

- **Strengthening Justice:**
Adv Andy Mothibi begins his term as NDPP
- Two life terms plus 15 years for murder
- Heavy sentence for former Eskom contractor convicted for damaging essential infrastructure



2nd
Edition



- Thief sentenced to seven years for tampering with Springbok water infrastructure
- **Nurturing the hearts of justice:**
Launch of Sexual Offence Prosecutors Empowerment Project
- NPA strategises under new leadership

Letter from the Managing Editor	1
Leadership Corner	2
NPA Welcomes Life Sentences in Vigilante Attack that claimed Four Lives in Debenek	3
Two Life Terms Plus 15 Years Imprisonment for Murder, Including the Murder of his Wife	4
Man Sentenced to Life Imprisonment and 30 Years for Repeatedly Raping and Impregnating His Minor Daughter	6
Man Sentenced to Life Imprisonment Plus 10 Years for Rape and Kidnapping of a Minor	8
Heavy Sentence for Former Eskom Contractor Convicted for Damaging Essential Infrastructure	9
Prosecutor Secures Conviction from Evidence of One Witness	10
Tampering with Essential Infrastructure: 'Copper' Thief Sentenced to Seven Years for Tampering with Springbok Water Infrastructure	11
Uganda's Lawmakers Face Growing Graft Claims	12
Anti-Graft Chief Accused of Meddling in Probe	12
NPA Participates at Rand Easter Show	13
Strengthening Justice: Advocate Andy Mothibi Begins his Term as NDPP	14
Shining the Light on Court Preparation	16
NPA Strategic Planning Session Under New Leadership	18
The Organised Crime Component Annual Operational Planning Session	19
AFU hosts Malawian Delegation to Enhance Regional Collaboration on Combating Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows	20
NPA Strengthens Community Awareness in Ennerdale	21
Nurturing the Hearts of Justice: The Launch of Sexual Offence Prosecutors' Empowerment Project (SOPEP)	21

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Editor:

Vuyolwethu Sigaji
NPA Communications

Photographer:

Luzuko Tyala
NPA Communications

Editorial Management:

Nomilo Mpondo
NPA Communications

Letter from THE MANAGING EDITOR



Ms Nomilo Mpondo
Managing Editor

This edition opens with a significant moment in the leadership of the NPA, as Advocate Mothibi officially commenced his tenure with an introductory engagement with staff, led by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. In his opening address, he set a clear and resolute tone, placing strong emphasis on the need to strengthen justice and reinforce the NPA's commitment to serving the people of South Africa with integrity and excellence.

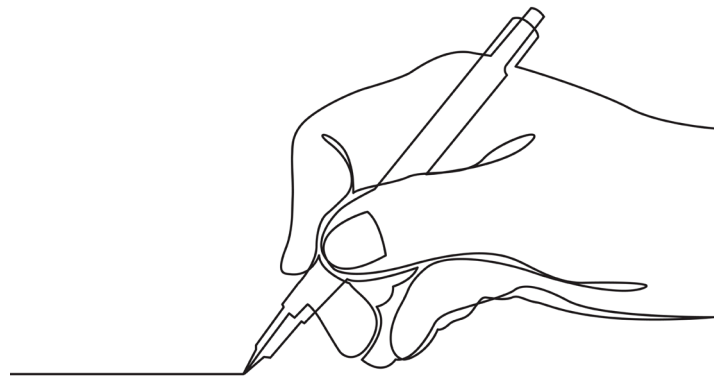
In this issue, we draw attention to a number of impactful cases and developments that reflect the work of our prosecutors and the broader justice system. Readers are encouraged to look out for the article on the sentencing in a vigilante attack matter by the Bhisho High Court, which underscores the firm stance taken against unlawful acts of vengeance.

We also feature two important articles highlighting the consequences of damaging and tampering with critical infrastructure. One details the heavy sentence imposed on a former Eskom contractor for damaging essential infrastructure, while another focuses on tampering with the Springbok water infrastructure – both reinforcing the seriousness with which such offences are treated.

Further, this edition includes a compelling article on how the testimony of a single witness in a hijacking case contributed to securing a conviction, illustrating the strength and impact of credible evidence in the pursuit of justice.

Lastly, readers can explore an insightful piece on the enhancement of regional collaboration in combating corruption and illicit financial flows, reflecting ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships and addressing complex cross-border crimes.

Take time to read each and every article in this edition. We trust that these articles will inform, inspire, and reaffirm the critical role played by all in advancing justice.





