

KHASHO NEWS

1st Edition



NPA MEN LED A POWERFUL PICKET *During The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children Campaign*

**SOUTH AFRICA REMOVED
FROM THE FATF GREY LIST:**
A Testament to Collaboration,
Commitment, and Courage
and a double dose of
Perseverance

**TWO LIFE TERMS PLUS
15 YEARS**
For Man Who Raped and
Killed an Elderly Woman

**WHEN FAITH BECOMES
A WEAPON:**
Protecting Young Women
from Predatory Pastors

MAKING CRIME UNPROFITABLE:
Insights from Advocate Ouma Rabaji-Rasethaba



National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Published for the NPA by: Broadword Communications | www.broadword.co.za

Letter from **THE MANAGING EDITOR**



Ms Nomilo Mpondo
Managing Editor

This edition is a reflection of the gravity, complexity and unwavering resolve that characterise the work of the National Prosecuting Authority in service of justice.

At the forefront of this issue is the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), a crisis that continues to wound our society at its core. As the country observed the 16 Days of Activism Against GBVF, the NPA reaffirmed its zero-tolerance stance through decisive action and visible solidarity. The nationwide marches and pickets led by NPA men send a powerful message: the fight against GBVF is not a women's issue alone, but a collective responsibility. The rape matters featured in this edition are a sobering reminder of why this commitment must translate into sustained prosecutorial action, victim-centred approaches and societal change.

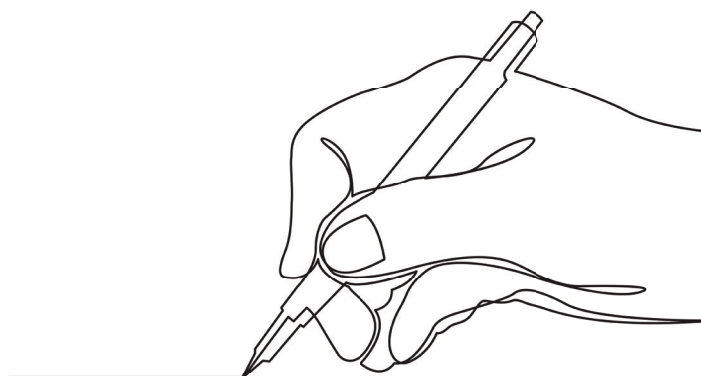
This newsletter also details murder prosecutions that underscore the NPA's determination to ensure accountability for the most serious crimes. Of particular significance is the successful extradition of a Zimbabwean national who fled South Africa after committing murder. This case illustrates the strength of regional and international cooperation and sends a clear signal that borders will not shield perpetrators from justice.

In addressing crimes that undermine the state and public trust, this edition highlights prosecutions related to Road Accident Fund (RAF) fraud, reinforcing the NPA's role in protecting public resources and safeguarding institutions meant to serve the most vulnerable. These efforts align with broader national progress, including South Africa's removal from greylisting – a milestone that reflects strengthened systems, improved accountability and the collective work of law enforcement and prosecutorial bodies.

We are also honoured to feature reflections from the retired Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions and former Head of the Asset Forfeiture Unit, Adv Ouma Rabaji-Rasethaba. This contribution offers valuable institutional memory and insight into the evolution of asset forfeiture as a critical tool in disrupting criminal enterprises and depriving offenders of the proceeds of crime.

Together, the stories in this edition speak to justice pursued with courage, integrity and consistency – whether in the courtroom, on the streets in solidarity with victims, or through strategic interventions that protect the rule of law.

As Managing Editor, I invite our readers to engage with these articles not only as accounts of prosecutions, but as affirmations of the NPA's constitutional mandate: to ensure that justice is done, without fear, favour or prejudice.



Leadership CORNER



Adv Bonnie Currie-Gamwo

Special Director of Public Prosecutions: SOCA

After 27 years of commemorating 16 days of activism against violence against women and children and amidst escalating levels of gender-based violence that has crippled our beautiful country, South Africa on 21 November 2025 became the only country in the world to classify GBVF as a national disaster. Sadly, this classification meets the threshold based on scale, severity, and the capacity of the criminal justice system to cope. Calling GBVF a national disaster, signals that we recognize the urgency and severity of the scourge. We recognize that we must act now, that we must act decisively and that we must act bravely. Importantly we recognize that we must act as a collective. We cannot allow GBVF to continue devastating families, destabilizing communities undermining the very foundation upon which our economy and our democracy rests.

This classification presents South Africa, a country with of the best GBVF laws and policies in the world and of the highest levels of GBVF globally, with a unique opportunity to address the disconnect between the levels of GBVF and the laws and policies -namely effective implementation. Successful implementation for impact requires a vehicle which places the victim of GBV at the centre of its response. The NPA, through the Sexual Offences

and Community Affairs Unit, introduced the Thuthuzela Care Centre model as that vehicle. TCCs are one stop court directed GBV facilities that provide the most comprehensive triad of GBV services to victims – namely, psycho-social, medical and prosecutorial legal services. Tried and tested since 2000, the TCC model has ensured a victim centred approach, reduced secondary victimization, embedded a multi-sectoral response which increased the conviction rate in sexual offences and provided an opportunity for victims to be empowered to become survivors of GBV. Internationally recognized as a best practice in addressing GBV, the South African Government too has recognized the NPA's model as an essential part of the country's arsenal against GBVF, identifying it as a key part of its roadmap to ensure declassification. This is an amplification of the emphasis that the National Strategic Plan on GBVF places on utilizing the TCC model to effectively address GBV.

To ensure optimal impact, the expansion of the TCC model must be accelerated. Recognizing that government cannot finance such rapid acceleration, the SOCA unit secured lucrative public private partnerships across all sectors This ensured that between 2021 to date, the number of TCCs increased from 55 to 67. In addition, the unit secured a pledge from the CEOs of well-known companies to drive a campaign to raise funds to finance the building of 100 TCCs over the next few years. This is possible because the private sector understands that the TCCs offer the highest return on impact in the fight against GBV and are the blueprint for effectively eradicating GBV through its prevention strategies as well as its overall purpose to seek justice for victims through the courts.

Thuthuzela Care Centres are the NPA'S frontline response to this national disaster. They are the places where healing begins, and justice is fortified. It is one of the best examples of internal NPA cohesion across business units.

The NPA, through the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit, redefined its GBV response beyond the confines of litigation and court performance to include the pretrial interventions and embedding a victim centred approach. It developed a strategy which represents the NPA 's commitment to position itself as a leader in the fight against GBVF as we continue to entrench its prioritization throughout the organization and ever striving to achieve service excellence, leaving no victim behind.

THE HIDDEN DANGER BEHIND CLOSED DOORS:

Why Women Must Leave Abusive Relationships

Mojalefa Senokoatsane – RCM: Northern Cape Division



Adv Elmarie Kruger

The recent life sentence handed down to Johannes Mouton, who brutally murdered his long-term partner, Sanna Basson, is a chilling reminder of the deadly consequences of domestic violence. This horrific incident, which claimed Sanna's life despite medical intervention, highlights a grim reality that far too many women face: the danger of staying in abusive relationships.

Between 8 and 9 November 2024, what should have been the safety of one's own home turned into a scene of unimaginable violence. After an argument, Mouton assaulted Sanna with a spade, causing multiple injuries that eventually led to her death. Their children, witnesses to the aftermath, will forever bear the trauma of witnessing their mother's suffering.

The law has spoken decisively in this case, through prosecution led by State Advocate Elmarie Kruger in the Upington High Court where a sentence of imprisonment was imposed, reflecting the severity of the crime and the State's commitment to justice. But beyond the courtroom, there is an urgent lesson for society, and particularly for women: domestic abuse is not just an emotional or psychological battle; it can be lethal.

Recognising the Signs

Abuse can manifest in many forms: physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or financial. Often, the warning signs are subtle: controlling behaviour,

intimidation, verbal assaults, or threats of harm. These behaviours can escalate over time, and, as this tragic case demonstrates, can ultimately lead to death if intervention does not occur.

Why Leaving Matters

Staying in an abusive relationship can place both women and children in grave danger. It's crucial to understand that leaving is not a sign of weakness or failure; it is a courageous and necessary act to protect one's life and well-being. Support systems - family, friends, shelters and legal avenues - can be lifelines for those contemplating leaving abuse behind.

The Role of Justice

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) remains unwavering in its commitment to combat gender-based violence and femicide. The conviction of Mouton underscores that perpetrators will be held accountable. Justice is not only about punishment – it is about sending a clear societal message that human life is precious, and violence against women will not be tolerated.

A Call to Action

For women trapped in abusive relationships, the warning is clear: do not wait for the situation to escalate. Seek help. Speak out. Protect yourself and your children. No argument, jealousy, or manipulation justifies harm. Every life matters and no one should live in fear of their partner.

Domestic violence leaves scars far beyond the physical, emotional trauma, fear, and lasting psychological impact that can follow survivors for years. But taking decisive action can break the cycle of abuse, offering a chance at safety, healing, and a life free from fear.

