pienaar
Adv R Hoffman

Team spirit DSO

The Directorate of Special Operations (DSO) in KwaZulu Natal is using South Africa's most loved sport, soccer, as their team building tool.

The DSO hosts monthly soccer team building sessions at Ethekekwini municipal grounds where they play for the Fuhlu floating trophy, sponsored by colleague K.H. Ngema, who named the trophy after his father.

The teams, consisting of both men and women, have members from all the departments in the office.

Organised by corporate manager Mluleki Chagi, the first team building match took place on February 16.

Initially, four soccer teams were formed, namely Mkhonto FC, Tango FC, Admin FC and X-Ray FC but due to an operation of delivering Scorpions pamphlets in a community outreach programme and other work commitments, the team building exercise only saw two of the four teams take to the field.

"We initially expected that we'd have four teams, but the show had to go on!" says Chagi.

Some members of the other teams ended up joining Mkhonto FC and Admin FC as their substitutes

Admin FC beat Mkhonto FC by 3-1 in the final knockout session. Admin FC consisted of members from the Admin, Operations, Support and IT departments.

Chagi was coach Celeste Adams captained the team. The losing team Mkhonto FC, was coached by William Nicholson and captained by Leonard Sheriff. It consisted of members from Crime Analysis, Organised Fraud and Corruption departments.

Admin FC has to defend their trophy at these monthly team building sessions.

Chagi says they ultimately want to have trophies for all sporting codes during their monthly team building exercises.



Winner: Celeste Adams from the winning team Admin FC and K H Ngema who sponsored the Fuhlu floating trophy.

Soccer is the first code to have started with because of its popularity.

"The teambuilding sessions are very good for the office. With teambuilding, you are able to build a very strong and united workforce. This ensures superb production and the achievement of goals and objectives of the organisation," said a satisfied Chagi.

Making headlines



(above) The appointment of Panyaza Lesufi as NPA spokesperson made national news with a profile in the Sunday Times on 18 March and an appearance on Morning Live in March.

(left) The 16 March issue of Financial Mail included a 16-page special report on the NPA, profiling the NPA business units and looking at its transformation strategy.

News in Brief

Former NPA man's case postponed

The fraud case against Letlakano Ramaema, the former National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) senior advocate, was postponed to May 21 in the Specialised Commercial Crimes Court in Pretoria. Ramaema, 39, from Lesotho, joined the NPA in 1999. He was arrested by Home Affairs officials in October last year on suspicion of fraudulently obtaining a South African identity document. The case was postponed to allow for further investigations.

Constitutional court upholds businessman's appeal

The Constitutional Court has upheld the appeal of a businessman who had challenged the national prosecuting authority's (NPA) seizure of his property. Kumarnath Mohunram's property was seized after he pleaded guilty to operating an illegal casino in Vryheid in 2001. The NPA argued that the property had been instrumental in the commission of a crime, but the court found that there was no direct link between the property and the criminal activities.

Happy Birthday



NDPP Adv Vusi Pikoli celebrated his birthday on 29 March with the delegates at the Stakeholder conference at the Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Johannesburg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DSO Annual National Conference

The Directorate of Special Operations is holding its Annual National Conference on the 19 - 21 April at the Emperor's Palace in Kempton Park

Rustenburg Gala Dinner

Bafokeng's Senior Prosecutor Cavin Mphaga is hosting a gala dinner and awards evening for prosecutors on 20 April at the Orion Safari Lodge in Rustenburg. The event starts at 6pm.

**Your
Action
COUNTS**



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