Ms Bulelwa Makeke
Chief Director: Communications

In the lead up to NDPP, Adv Andy Mothibi assuming office after his appointment as announced by the President last year, some of the public commentary was to the effect that they expect the NDPP to prioritise efficiency, integrity, and transparency and to build institutional credibility. For leadership legitimacy, his first 90 days matter.

Analysts recommended that he should publicly announce “a focused set of priority prosecutions” and institute “quarterly public updates on progress in major corruption cases and other key strategic issues that impact the NPA. They made reference to how his SIU tenure showed an appetite for strategic partnerships and data analytics and that the test going forward would be whether he can translate that into dialogic, two-way communication that explains prosecutorial process without prejudicing cases.

At the welcoming ceremony on the first day of assuming duty as the NDPP on 02 February 2026, Adv Andy Mothibi committed to adopting and taking forward the strategic focus areas in the handover report from the previous leadership. Among the NPA’s twelve (12) strategic focus areas is the implementation of a pro-active communication strategy. It has now come to pass that the NDPP’s comprehensive media briefing on 12 March, just over a month since taking over the leadership baton, over-delivered on the expectations stated by analysts.

Leadership that recognises the strategic positioning of communication in an organisation is one that appreciates and understands how it preserves the legitimacy of the organisation, internally and externally. In the current environment of high expectations on prosecution performance and delivery of justice, lack of visibility and information updates becomes seen as stagnation. There is an urgency to see accelerated prosecutions, especially in state capture related matters, organised crime and gender-based violence.

It is against this background that programmes that elevate NPA leaders in the public space and the media, such as the DPP Speaks series and planned NDPP engagements, will be enhanced.

It is therefore very important that all employees support these engagements in a more visible manner, especially on social media. In this year, we intend to amplify public engagements, directly with the members of society, and through the media and social media. Employees that are *au fait* and participate on social media are invited to follow these NPA platforms and contribute constructively within the Communication Policy prescripts, where relevant.

With such a firm backing and support from leadership, we will power NPA communication and public engagement efforts to greater heights. We look forward to a great year of enhanced communication and public engagement.



NPA WELCOMES LIFE SENTENCES IN VIGILANTE ATTACK THAT CLAIMED FOUR LIVES IN DEBENEK

Nokuthula Makuphula

Communications Officer: Eastern Cape Division

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in the Eastern Cape welcomes the sentences imposed by the Bhisho High Court in a matter that sends a strong and unequivocal message about the devastating consequences of vigilantism and the dangers of abandoning the rule of law.

The court convicted and sentenced Mluleki Xulu (49), Neliso Nkohla (30), Dumisani Mpofana (38), Bantu Marali (37), Lindi Mbingashe (38), Unathi Kakalala (29), Mfuniseli Mbingashe (66), Nombulelo Kitise Bakani (42), Zwelandile “Boy-Boy” Kitise (53), Yanginkosi Solani (41), Nkosinathi Dyantyi (72), Lungisa Mtyana (39), Zandisile Kitise (71), Nombuzo Mbingashe (57), Mvelisi Xulu (46) and Thobani Vena (37) for their roles in the unlawful killing of four people in the Ndindwa Administrative Area, Debenek, near Middledrift.

The offences occurred on 31 December 2022, when members of the community had gathered for a traditional ceremony. During the gathering, a group of community members held a meeting and resolved that individuals suspected of cable theft or related criminal activity would be subjected to so-called “community punishment.”

As a result of this unlawful decision, Lwando Makinana (34), Nwabisa Melane (33), Ziphozihle Thimba (41) and Vuyo Clifford Lamani (44) were forcibly removed from their homes and killed. The court heard that the victims were unarmed and posed no threat at the time of the attack.

On the following day, members of the community further obstructed justice by preventing police officers from performing their lawful duties, forcing them to retreat from the area.

In delivering the sentence, Judge Thandi Norman strongly condemned the conduct of the accused, stating: “There is something deeply disturbing about people who take the law into their own hands. In doing so, you became complainants, investigators, and executioners. Your actions were ruthless, merciless, and brutal.”

Each of the accused was sentenced to life imprisonment on four counts of murder, eight years’ imprisonment on each of four counts of kidnapping, and three

years’ imprisonment for public violence. Collectively, the sentences amount to life imprisonment plus an additional 35 years. The court ordered that the sentences run concurrently, resulting in an effective sentence of life imprisonment.

The court further declared all the convicted persons unfit to possess firearms and ordered that the minor child of the late Nwabisa Melane be referred for professional counselling in recognition of the severe and lasting trauma caused by the crime.

The Eastern Cape Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Barry Madolo, commended State Advocate Xolisile Philasane and Court Preparation Officer Sandisiwe Moyake for their dedication and professionalism in securing justice. He also praised the investigating officer, Sergeant Hlanga Melane, for conducting a thorough investigation that ensured a successful prosecution.