The story of Sanna Basson is heartbreaking, but it must serve as a clarion call. Women must prioritise their safety, know their worth, and recognise that leaving an abusive relationship is not just an option; it is often the difference between life and death.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, help is available:

- The Thuthuzela Care Centres play a pivotal role in protecting victims, and they can be mostly accessed at a bigger hospital near your area of residence.
- SAPS Domestic Violence Unit: Contact your nearest police station
- Local shelters and NGOs can provide immediate protection and counselling.

TWO LIFE TERMS PLUS 15 YEARS FOR MAN WHO RAPED AND KILLED AN ELDERLY WOMAN

Sivenathi Gunya – Communication Officer: North West Division



Adv Kabelo Mampo

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in the North West Division welcomes the hefty sentence imposed on Ofentse Petrus Seilane (40) by the North West High Court. The sentencing was delivered on 21 October 2025, following his conviction on charges of murder, rape, and robbery with aggravating circumstances. The conviction stems from a tragic incident that occurred on 25 November 2024 at Lekoko Village near Mafikeng, where the lifeless body of Elizabeth Gelekhutle Seilane was discovered by her grandchildren inside her bedroom.

Investigations revealed that Seilane, who had been left at home with the deceased, strangled and sexually assaulted her before stealing her bank card. He was later seen at a local tavern using the deceased's bank card to make purchases. Transactions recorded on the deceased's cellphone confirmed activity from the tavern. Police swiftly arrested Seilane the same day. Buccal samples collected from him matched DNA taken from the deceased, conclusively linking him to the crime.

In court, Seilane pleaded not guilty to all the charges. However, during sentencing proceedings, the state Advocate Kabelo Mampo argued that no compelling

circumstances justified a deviation from the prescribed minimum sentences. He further informed the court that the deceased was married to the accused's uncle and that she and her husband had kindly accommodated the accused and his brother in their yard.

The court agreed with the state's submissions and imposed the following sentences: life imprisonment for murder, life imprisonment for rape, 15 years' imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances, and all sentences will run concurrently.

Welcoming the outcome, Dr Rachel Makhari, Director of Public Prosecutions in the North West, commended Advocate Kabelo Mampo and the law enforcement team for their excellent collaboration. She said the sentences demonstrate the NPA's unwavering commitment to the fight against gender-based violence and to ensuring that justice is served, particularly for society's most vulnerable members.

This is what Advocate Mampo said about the case:

1. The fact that the accused was related to the deceased, were there any challenges encountered during the trial?

One of the witnesses being the cousin of the accused was frightened during the consultation with me; she told me that she fears the accused. She further told me that the deceased took them including the accused and gave them a place to stay. The deceased was looking after them providing them with food.

2. What does the sentence mean to you as a South Africa is facing the scourge of gender-based violence?

The sentence clearly shows that murder and rape of elderly citizens will not be tolerated by our courts. The sentence demonstrates that justice must be seen to be done.

3. Comments on the finalisation of this case:

The trial commenced and finalised in less than three months; the investigating officer availed all the witnesses on time as requested. The accused legal representative was on board in finalising this case.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT IMPOSED ON GROOM FOR RAPING A MINOR AT HIS WEDDING

Chegofatjo Maabanna – Communication Officer: Limpopo Division

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) welcomes the life imprisonment sentence imposed by the Polokwane High Court on a 45-year-old man from Dennilton for raping a nine-year-old girl. To protect the victim's identity, the accused's name is withheld. The accused pleaded not guilty. The incident occurred on 24 December 2023, during the accused's wedding ceremony in Dennilton.

The victim, her mother, younger sibling and two aunts – part of the bride's family – were offered a room to sleep at the bride's residence after the celebration. In the early hours, the accused entered the room where the victim was sleeping, carried her to an unoccupied bedroom and raped her. The victim's screams for help prompted the accused to flee. Her mother found her naked and immediately reported the matter to police, leading to his arrest.

Adv Shirley Mawasha prosecuted the case and had this to say about the case:

Which evidence did you use to link the accused to the offence?

The state relied on the medico legal report (J88) compiled by the doctor, DNA which linked the accused to the offence and the oral evidence (testimony) from the accused's uncle, who confirmed before the court that the accused admitted to him that he sexually assaulted a child and expressed remorse to him.



Advocate Shirley Mawasha

How did the offence affect the minor victim and the family?

The victim suffered psychologically and emotionally as she was betrayed by a trusted member of the family. The ordeal left a lifelong scar on the accused's wife because it took place on Christmas Eve and on her wedding day.

How do you feel about the sentence imposed on the accused?

The accused was sentenced to life imprisonment. This sentence is appropriate for the crime he was convicted of and sends a clear message of reassurance to the public that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is taken seriously by our courts. Justice was served.



MEET THE PRETORIA TRC WINNING TEAM

Lumka Mahanjana – RCM: Gauteng Division, Pretoria



Adv Vhulahani Davhana, Adv Esther Kabini and Adv Daniel Mogotsi

A formidable team from the National Prosecuting Authority, led by Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Esther Kabini, alongside Senior Advocates, Daniel Desi Mogotsi and Vhulahani Lucus Nesengani Davhana, has made history by securing the first successful conviction in Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) matters before the High Court. Their unwavering pursuit of justice led to the landmark sentencing of former Reaction Unit 6 Section Leader, Johan Marais (66), to 15 years of direct imprisonment for the premeditated murder of student activist and Congress of South African Students (COSAS) member, Caiphus Nyoka.

When asked what interested them in prosecuting TRC matters, Advocate Kabini, who is the head of the TRC portfolio, said the portfolio was given to her to head by the then Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Sibongile Mzinyathi in 2021. She initially said she did not understand much about TRC but knew that she had to build a strong team to ensure that perpetrators of those apartheid crimes are brought to book.

She then approached the two advocates she had previously worked with to join the team on a contract basis, knowing that both Adv Davhana and Adv Mogotsi possessed the diverse experience and expertise required to prosecute TRC cases.

Adv Davhana said it was a “no-brainer” for him to accept the invitation to join the TRC team, having served at the DPP Pretoria office for 15 years. At the time, he was running his own law practice in Limpopo, which he had to close to take up the role. What motivated him most, he explained, was that he had grown up during apartheid and believed that working on TRC matters would give him a deeper understanding of what had happened during that period.

Adv Mogotsi, who was also running his own practice at the time, said he was inspired to join the TRC team because his brother had been killed in 1986, and his family had never received answers about what had happened. “I figured that working on TRC matters would enable me to help other families find closure,” he added.

Though they all were motivated to work on TRC matters, they had reservations because they understood that it was going to be a difficult mountain to climb when it came to gathering evidence because the file was empty and, at that time, there was no real evidence in the docket. Also, they understood that these matters required a lot of research, because they had to look at present law, past law and international law when preparing for their case. This also meant that they could not prefer other charges where victims were tortured because of the lapse of time and those charges are prescribed, hence they only charged the accused persons with premediated murder. Those reservations prompted the team to derive a prosecution strategy, ensuring that they worked with different stakeholders such as the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI), lawyers for human rights and the public, if they wanted to successfully prosecute the case against the four accused persons in this case commanding officer

Major, Lean Louis Van den Berg, Sergeant Pieter Stander and Sergeant Abram Hercules Englebrecht as well as Johan Marais.

Due to the team not having the luxury of a full docket, especially because some witnesses were deceased and those that were still alive were old and others could not fully remember what had taken place, the team had to work with the general public, because someone, somewhere would remember something and would have some evidence, no matter how little. In their nature, TRC matters are public driven and cannot be prosecuted in isolation.

Another major challenge the team faced was the family’s initial lack of trust – not only in the prosecutors but also in the investigating officer. This made it particularly difficult to obtain crucial evidence, including materials that the family might have retained. However, through persistence and empathy, the team, together with the investigating officer, visited the family’s home several times, gradually building rapport and earning their confidence. Once trust was established, the family shared valuable evidence, including newspaper clippings from the TRC inquest and copies of the submissions they had made during the proceedings.

In addition, the inquest records for all TRC matters had been destroyed, and the few incomplete files the team managed to locate were initially challenged by the defence, who argued against their admissibility in court. Despite this obstacle, the team successfully secured the admission of these records during the trial – a significant victory that strengthened their case and marked an important milestone in the pursuit of justice.

When asked about their key takeaway from prosecuting this landmark case, the team reflected that *justice may be delayed, but it is never denied*. “Offences do not die,” they said. “The wheels of justice turn – sometimes slowly, but they always turn.” This was powerfully demonstrated in this case, where crimes committed in 1987 finally led to a conviction and sentence decades later, with proceedings against three additional accused still underway. The team also emphasised that the case reaffirmed the power of collaboration – that success in complex prosecutions rests on unity, shared purpose, and teamwork. “Two are better than one, but three, working together, can move mountains.” They concluded.

ACCUSED EXTRADITED BACK TO SOUTH AFRICA AND SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR MURDER

Natsha Kara – RCM: KZN Division



Regional Court Prosecutor,
Sandiso Ngonyama



Adv Naveen Sewpersat and Adv Deneshree Naicker

In November 2023, Tinashe Hove (21) a Zimbabwean national, killed Theophilus Musekiwa and fled to Zimbabwe, escaping responsibility for what he had done. The International Crime Component (ICC) of the NPA in KwaZulu-Natal then got involved and ensured that Hove returned to South Africa to stand trial.

Hove and Musekiwa (also from Zimbabwe) knew each other as they played soccer together. Musekiwa suspected Hove was proposing love to his (Musekiwa's) girlfriend. On the day of the incident, Hove and Musekiwa were in the Greenwood Park area, when they got into an argument and Hove drew a knife and stabbed Musekiwa in the neck.

This was witnessed by Musekiwa's uncle who happened to be driving past at the time. The uncle tried to catch Hove, but he fled. Musekiwa's brother was called to the scene, and he took Musekiwa to the hospital, where he died on arrival. The police later received information that Hove had returned to Zimbabwe.

Khasho spoke to the NPA colleagues who then took this matter on, ultimately, resulting in the successful prosecution.

Firstly, Khasho approached the members of the International Crime Component (ICC) with the following questions:

1. At what stage did your team get involved?

The ICC Team were contacted by the Investigating Officer (IO) a few days after the docket was registered in November 2023. The team was involved from the beginning of the matter.

2. What was the team instrumental in doing?

The IO had established that the accused had fled from South Africa to Zimbabwe after committing the murder, and was subsequently arrested in Harare,

Zimbabwe. Upon his arrest in Zimbabwe, the ICC team was approached to assist. We commenced with a Request for Provisional Arrest (RPA) for the accused. An RPA is secured to ensure that an arrested person in a foreign country is not released pending an extradition request. Once the RPA was executed, the team prepared the Affidavit of the DPP in support of an Extradition Request which was forwarded to the office of the NDPP. The RPA was transmitted through the diplomatic channels, and the accused was found extraditable.

3. Who were the various role players involved?

The DPP, the ICC team, the IO and her colleagues, the Interpol officers who facilitated the RPA and dealt with receiving the accused from Zimbabwe.

4. How important is stakeholder relations in these matters that require international liaison?

Extraditions are a complex process that requires the involvement of several stakeholders to ensure its success.

With Hove back in South Africa, Regional Court Prosecutor, Sandiso Ngonyama, who is based at the Durban Magistrates' Court, was tasked with the prosecution. Khasho asked him the following:

1. What evidence did the state lead?

The state led the evidence of the uncle who was an eyewitness to the stabbing and the evidence of the brother of the deceased who had arrived on the

scene and transported the deceased to hospital.

2. Did the state lead any evidence in aggravation of the sentence?

Yes, the deceased's brother testified that the deceased supported them from his part time job. He also said that the offence had a traumatic effect on their family, especially their parents.

3. What was the sentence? Was there a deviation from the minimum sentence?

The accused was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. The court deviated from the minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment because the court found that the accused was young and that there was a possibility of him being rehabilitated. The court also considered the time that he had spent in custody, awaiting trial. He was declared unfit to possess a firearm.

4. Was this the first matter that you dealt with where the accused had to be extradited? What is your feeling

Yes. The efforts made by the ICC colleagues in extraditing the accused is appreciated. Their commitment allowed me to prosecute this matter successfully and gave me the zeal to ensure that justice was served.

This matter illustrates the coordinated efforts of the various components within the NPA, working together in fulfilling the organisation's mandate.



WHEN FAITH BECOMES A WEAPON: Protecting Young Women from Predatory Pastors

Mojalefa Senokoatsane – Acting RCM:
Free State Division



Adv Marelize Nel

The recent conviction of Sabata Mariti, a self-proclaimed pastor from Virginia, Free State, serves as a stark reminder that religious authority can be exploited to commit unspeakable crimes.

Mariti, who presented himself as a man capable of performing miracles, healing the sick, turning water into wine, and performing prophetic acts, was prosecuted by Regional Court Prosecutor, Marelize Nel and sentenced by the Virginia Regional Court to 55 years' imprisonment for three counts of rape.

His victims were young women between the ages of 15 years to 17 years from his own congregation, drawn into his inner circle under the guise of faith and divine purpose.

This case is not just about one individual's crimes. It exposes a pattern of exploitation that can occur wherever trust, vulnerability, and faith intersect. It sends a powerful message to society: faith should never be used as a shield for abuse, and no position of spiritual authority grants someone the right to harm others.

How Predators Exploit Faith

Mariti's crimes highlight the sophisticated methods some perpetrators use to exploit trust within religious settings. Using charisma, spiritual authority, and the promise of miracles, he manipulated young women into believing that they were chosen for a divine purpose. He formed the so-called "Team of Prophecy," a select group of girls aged between their teens (13 years old) and early twenties (23 years old), claiming they were gifted with special spiritual powers to assist him.

Once inside this circle, the girls were subjected to a regimen of constant church attendance, overnight stays at his home, and other requirements framed as spiritual obligations. It was in this context that he committed sexual assaults, presenting coercion as divine instruction and blurring the lines between faith and control.

Predatory pastors often employ similar tactics:

- Claiming spiritual authority that demands unquestioned obedience.
- Performing miracles or extraordinary acts to gain admiration and trust.
- Isolating followers from family or friends, making them reliant on the church for guidance and support.
- Using spiritual threats or fear to silence victims, suggesting that speaking out would bring divine punishment.
- Targeting the vulnerable, often young women searching for hope, healing, or belonging.

Emotional and Psychological Damage

The consequences for the victims are profound and long-lasting. One of Mariti's victims experienced severe depression and even attempted suicide after being assaulted. The trauma of such abuse extends beyond the immediate act; it affects self-esteem, mental health, relationships, and trust in others, particularly in religious institutions that should be sources of comfort and guidance.



Victims often remain silent due to fear of shame, retaliation, or disbelief from their communities. In some cases, as in Mariti's, even other members of the congregation, may attempt to protect the perpetrator, further isolating and silencing the victim. This highlights the need for strong societal awareness, support systems, and legal intervention.

Awareness and Vigilance: Protecting Yourself and Loved Ones

The Mariti case offers vital lessons for young women and families:

Faith does not require submission to abuse. Spiritual leaders may guide, mentor, and support, but they should never demand acts that degrade, harm, or coerce.

Question authority safely. Asking questions about practices, boundaries, or requests that make you uncomfortable is a sign of wisdom, not rebellion.

Recognise grooming behaviors. Requests for private meetings, physical contact, overnight stays, or secrecy are red flags.

Document and preserve evidence. Messages, recordings, or any other communication may be crucial if legal action becomes necessary.

Seek support. Family, friends, counselors, or trusted community leaders can provide guidance, protection and encouragement to speak out.

Parents and guardians also play a critical role in safeguarding their children's spiritual experiences. Open dialogue about boundaries, respect, and safety in all environments, including religious spaces, is essential.

The Role of Law Enforcement and the NPA

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) emphasises that no one is above the law, regardless of position, charisma, or perceived divine authority. Prosecutor Marelize Nel, who successfully handled the Mariti case, stated that these crimes are a humiliating, degrading, and brutal invasion of the victims' dignity and bodily integrity.

Regional Control Prosecutor, Charmaine Labuschagne noted the immense challenge of investigating and prosecuting such cases, where victims are often deeply manipulated and terrified. Yet, with patience, compassion, and perseverance, justice was served, reinforcing that the legal system can and will protect victims of abuse, even when perpetrators hide behind positions of trust and spiritual authority.

A Call to Communities and Faith-Based Institutions

Faith communities must remain vigilant against the abuse of trust. Spiritual leaders, congregants, and society at large have a responsibility to:

Promote transparency and accountability within churches.

Encourage safe reporting mechanisms for anyone feeling threatened or exploited.

Educate young women and men about healthy boundaries, consent, and the difference between spiritual guidance and manipulation.

Stand with victims, providing support and understanding rather than doubt or judgment.

Faith Should Heal, Not Harm

The courageous survivors in the Mariti case exemplify resilience and the power of speaking out. Their bravery demonstrates that justice can prevail even in the most challenging circumstances, and it sends a clear warning to anyone who would exploit faith for personal gain: the law will hold you accountable.

Faith is a source of hope, healing, and community. It is never fear, coercion, or abuse. Let this case serve as a reminder to all young women, parents, and faith communities: protecting the vulnerable is not just a legal duty, it is a moral one.

If you or someone you know is being exploited in a religious or spiritual context, contact the South African Police Service, your nearest Thuthuzela Care Centre, or the GBV Command Centre.

Together, we can ensure that faith remains a force for healing, empowerment, and protection, never a tool for harm.