DPP Madolo emphasised that the case must stand as a permanent reminder that vigilantism is not justice, but criminality.

“When people take the law into their own hands, they do not become heroes; they become criminals. No suspicion of wrongdoing, no anger, and no frustration with crime can ever justify the taking of a life. What occurred in Debenek was not justice; it was murder, followed by an attempt to obstruct the very system designed to protect communities.

The NPA acknowledges the profound pain and loss suffered by the families of the four victims and reiterates its commitment to pursuing justice without fear, favour, or prejudice. This matter sends a clear and uncompromising message: mob justice will be met with the full force of the law, and those who participate in it will face the most severe consequences. The NPA once again urges communities to reject violence and to report crime to the South African Police Service, placing their trust in the criminal justice system to address wrongdoing lawfully and fairly.

TWO LIFE TERMS PLUS 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR MURDER, INCLUDING THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE

Chegofatjo Maabanna

Communications Officer: Limpopo Division



Senior State Advocate, Nkhetheni Munyai

The Polokwane High Court has sentenced Takume Edmond Motshekga (32) to two life terms plus 15 years' imprisonment following his conviction on three counts of murder and one count of attempted murder. The court heard that on the evening of 01 January 2022, in Kuranta village, Motshekga had a heated argument over the phone with his wife, Constable Mahlatse Precious Machubeni, who was stationed at Mokwakwaila SAPS. Later that evening, Motshekga requested his wife's cousin, Pontsho Sekumane, to accompany him to fetch her from a friend's house.

When they arrived, another argument broke out between the accused and his wife, which escalated into violence. Motshekga fatally shot his wife, the mother of his children, before demanding the car keys from Sekumane. When Sekumane refused, Motshekga shot and killed him as well. He then took the vehicle and fled the scene. On his way, Motshekga encountered Louis Makhurupetji and another victim, whom he shot at, killing Makhurupetji and injuring the other occupant. After the shooting spree, the accused drove to Giyani Police Station, where he handed himself over to the police.

Despite denying the murders and claiming provocation by his wife, Motshekga was convicted based on overwhelming evidence, including forensic findings that detailed the fatal injuries sustained by the victims. In

aggravation of sentence, Advocate Nkhetheni Munyai highlighted the premeditated and violent nature of the offences, noting that Motshekga's actions were driven by jealousy and a clear disregard for human life.

In sentencing, Judge Jane Ngobeni remarked: "If the deceased knew that you were going to kill her, she would not have accepted your proposal." The court imposed two life sentences and 15 years' imprisonment for the third count of murder. All sentences will run concurrently.

SENIOR STATE ADVOCATE NKHETHENI MUNYAI WAS ASKED THESE QUESTIONS

Did you encounter any challenges when prosecuting the matter?

Yes, a number of challenges were experienced that contributed to the delay in the commencement of the trial. This was occasioned by the defence for the purpose of securing a report from a clinical psychologist. This was sought for the purpose of disputing that the accused had the requisite criminal intent at the time of the commission of these offences. Similar delays were experienced post-conviction when they were seeking a pre-sentence report. The prosecution was always ready

to proceed, thanks to the diligent work and assistance of investigating officer, Captain Masete. The trial finally commenced on 04 April 2024.

How important is it to involve different stakeholders in order to secure conviction?

The involvement of different stakeholders in order to present a formidable case is dispensable and of utmost importance. The contribution of different stakeholders in diligent manner, makes it effortless to prove the case against the accused. In this case, the response of the police upon receipt of the report of the crimes having been committed was swift, the handling of the crime scene and the collection of evidence (exhibits) was superb. The investigating officer was meticulous in locating key witnesses and ensuring that forensic evidence is secured. Without the meaningful involvement of stakeholders, we can hardly achieve anything.

In what ways did your background as a senior state advocate contribute to the successful prosecution of this matter?

The background played a crucial role in assessing the totality of the available evidence and to determine the sequence of presenting it. In the light of an unusual plea explanation that 'the incident took place under the glazing blaze of the sudden heat

of passion in respect to an alcohol impaired and neuropsychologically vulnerable accused who reacted impulsively, inappropriately and ultimately, violently to a dynamic, emotionally charged and provocative situation'. I had to comprehensively lead background evidence to dispel an attempt by the defence to create a situation of diminished criminal responsibility. Otherwise, this could have resulted in the court finding factors warranting deviation from the prescribed minimum sentences. Another important aspect was to consistently communicate with the investigating officer and the witnesses about progress, delays and future expectations on the trial. This ensured that the witnesses, in particular, remained positive and cooperative.