ZIMBABWEAN NATIONAL SENTENCED FOR RAPING AND MURDERING SIX YEAR OLD GIRL

Phindi Mjonondwane – RCM: Gauteng Local Division



Advocates Matshediso and Zamikhaya Staffa

The High Court of South Africa Gauteng Division, Johannesburg sentenced 25-year-old Phethe Simiao to two life terms on 01 September 2025 for raping and killing six-year-old Amantle Samane in Orlando East, Soweto in October 2024. Additionally, Simiao was sentenced to two years for kidnapping and another two years for Contravention of the Immigration Act.

The case emanated from the disappearance of the six-year-old Amantle, which prompted the community to help her mother in searching for her. The case was cracked by two young witnesses that had seen Simiao walking with the minor child to his shack, where her lifeless body was discovered.

Khasho speaks to Advocates Matshediso and Zamikhaya Staffa who were seized with this prosecution.

The accused pleaded guilty to all charges, what, according to you, might have influenced his decision?

We believe that the accused pleaded guilty because we made it clear to the defense that we had consulted with our witnesses, that they have all been subpoenaed, and that we were well prepared and ready to proceed with the trial. After going through the contents of the docket and seeing that the State had its house in order, the accused then pleaded guilty out of self-pity (as the court correctly found) and tried avoiding the prescribed minimum sentences.

What did it take to prepare for a case of this magnitude?

We first had to familiarise ourselves with the contents of the docket to the point that we knew everything that was contained therein. We had to go through the chain evidence with a fine-tooth comb so that we did not miss anything important that may be used by the defense

as a loophole. From thereon we started consultations with the witnesses at the first available opportunity. Our Court Preparation Officers also did a good job in helping with preparing the witnesses for court as they were visibly anxious. They also helped in obtaining the victim impact statements.

The investigating officer, Captain Moses, was hands-on from day one and very helpful in transporting the witnesses to our office whenever we needed to consult with them. It was a successful team effort.

Did you come across any challenges? If yes, how did you overcome them?

The witnesses in this matter were community members and the two main witnesses were minors who were visibly still shaken by the incident. One of the witnesses even left the country as a result. Consultations, as well as court preparation, assisted a lot in giving them the confidence to proceed and avail themselves for trial. We believe – more than anything, that helping the witnesses understand the court processes and giving them an opportunity to ask questions as well as communicating their concerns build their confidence in the state to the point that they easily cooperate despite their anxieties.

What were the highlights of this prosecution?

The one thing we are grateful for was that the witnesses, who are minors, did not have to testify at all. The quick investigations by the police and the trial readiness of the state helped in securing a guilty plea and therefore the witnesses, who were clearly still traumatized, did not have to relive the events of that fateful day. That was a highlight and a small victory for the state.

The other highlight was how the mother of the victim was able to face the accused and have her say in court. Leading up to her testimony and during our

consultations with her, she was emotional. After the accused's conviction, we informed her well in time that we will be calling her to the witness stand for sentencing and that she should prepare herself mentally.

We also had the court preparation officer, Ms Sibisi, go through court preparation with her again. Her confidence and boldness in that witness stand was remarkable. It would have been the deceased's 7th birthday on the day that her mother took the state and testified in sentencing. We believe that day was the mother's first step on the long journey ahead towards healing.

The case was in the spotlight, what mechanisms did you use to ensure that public pressure did not stand in the way of performance?

Proper preparation and stepping into the court knowing that we are ready eased any pressure. The importance of keeping your witnesses and complainants well informed on the progress of the matter was highlighted in this case because the spotlight and great public interest came with some misinformation that could have negatively impacted on the confidence and trust we built with the witnesses.

Did you manage to speak to the family about the sentence, if so, how was it received?

The family of the victim was satisfied with the sentence. The court erupted with applause from the family and community members when sentence was handed down. That was a reminder of why we do what we do and a motivation to keep soldiering on in the fight against gender-based violence.



MOTHER SENTENCED WITH HER TWO SONS FOR RAPE OF A MINOR COUSIN

Monica Nyuswa – RCM: Mpumalanga Division



State Prosecutor, Brilliant Khoza



Court Preparation Officer, Popi Moloi

The Secunda Regional Court has convicted and sentenced a mother and her two sons to various sentences ranging from four life terms to three years imprisonment for repeated rapes of their minor cousin over a period of five years. The accused persons' names are withheld from the story to protect the identity of the victim.

The brothers were convicted on four counts of rape and the mother was convicted for failing to report the crime of rape. One of the accused was a minor when the crime was committed.

TS was sentenced to four life terms; T was sentenced to 15 years direct imprisonment and the mother was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment suspended for five years on condition that she is not convicted for a similar offence during the suspended period. The offences occurred between 2017 and 2022 in Grootvlei, within the Dipaliseng Local Municipality in Mpumalanga.

The court heard that the victim's mother often left her daughter in her aunt's care while she was at work. During these visits, the two brothers repeatedly raped the minor victim. In one incident which happened in 2017, the female accused discovered her sons assaulting and gang raping the victim and failed to report the crime, instead she threatened the victim with death should she tell anyone about the rape. The abuse came to light in January 2023, when the victim confided in her sisters, who then informed their mother. The matter was immediately reported to the police, leading to the arrest of the accused.

During the trial, the accused denied all allegations. However, State Prosecutor Brilliant Khoza presented compelling evidence, including the victim's detailed and consistent testimony, corroboration from her sister (as the first-report witness), and medical findings confirming sexual violation. The court found the victim's account credible and rejected the accused's alibi. In aggravation of sentence, Prosecutor Khoza



stressed the gravity of the offences, and the betrayal of trust involved highlighting that the victim was violated by her own family members in a home where she should have been safe and protected.

A victim impact statement, facilitated and presented by Court Preparation Officer Ms. Popo Moloi, detailed the severe emotional and psychological harm suffered by the child. The court accepted the statement as credible and found that the abuse had caused lasting trauma. The court sentenced the trio to various sentences declaring them unfit to possess firearms, unsuitable to work with children and it further ordered the accused names to be entered into the National Register for Sex Offenders.

In Conversation with Prosecutor Brilliant Khoza

What challenges did you encounter in handling this case?

The main challenge was that the victim was a minor who had been raped by her own cousins, people she trusted completely. This betrayal caused immense emotional trauma and made it difficult for her to communicate. During our first consultation, the victim remained silent and broke down in tears.

With the valuable support of Court Preparation Officer Ms Popo Moloi, who was able to build a relationship of trust, she comforted and guided the victim through each stage of the court process. Another major challenge was family pressure. Some relatives

attempted to persuade the victim to withdraw the case, which placed additional emotional strain on her and on the prosecution team.

Lessons Learned:

Prosecutor Khoza feels that cases involving multiple accused and offences spanning several years, reinforced the importance of thorough and patient consultations, especially when the main witness is a minor. Victims must be supported in recounting every relevant detail, even when the case is reported long after the events. Careful preparation helps ensure that their testimony is coherent, consistent, and confident.

Highlights of the case:

This case highlights the critical role of Court Preparation Officers in gender-based violence matters. Their support strengthens victims' confidence and contributes significantly to successful prosecutions. Above all, prosecutors must approach such cases with empathy, patience, and compassion, ensuring that victims are treated with dignity and care throughout the judicial process.

Are you happy with the sentences imposed on the accused?

Definitely yes. The sentence sends a clear message that sexual offences particularly those involving the abuse of minors by trusted relatives will be met with the full force of the law. It reflects the seriousness of the crimes the accused are convicted of.

YOUNGEST PERSON EVER TO TESTIFY IN A RAPE CASE

Eric Ntabazalila – RCM: Western Cape Division

The testimony of the youngest person to successfully testify in her own rape case, has led to the conviction and sentence of child rapist, Ian Hoggins, to an effective life imprisonment. This is record- breaking. The victim was three years old when Hoggins raped, sexually assaulted her, and took pictures of her private parts. She was four years old when she testified for four consecutive days setting a record as the youngest person to successfully testify in her own rape case.

This success was the result of meticulous preparation by State Advocate Gerda Marx, Court Intermediary Chantall Kiewiets, Court Preparation Officer, Chantal Paulse, and Investigating Officer, Sergeant Deloris Damons, whose combined efforts ensured a successful prosecution, conviction, and fitting sentence. It also necessitated a lot of patience and King Solomon's wisdom on the part of Adv Marx as the victim got tired and had short attention spans. Adv Marx had to request the court to take breaks to ensure that she did not lose focus and was able to respond during her testimony and the rigorous cross examination that followed. She also used anatomically corrected dolls for the victim to demonstrate what had happened to her.



State Advocate, Gerda Marx

Adv Marx strengthened the state's case by calling expert witnesses such as doctors from the Child Protection Unit of the Films and Publications Board and from the United States Department of Homeland Security Cybercrime Centre.

The victim testified that she visited the accused's household and would play with accused's daughter. When the incidents happened, the accused's wife was at work, and his daughter was in another room watching movies. She testified that the accused called her as she walked to the toilet, took off her pants, diaper, sexually assaulted her, raped her, and took pictures of her private parts using his cellphone. She further testified that the accused told her not to tell anybody.