Have the families of the deceased expressed satisfaction with the sentence imposed by the court?

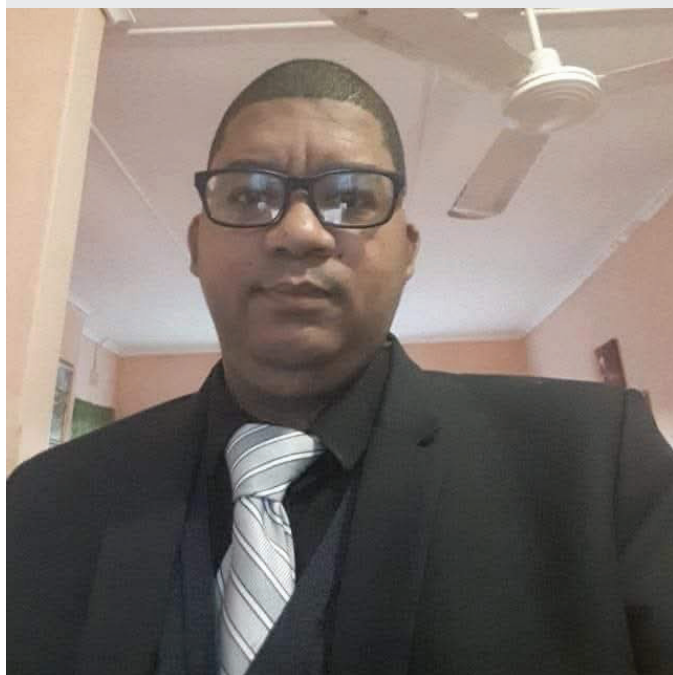
The families of the deceased persons in this case expressed their satisfaction with the sentences handed to the accused. Their satisfaction was heightened by their active participation in the sentencing proceedings. Three members from each of the deceased's families presented Victim Impact Statements in which they explained the devastating loss of their loved ones, all citing them as respective breadwinners. The accused was then sentenced in accordance with the prescribed minimum sentence.



MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND 30 YEARS FOR REPEATEDLY RAPING AND IMPREGNATING HIS MINOR DAUGHTER

Eric Ntabazalila
RCM: Western Cape Division

The Oudtshoorn Regional Court has sentenced a 59 year-old man to an effective life sentence and 20 years' direct imprisonment after he repeatedly raped and impregnated his own minor daughter. The man has been convicted of sexual violation of his 13 year-old daughter, her repeated rapes over two years and incest.



Regional Court Prosecutor, **Hyron Goulding**

His victim is his own child, born out of rape after he raped her mother (the victim's mother) when she was 16 years old. Oudtshoorn Regional Court Prosecutor, Hyron Goulding, called the victim's mother, who testified in aggravation of sentence that the accused raped her when she was 16 years old. The accused was the husband of the victim's mother's aunt. The accused was arrested for the rape, prosecuted, and convicted, but was acquitted on appeal of his case at the high court.

Goulding led evidence that the 13-year-old victim grew up staying with her mother and stepfather. She moved out and stayed with her father and his wife when she turned 13, visiting her mother on weekends. This move came about after the victim's mother, and the

rapist were approached by their pastor and requested to make peace. At this reconciliation discussion, the accused apologised to the victim's mother for raping her (raping the mother when she was 16 years old). The accused's wife invited the victim to stay with her, and her husband and the victim's mother agreed to the arrangement as she thought the rapist had repented.

Over two years, he sexually assaulted the victim by indecently touching her and raping her multiple times. She fell pregnant and returned home to stay with her mother. She had emotional outbursts at home and informed her aunt and mother about what the accused did to her. A case was registered against the accused, and a doctor confirmed that she was pregnant. She told her mother that the accused impregnated her. The victim's mother testified that they instructed the hospital to terminate the pregnancy. She expressed frustration as she felt the justice system failed her when the high court acquitted the accused of her rape. She felt that if the high court did not set aside the accused's rape conviction and sentence, he would not have raped her daughter.

Goulding not only successfully prosecuted the case but managed it as the accused attempted to waste the court's time. Last year, he indicated his intention to plead guilty, and on the day he was supposed to tender his plea, he terminated the services of his legal aid attorney. The case was postponed for a new attorney, and on the court day, he re-hired the same legal aid attorney.

He then proposed to enter into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state, where he tendered a guilty plea on the rape charge, claiming that the victim consented to the rape. The State rejected his proposed plea and sentencing agreement as her version was that she did not consent to her rape. The accused then amended his plea and sentencing agreement, and the State accepted it, but he turned it down when the State insisted that the only appropriate sentence was 25 years of direct imprisonment on the rape charge. The matter was postponed for trial, and the state again prepared the victim, through Court Preparation Officer Helene Lucas, to testify against the accused.