On the evening of 30 August 2020, she told her mother that Ian had hurt her; had hurt her very much. She was taken to a doctor who examined her genital organs. She also testified that she reported to the doctor what happened. During cross examination, she was asked to relay the whole story of what the accused did to her. She said, "Hy het net daai goete gedoen, Ian."

She testified that she feared the accused and did not want to visit their house again. That they do not visit the house of the accused anymore because the accused has hurt her. Her mother was shocked and did not know how to deal with the reports of the incident. She persisted and touched her mother's face to ensure her mother was paying attention. Then she said, "Mamma hy het". She kept on repeating for about 30 minutes as to what had happened. The mother and her sister took the victim to the George Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) where she was examined and reported a case to the police. The victim's mother testified that her daughter was afraid, anxious and avoided people. She would hide behind her mother and would turn away from male persons. She did not want to have contact with people.

Arguing in aggravation of sentence, Adv Marx told the court that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances which allowed the court to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment. The accused was known to the victim, from time to time his daughter and his wife would look after the victim. There was a trust relationship built over time. The gruesome crimes had direct impact on the victim as she started to have nightmares after the incident and was taking prescribed medication for anxiety. Adv Marx further argued that the accused failed to take responsibility for his actions.

Thembaletu Regional Court Magistrate, Eugenia Jacobs sentenced the 55-year-old child rapist to life imprisonment for rape, 5 years direct imprisonment for sexual assault and 8 years direct imprisonment for the

illegal possession of child pornographic images. She ordered the sentences to run concurrently and that his name to be entered into the National Register of Sex Offenders. She further ordered that the court record be sealed to protect the identity of minor complainant. She declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

After his sentence the accused, through his legal representative, Adv Andre Knoetze, informed the court that he intended to appeal both the conviction and sentence. He requested the court to extend his bail pending the finalisation of the appeal. Adv Marx successfully opposed this, and the court ruled that the accused must serve his sentence as it believed that no other court could come to a different conclusion. Immediately after delivery of this decision, the accused attempted to commit suicide in court and had to be rushed to hospital. He is now serving his life imprisonment.

At just four years old, the young victim displayed extraordinary courage and strength in testifying against her abuser, becoming the youngest person in South Africa to successfully testify in her own rape case. Her bravery serves as an inspiration to other victims of sexual violence, proving that even the smallest voice can speak truth to power. This case is a powerful reminder of the justice system's duty to protect the most vulnerable and of the NPA's continued commitment to ensuring that every victim – regardless of age – is heard, supported, and empowered to seek justice.



EX-COP AND CLAIMANT SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR ATTEMPTED RAF FRAUD

Nokuthula Makupula – Communication Officer:
Eastern Cape Division

The East London Commercial Crimes Court sentenced a motorist, Xolani Somtsewu (47) and former police sergeant Mandlenkosi Njekanye (52) to an effective 15-year direct imprisonment each for their central roles in a failed attempt to defraud the Road Accident Fund (RAF) of R5.4 million.

Somtsewu, the claimant in the matter, lodged a fraudulent claim with the RAF following a motor vehicle accident that occurred on 31 December 2020 on the N2 Highway near Komga. In his claim, he stated that he had been driving a Nissan NP300 when he lost control of the vehicle and overturned, allegedly while trying to avoid an oncoming car. The crash resulted in the tragic death of a passenger, Siyabulela Matshaya, and Somtsewu claimed to have sustained multiple injuries.

At the time, Njekanye was stationed at Komga Police Station and was the investigating officer in the culpable homicide case. Instead of upholding his duties, Njekanye orchestrated the manipulation of official police records to support Somtsewu's fraudulent version of events. Evidence presented in court showed that the original accident report compiled at the scene by another officer concluded that a tyre burst caused the accident. Months later, Njekanye summoned the same officer, this time in the presence of Somtsewu, and instructed him to alter the report to reflect a different scenario, one that would bolster his claim to the RAF's.

To further support the falsified claim, a third officer, who was not even stationed at Komga at the time of the accident, falsely claimed to have inspected the new accident report on the day of the incident. The court found that these actions were part of a deliberate and coordinated effort, led by Somtsewu and Njekanye, to defraud a public institution. RAF investigators uncovered inconsistencies in the documentation before any payment was made, and the claim was repudiated.

Both accused pleaded not guilty and simply denied the allegations. State Advocate Mbokazi Radebe led four witnesses, including the two SAPS members who were initially charged alongside the accused but later turned state witnesses. For sentencing, the



State Advocate, Mbokazi Radebe

prosecution submitted that the gravity of the offence, particularly the involvement of law enforcement officers in orchestrating and enabling the fraud, warranted a lengthy term of imprisonment.

In delivering the sentence, the court emphasised the breach of public trust and the abuse of police powers by Njekanye, as well as the premeditated nature of the crime. It held that the fraud, had it not been uncovered, would have resulted in a massive financial loss to the RAF and, by extension, the South African public. The duo was convicted to 15 years for fraud and six years for obstructing the ends of justice, ordered to run concurrently. They were further declared unfit to possess a firearm.

Welcoming the sentence, Eastern Cape Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Barry Madolo, stated: "This sentence sends a strong message that corruption, particularly when committed by those entrusted with upholding the law, will not be tolerated. The RAF is meant to protect the most vulnerable road users. When individuals collude to exploit that system for personal gain, they rob all South Africans. We commend the work of our prosecutors, investigators, and the court in bringing justice to this matter."

STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY OF WOMEN:

NPA leads the fight against Gender-Based Violence in Northern Cape communities

Mojalefa Senokoatsane – RCM: Northern Cape Division



Regional Court Prosecutor, Shareen Links

The recent life sentence handed down to 27-year-old Lebogang Joseph van Wyk, convicted of rape and robbery with aggravating circumstances, highlights the ongoing challenges of ensuring women's safety in our communities and the critical role of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in addressing Gender-Based violence (GBV).

On 08 August 2020, a 19-year-old student from Phatsimang College in Kimberley became the victim of a violent crime while walking home at night. The accused, van Wyk, followed her, threatened her with a knife, robbed her of personal belongings, and raped her twice in a secluded area. The attack left the young woman traumatised, leading to lasting emotional and psychological effects, including anxiety, fear, and loss of confidence.

Thanks to a swift response by correctional officials who noticed her distress and assisted her in reporting the crime, and a meticulous investigation by the police, van Wyk was apprehended. Evidence led by the Regional Court Prosecutor Shareen Links, including fingerprints and DNA, conclusively linked him to the offences, ultimately resulting in a life sentence for rape and 15 years' imprisonment for robbery. He has also been added to the National Register for Sexual Offenders and declared unfit to possess a firearm.

This case underscores the importance of a strong and coordinated response to GBV. The NPA's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit, through the Galeshewe Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC),

supported the victim with trauma counselling and ongoing support, demonstrating the NPA's commitment to ensuring that victims receive comprehensive care throughout the legal process.

The NPA's role goes beyond prosecuting perpetrators. It is a driving force in promoting awareness, prevention, and community engagement to eradicate Gender-Based Violence. By working closely with law enforcement, care centres, and community leaders, the NPA aims to create safer environments where women can live, work, and travel without fear.

Communities also have a vital role to play. Vigilance, supporting victims, reporting suspicious activities – and educating young women and men about personal safety and respect for others – are essential steps in breaking the cycle of violence. Awareness and early intervention can prevent tragedies and hold offenders accountable before further harm is inflicted.

The Galeshewe case is a sobering reminder of the threats women face, but it also highlights that through collaborative effort and an unwavering commitment to justice, communities can be safer and more resilient. The NPA encourages all residents to work together in creating environments where gender-based violence is neither tolerated nor ignored.

By combining law enforcement, community engagement, and victim support, the Northern Cape Division of the NPA continues to lead the fight against gender-based violence, sending a clear message: women's safety is a collective responsibility, and perpetrators will be brought to justice.

Welkom lawyer sentenced to three life terms for a decade of child sexual abuse

Mojalefa Senokoatsane – Acting RCM: Free State Division

A dark chapter in the lives of five young victims came to a moment of reckoning when the High Court in Bloemfontein handed down a landmark sentence. This landmark and challenging matter was prosecuted by seasoned and senior prosecutor Senior State Advocate, Amanda Bester.

Jan Gysbert Maritz (58), a well-known lawyer from Dagbreek, Welkom, in the Free State, was sentenced to three life terms plus an additional 68 years in prison for a series of horrific sexual offences committed against minors in his family and social circle.

The victims, including Maritz's two stepdaughters, a niece, and two young family friends, were all under the age of 14 when the abuse began. Court records reveal that the offences, which include rape, sexual assault, grooming, exposure to pornography, and the production of child pornography, spanned a decade, beginning in 2007. Some of the acts were even recorded by Maritz, compounding the trauma inflicted on the children.

The case came to light in March 2019, when two of the victims bravely disclosed the abuse to their mother. The revelation triggered an extensive investigation, uncovering years of systematic manipulation and exploitation. Maritz, who was entrusted with the care and protection of these children, used his position as a father figure and his professional knowledge of the law to perpetrate his crimes.

During sentencing, Advocate Amanda Bester stressed the severity of the betrayal and the danger Maritz posed to society. She argued that his abuse of trust, coupled with his calculated grooming and exploitation, warranted the maximum possible punishment.

The court's sentence reflects this, with life terms imposed for the rapes and additional years for multiple other offences. Maritz's name has also been entered into the National Register of Sexual Offenders and the Child Protection Register, ensuring strict monitoring in the future.



State Advocate, Amanda Bester

The case has sent a clear message that no individual, regardless of profession or status, is above the law.

The NPA emphasised that the ruling represents both justice for the victims and a warning to would-be offenders.

"This is a powerful declaration that the safety and dignity of children will always be protected. The NPA remains committed to pursuing perpetrators of sexual violence relentlessly and ensuring that survivors receive justice" said Advocate Amanda Bester.

For the victims and their families, the sentence offers a sense of closure after years of suffering. For the community, it serves as a stark reminder of the need for vigilance in protecting children from abuse, even from those who appear trustworthy.

This landmark case highlights the devastating impact of child sexual abuse and underscores the NPA's commitment to safeguarding the most vulnerable members of society. Every child deserves to grow up in safety, and no one, not even a respected legal professional, is above the law.

SOUTH AFRICA REMOVED FROM THE FATF GREY LIST:

A Testament to Collaboration, Commitment, and Courage and a double dose of Perseverance

On 25 October 2025, the FATF announced in its Plenary in Paris, France that South Africa has officially been removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, formally called the list of “*Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring*”, marking a major milestone in the country’s fight against financial crime, corruption, and money laundering. This achievement represents the culmination of two years of sustained effort, inter-agency collaboration, and institutional reform – with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) at the forefront of this national turnaround.

When South Africa was grey-listed by the FATF in February 2023, the decision served as a wake-up call for the nation. The FATF identified several strategic deficiencies in our systems for combating money laundering, and terrorist financing. The country was required to demonstrate tangible progress in 22 Action Items in the Action Plan agreed between South Africa and the FATF, including effective investigations, prosecutions, and asset recoveries related to complex financial crimes.

The NPA, working closely with the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), the South African Revenue Service (SARS), the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), and the Department of Justice, rose to the challenge with purpose and precision.

Over the past two years, the NPA has significantly strengthened its focus on state capture, money laundering, and illicit financial flows. The establishment and operationalisation of the NPA’s Investigating Directorate (ID) and the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) proved instrumental in tackling high-level corruption and ensuring that the proceeds of crime do not remain in the hands of wrongdoers.

Key wins include the successful prosecution of complex money-laundering and corruption cases linked to



state capture, the recovery and preservation of billions of rand in criminal proceeds and assets, improved coordination between prosecutors and investigators through multidisciplinary task teams, and an enhanced use of financial intelligence in building strong cases against criminal networks.

Equally important has been the NPA’s internal transformation to strengthen its integrity, transparency and effectiveness. With targeted recruitment, training, and the bolstering of financial-crime expertise, the NPA has expanded its capacity to deal with sophisticated economic offences.

For the NPA, this is a moment of deep professional satisfaction. This outcome was not achieved overnight. This achievement reflects the tireless dedication, expertise, resilience and teamwork demonstrated across our organisation, very often at great personal sacrifice. During the Plenary, Mr Ismail Momoniat, from the National Treasury, who led the South African delegation, paid tribute to the late Advocate Rodney de Kock, for the instrumental role that he played during this process.

While the NPA played a central role, this success story belongs to Team

PROSECUTORIAL MATTERS

South Africa – a partnership across government, regulatory bodies, the private sector, and civil society. The coordinated efforts led by the National Treasury and the Inter-departmental Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing ensured that every action plan item was addressed with urgency and accountability.

Over the past 32 months, South Africa has engaged with a team of reviewers assigned by the FATF to assess progress against the Action Plan. This culminated in an on-site visit at the end of July 2025, when the assessors came to the country to confirm the sustainability of the reforms that were reported to them. This concluded with a meeting with Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr David Masedo, and Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Andries Nel, who assured the FATF of the South African Government's political commitment to continue

to sustainably improve the country's Anti-Money Laundering and the Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) system.

South Africa's removal from the grey list restores investor confidence, enhances our global financial reputation, and reaffirms the strength of our democratic institutions. It represents renewed confidence in South Africa's institutions and a reaffirmation of the NPA's role as a pillar of accountability and integrity. It tells our citizens and international partners that South Africa takes financial crime seriously and that our justice system is both capable and credible.

To avoid being placed back on the greylist, it is essential that monitoring and enforcement systems operate with greater efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring no gaps remain ahead of the Mutual Evaluation. Preparations are already underway, with the National Risk Assessment currently under review and amendments to key legislation being fast tracked for Cabinet approval.

Thank you to every member of the NPA family who contributed to this national success. Your professionalism, persistence, and integrity have made a lasting impact. Together, we have demonstrated that accountability and justice are not just aspirations – they are achievable realities.

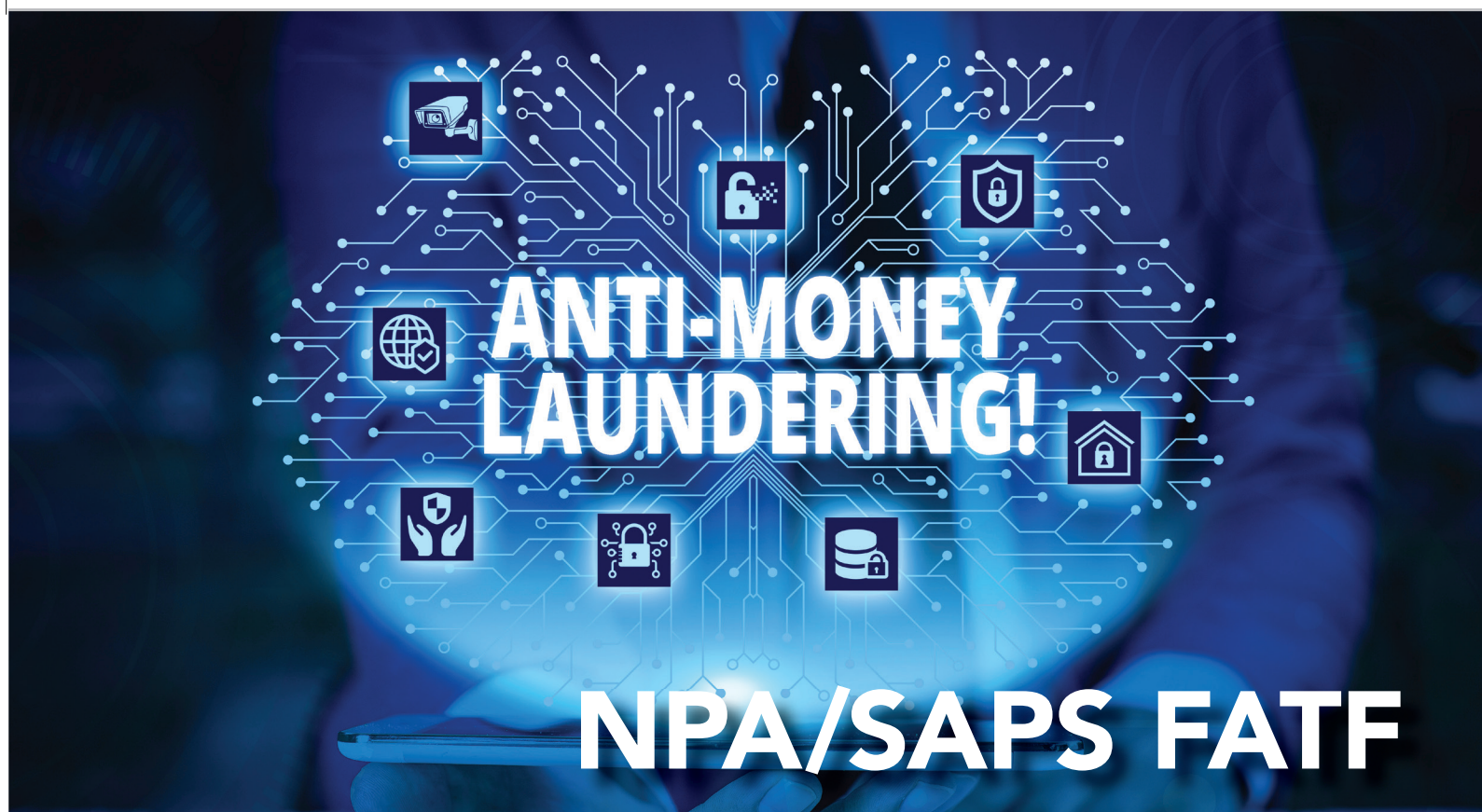
The onward journey

As the NPA, we remain committed to sustaining the momentum of reform. Being delisted is not the end of the journey – it is a beginning. The systems and partnerships strengthened during this process will continue to underpin our mission: to ensure justice, dismantle criminal networks, and protect the integrity of South Africa's financial system.

While we celebrate this milestone, our work continues. The systems, relationships, and expertise built during this process have strengthened our foundation for our next Mutual Evaluation which is scheduled to commence in 2026. Sustaining this progress requires vigilance, continued collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

FATF's 5th Round of mutual evaluations will assess its Technical Compliance with the FATF Recommendations and the effectiveness of its AML/CFT/CPF regime. The deadline for its Technical Compliance assessment is July 2026. The evaluation will consider statistical performance, case studies, institutional capacity, inter-agency cooperation, and legislative alignment. The focus areas will include wire transfers, use of virtual assets, foreign predicate offending, international recoveries, underground banking systems such as hawaladars, beneficial ownership and transparency – in particular the use of shell companies and trusts, cash couriers as well as terror financing and proliferation financing.





LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The NPA's Anti Money Laundering Desk (chaired by Adv E Moonsamy and Adv B Smith) hosted a two-day workshop on 18-19 November 2025 under the theme "Strengthening NPA Leadership for Effective FATF Compliance and Prosecution Outcomes."

The target audience were the Executive Leadership of the NPA, the IDAC, Special Directors, Directors of Public Prosecutions, Deputy Directors of Public Prosecutions, the head of the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) as well as the SAPS Detectives and the DPCI.

The objective of the training was to deepen leadership understanding of what the Mutual Evaluation commencing in 2026 will entail, to create an understanding of FATF methodology and evaluation criteria as well as the importance of strengthening prosecutorial capacity in ML, TF, and PF cases with a focus on demonstrable effectiveness.

The leadership of the NPA was urged to equip prosecutors to prepare case examples, statistics, and narratives that can be showcased during the evaluation and to enhance inter-agency cooperation to ensure a coherent national AML/CFT/PF response.

South Africa has committed to a set of actions to strengthen its Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Proliferation Financing (PF) regime. The National Prosecuting

Authority (NPA) plays a decisive role in addressing FATF's core Immediate Outcomes, particularly:

- **IO.2:** International Cooperation, in particular, outgoing MLA's
- **IO.7:** Effective investigation and prosecution of money laundering (ML).
- **IO.8:** Confiscation of proceeds of crime.
- **IO.9:** Prosecution of terrorist financing.
- **IO.10:** Prosecution of proliferation financing.

The upcoming mutual evaluation (ME) will not only assess the adequacy of South Africa's laws but also the effectiveness of prosecutions, convictions, and asset recovery outcomes. To demonstrate progress and readiness, NPA prosecutors must be able to align casework with FATF standards and typologies, record and report prosecutorial outcomes that clearly demonstrate effectiveness, and engage in inter-agency and international cooperation to strengthen evidence and case presentation.

Mr Ismail Momoniat from the National Treasury, who is the head of the South African Delegation at the FATF Plenaries as well as Mr Pieter Smit, the Acting Head of the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) explained the short timeframes that we have for the submission of evidence to demonstrate effectiveness. They also emphasized the importance of leadership in sustaining AML/CFT reform, linking the workshop to broader reform momentum (e.g., FATF on-site visits, action plan completion) and called to action continued collaboration, regular training, institutionalising lessons learned.

NPA MEN LED POWERFUL PICKET TO MARK THE START OF 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Isaac Dhludhlu: Director – Media Relations



The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) launched this year's 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children with a powerful and deeply emotive Silent Picket at its Head Office in Pretoria on 25 November 2025. Led by the NPA Men Ambassadors, the event showcased a united and visible commitment by men within the institution to confront and challenge the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in South Africa.

Held under the theme "Men of the NPA Against GBVF," the picket forms part of the NPA's broader GBV 2025 Call to Action, which seeks to drive behavioural change, strengthen internal accountability, and position the NPA as a leading voice in the national fight against GBVF.

A Moment of Reflection, Unity, and Commitment

Executives, prosecutors, support staff, and Men Ambassadors gathered in solemn silence outside the Head Office building, holding placards and candles to call for justice, dignity, and an end to violence against women and children. The programme featured a pledge-signing ceremony and a candle-lighting moment, symbolising remembrance for victims and a renewed institutional commitment to action.

The atmosphere was one of profound introspection and solidarity, underscoring the shared belief that the fight against GBVF requires professional excellence, personal responsibility, and principled leadership from every member of the NPA.

Leadership Messages: "Men Must Lead the Change": During the event and in subsequent media engagements,

senior leaders delivered strong, resonant messages about the central role men must play in ending GBVF.

Adv. Mkhuseleli Jokane underscored the moral obligation of men within the criminal justice system to lead by example. He called on men to confront harmful norms, challenge abusive behaviour, whether subtle or overt and champion a culture grounded in respect and dignity. "We cannot win the fight against GBVF if men do not stand up and take responsibility. This is no symbolic exercise; this is a call to action. Every man in this institution must commit to being part of the solution."

Adv. Anton du Plessis reinforced the NPA's institutional commitment to strengthening GBVF prosecutions and ensuring justice for survivors. He noted that leadership must embody the values the NPA seeks to uphold in the pursuit of justice. "We are here because the fight against GBVF is not only a professional mandate; it is a personal responsibility. Men must show leadership, hold each other accountable, and demonstrate that violence has no place in our institution or in society."

A Renewed Call to Action

As the 16 Days campaign progresses, the NPA reaffirms its dedication to advancing justice, strengthening accountability, and driving meaningful behavioural change across the institution. The Silent Picket served as a compelling reminder that while women and children remain disproportionately affected by GBVF, the societal transformation required to end this national crisis must be led by men. All employees, men and women alike, are encouraged to continue challenging harmful behaviour, raising awareness, and supporting initiatives that promote safety, dignity, and justice for all.

FROM PRIVATE TO PUBLIC – A CALL TO SERVE SOCIETY

Lindiwe Mabasa – Communications Officer:
Northern Cape Division

The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Northern Cape Division, has entered an exciting new era as it strengthens its ability to combat crime and protect public assets.

At the forefront of this renewed momentum is Senior State Advocate Ntefe Lucas Motshabi, a seasoned legal professional whose appointment marks a significant step in advancing the NPA's mission to curb criminal activity and ensure that crime does not pay.

In an exclusive conversation, Advocate Motshabi shared insights into his journey, marked by perseverance, passion, and a deep commitment to justice.

"I was born in Moruleng, Rustenburg, in 1984," he began. "I completed both my primary and high school education in the same area. Growing up in the Bakgatlha region, I take great pride in being a Mokgatlha."

After matriculating, Advocate Motshabi pursued his LLB degree at the University of North-West, Mafikeng Campus, completing it in 2005 and graduating in 2006. He later undertook a six-month Practical Legal Training course in Pretoria before returning to Rustenburg to serve his articles at his brother's law firm from 2006 to 2007. Upon completion he was appointed as a Personal Assistant at the same firm.

Inspired by his brother's example and driven by a desire for independence, entrepreneurship and community service, he established his own law firm in Northam, Limpopo, in 2012. After three successful years, he relocated the practice to Brits, Northwest, in 2016, where he continued to serve clients with professionalism and dedication.

In 2025, Advocate Motshabi embarked on a new chapter in his career by joining the NPA's Asset Forfeiture Unit as a Senior State Advocate.

"In pursuit of serving my country and its citizens and ensuring justice by reclaiming what has been unlawfully taken, I chose to close my private practice. I am eager to learn from my colleagues and to contribute meaningfully to reclaiming justice and upholding the rule of law."



Senior State Advocate, Ntefe Lucas Motshabi

Outside his professional duties, Advocate Motshabi finds balance and fulfillment through sports. A passionate runner and cyclist, he has participated in renowned races such as the Two Oceans Marathon and the Loskop Marathon in Middelburg. His athletic discipline mirrors the dedication and perseverance he brings to his work.

As the NPA continues to increase its capacity and impact, the addition of professionals such as Advocate Motshabi reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ensuring accountability, justice and integrity in the service of the nation.

MAKING CRIME UNPROFITABLE:

Insights from Advocate Ouma Rabaji-Rasethaba

Research Management: Knowledge Management Team



Criminal prosecution is often not enough to make a significant impact on crime in South Africa. This fight needs dedicated men and women who are not afraid to push the boundaries for justice to be served. One of the champions of this fight, Advocate Ouma Rabaji-Rasethaba officially handed over the baton to the next generation of champions against organised crime on 30 September 2025.

Career trajectory

Adv Rabaji-Rasethaba began her career as an attorney for seven years. She went on to do a higher diploma in company law at Wits and a master's degree in constitutional law from the University of Pretoria. She graduated for both in 1995. She worked for the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) during the first democratic elections in South Africa for almost five months, running the first democratic elections. While at the Bar, she was recruited to be part of the leadership at the Road Accident Fund (RAF) post-1994. She was instrumental in the appointment of the first cohort of black attorneys at RAF. This was part of the transformation and diversity efforts in running South African institutions. She held this role for six years and later joined the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) as a Special Director: Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) in 1998 during its inception.

Together with other colleagues she was responsible for creating jurisprudence of ushering the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA). This is the Act guiding the seizing of assets which are proceeds of crime. To date, there are 800 cases that confirm that South Africa has a legal mechanism to take away proceeds of crime. After Adv Bulelani Ngcuka's tenure, who was the first NDPP, Adv. Rabaji-Rasethaba transitioned to the private sector as Chief of Governance and later Chief Risk Officer where she was responsible for ensuring that regulatory requirements are met.

After 10 years in the private sector, she returned to the Bar. During this period, she chaired numerous public sector boards namely RAF, Post Office, Telkom Foundation Trust, Trudon (formerly known as Yellow Pages). Adv. Rabaji-Rasethaba returned to the NPA when NDPP, Adv Shamila Batohi took the reins in 2019 to assist with asset recovery efforts.

Reflection on the AFU

She is of the view that if the AFU does not continue recovering assets from international jurisdictions, that is going to damage its reputation. She acknowledges that the AFU has done exceptionally well domestically. However, supported by the regions, the AFU Head Office needs to continue with international recoveries. On the evolution of the AFU, Adv. Rabaji-Rasethaba states that the only issue the AFU is currently facing is that they don't have investigating powers. Moreover, she cites financial analysis technology as another issue of concern facing the AFU stating that they rely on the FIC for financial analysis and forensic investigations. Reflecting on lessons learnt from freezing/and or recovering of assets, she opines that reliance on conviction based freezing orders has big challenges because if the criminal prosecution is not successful, the AFU must return the assets, hence the development of AFU's non-trial resolution policy.

Her tenure at the AFU

Adv. Rabaji-Rasethaba cites her experience in different leadership roles including chairmanship in various public sector boards as having had an influence in how she steered the ship at the AFU during her tenure. Coming from the private sector she had a motto that she lived by which says, "If you don't sell, you don't make money". She approached the AFU with that mindset. The seizure of

proceeds of crime was necessary for her to feel that she deserved her salary. She had to do everything possible within the confines of the law to push the boundaries. It's an experience she could not shake off. She likens this to being at the Bar, where if you don't have briefs to go to court you won't have money. Furthermore, she attributes AFU's achievements to the pushing of boundaries and being innovative. It was that drive that led to the conception of the non-trial resolution policy. She led the process of developing that policy which allowed the AFU to enter settlements with corporates. Before this policy there was no instrument that allowed such settlements with organisations that benefited from corruption. "I'm proud of all the successes we have achieved. From a unit that was non-performing to a unit that achieved all its indicators", she stated.

Career highlight

She cites the Asset Recovery Hub as one key project that she feels has a lasting impact to date in the AFU/NPA. This is a collaboration between the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) and the AFU. This is the project that she prides herself on having been part of creating. "The idea was to pitch it as a Rapid Response Programme to assist South Africa in exiting the grey-list. Indeed, when Financial Action Task Force (FATF) looked at this programme, which is a collaboration among agencies across the value chain, they found it to be very effective", she stated. This project has since been rolled out to the provinces and has become part and parcel of how the AFU operates.

Challenges and lessons learnt

Even though there has been strides made in the work done by the AFU, the journey has not been without challenges and frustrations. She says in the last 20 years when the AFU was creating jurisprudence, they were getting case referrals from South African Police Service (SAPS). However, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) now has its own asset forfeiture investigating unit and no longer refers cases to the AFU. Whether it's a small or big case, they do it in-house and the information stays with them. She states that the most frustrating aspect has been to wait for referrals. To mitigate this, she is of the view that the AFU needs to have investigative powers.

Training and capacity development

She emphasised the need to be a self-starting learner for one to be great at what they do. "You must constantly read and do courses. Don't be comfortable with the same level of knowledge you had last year or 10 years ago", she said. A prosecutor must not only know the one thing that they are doing. She emphasises the importance of having multidisciplinary knowledge, stating that one needs to have the desire to know more and understand how other disciplines run and see the common thread across the board.

Advice for the next DNDPP: AFU

As parting words for her successor, Adv Rabaji-Rasethaba says "Pretend you are in the private sector where if you don't make sales, you don't make money. AFU is about bringing back the money, full stop."



Asset Forfeiture Unit team

THE NPA LAUNCHED ANTI-BULLYING STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Khethukuthula Sangweni – Communications Officer:
KZN Division



Acting DDPP: SOCA, KZN: Adv Omashani Naidoo; DPP: KZN, Adv Elaine Harrison; and SDPP: SOCA, Adv Bonnie Currie Gamwo during the Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme launch

“Bullying in a broader sense can be defined as repeated, intentional aggression that uses a power imbalance to hurt or intimidate another person. It involves physical actions like hitting, verbal abuse like name-calling, social manipulation like spreading rumors, or cyberbullying through digital platforms. This can happen in places like schools, playgrounds, workplaces, online and at home.”

According to media reports, around 57% of South African learners have been bullied at least once in their lifetime. The scourge of bullying is a serious issue in KZN schools. Many incidents have appeared on social media.

In response to that, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) recently launched the Anti Bullying Student Ambassador Programme in Durban.

This programme aims to empower learners to stand up against bullying, foster a culture of safety and inclusion, and provide peer-lead support in the school environment. The event was a collaboration between the NPA, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (KZNDOE) and Trulife.

Over 180 learners from over 40 schools from various districts of KZN province participated in the programme. Various speakers made presentations on bullying emphasising the importance of fighting against the scourge. There was also a drama on bullying by Trulife, which was both engaging and educational.

All the attendees were encouraged to sign the pledge to fight against bullying. The NPA was represented by the Special Director of Public Prosecutions in the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit, Adv Bonnie Currie-Gamwo, the Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Adv Elaine Harrison, the Chief Prosecutor of the Ntuzuma Cluster, Mr Jabulani Cebekhulu, Acting Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for SOCA KZN Adv Omashani Naidoo, and Senior Public Prosecutor Gugu Mbili.

Adv Gamwo said the program looks at ways to handle bullying incidents. This includes necessary identification and referral to an educator. She also said the schools will have designated educators who are trained. She further emphasised that acts of bullying are also acts of crime and the NPA will never hesitate to prosecute in the appropriate circumstances.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KZN, Adv Harrison, pleaded with learners to use the training profitably and go back to spread the word in their schools and communities.

Adv Naidoo from the NPA KZN spoke about monitoring mechanisms in schools to deal with bullying. She further highlighted the reporting and handling cases of bullying in schools.

The KZN department of Education represented by Mr Sandile Zungu who is responsible for HIV/AIDS Life Skills and Psycho-Social Services, expressed the commitment by the department to fight against the scourge of bullying. Zungu said a lot has been done by the department to deal with the issue.

Attendees were made to sign the anti-bullying pledge as a declaration of war against bullying in schools and society at large. The NPA wrapped up the event by handing over the learner certificates and anti-bullying banners to be displayed at school as a reminder to stop bullying.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS ORGANISED CRIME

Abram Mohlatlole – Communications Officer: Gauteng Local Division

As part of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, in collaboration with the Gauteng Provincial Task Team on Trafficking in Persons, hosted an awareness activation at OR Tambo International Airport under the theme, 'Human Trafficking is Organised Crime – End the Exploitation.'

The campaign aimed to educate travelers and airport personnel on recognising and reporting indicators of human trafficking, while drawing attention to the role of organised criminal networks in exploiting vulnerable individuals through airport corridors.

Senior Prosecutors, Lukas Smit and Carina Coetzee represented the NPA at the event. Among the speakers, Adv Carina Coetzee, a Senior Prosecutor in the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) unit, Provincial Manager for Thuthuzela Care Centres in South Gauteng

and Co-chairperson of the National Intersectoral Committee on Trafficking in Persons, emphasised the NPA's pivotal role as co-chair of the national committee alongside the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in implementing the National Policy Framework on Trafficking in Persons.

Adv Coetzee highlighted that awareness, prevention, protection, partnership and prosecution are essential pillars in dismantling trafficking networks and ensuring justice for victims through coordinated national and provincial efforts.

The activation served as a reminder of the collective responsibility shared by government institutions, law enforcement, civil society and the public in combating human trafficking. By fostering awareness and strengthening intersectoral collaboration, initiatives such as this one reaffirm the commitment to protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that traffickers are held accountable.

The NPA's continued involvement underscores the importance of a united front in upholding justice and advancing the fight against human trafficking in South Africa.



Senior Prosecutor, Lukas Smith and Adv Carina Coetzee engaging with members of the public during the Human Trafficking awareness event at the OR Tambo International Airport



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