On 29 January 2026, the state was ready to proceed with the trial, and the three charges were put to the accused. He shocked everyone, including his attorney, when he pleaded guilty. The matter stood down, and his attorney informed the State that the accused wanted to plead guilty and admit that he indeed raped the victim, but that it only happened once. The state rejected the watered-down guilty plea, and the defence

corrected the plea wherein he admitted that the rapes happened over a period of two years and not once. The defence attempted to negotiate its way back to the initial sentence of 25 years' direct imprisonment that was offered during the plea and sentencing negotiations. The State rejected the request.

In aggravation of sentence, Goulding argued that the accused pleaded guilty because he realised that the state had a very strong case against him and he had no other way out than to plead guilty. The accused is the victim's biological father and was supposed to protect her, but he was a wolf in sheep's clothing. He violated her. He planned the offence as he would wait for his wife to go to work and take advantage of the minor victim. She was 13 years old when he started to rape her and raped her many times over a period of two years. Worse is the fact that he raped and impregnated the victim, who is his own child. The accused has not shown true remorse. He has self-regret now that he has been caught out.

The court agreed with the state and sentenced the accused to 10 years direct imprisonment for sexual violation, life imprisonment for rape and 20 years direct imprisonment for incest. It ordered the 10 years direct imprisonment for sexual violation to run concurrently with the life imprisonment, but the 20 years direct imprisonment for incest to run separately from the life imprisonment.

The accused is effectively sentenced to life imprisonment and 20 years' imprisonment. The court ordered his name to be entered into the National Sex Register and declared him unfit to work with children. It also declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

Western Cape Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv Nicolette Bell, applauded the prosecution and investigation team for their tenacity in ensuring justice for the victim. Adv Bell congratulated the CPO for her work in preparing the victim, who had difficulty testifying against a man she considered her father. She also commended the victim and her mother for their resolve in getting justice against the accused, who committed an atrocious crime against a mother and her child, people he swore to love and protect. She once again committed the NPA to continue prosecuting cases of gender-based violence unabated.



State Prosecutor, **Kagiso Modibedi**

MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT PLUS 10 YEARS FOR RAPE AND KIDNAPPING OF A MINOR

Sivenathi Gunya
Communications Officer: North West Division

Zeerust, North West: The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) welcomes the sentence of life imprisonment handed down by the Zeerust Regional Court to Pulaetsile Mafora (46) for the rape of a 17-year-old minor. In addition, Mafora was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for kidnapping, with the sentences ordered to run concurrently. The court further directed that his name be entered into the National Register for Sex Offenders.

The conviction stems from an incident that occurred on 14 August 2024 in Nietverdiend. On the day of the offence, the accused found the complainant at home with her younger brother. He instructed the complainant to accompany him to a nearby bush area and to lock the child inside the house before leaving. The victim was reported missing by her family, prompting a police search. In the early hours of the following morning, members of the South African Police Service, assisted by sniffer dogs, located the accused with the victim in the bush area. He was arrested at the scene and has remained in custody since.

The accused pleaded guilty to both charges. During sentencing proceedings, State Prosecutor Kagiso Modibedi urged the court to impose the prescribed minimum sentence, submitting that the victim was defenseless, and that the accused had abused his position and taken advantage of her vulnerability. In

its judgment, the court found that no substantial and compelling circumstances existed to warrant a deviation from the prescribed minimum sentence and accordingly imposed life imprisonment for the rape charge and 10 years' imprisonment for kidnapping.

Welcoming the outcome, Dr Rachel Makhari, Director of Public Prosecutions in the North West, commended Prosecutor Modibedi, the South African Police Service, and all role players involved in securing the conviction. She further emphasised the importance of community cooperation in reporting acts of gender-based violence. The NPA reiterates its commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of society and to ensuring accountability for perpetrators of serious crimes.

INSIGHTS FROM PROSECUTOR KAGISO MODIBEDI

The day I received the docket, I read it and came to the conclusion that the evidence against the accused person is so overwhelming to a point that I knew that as a prosecutor I had a duty to advance the interests of victim in the matter, as at the time of the commission of the offence, the victim was 17 years old.

I also took note of the charges against the accused person, which are rape and kidnapping, which prompted me to prepare the matter thoroughly with due diligence to ensure that justice prevails

HEAVY SENTENCE FOR FORMER ESKOM CONTRACTOR CONVICTED FOR DAMAGING ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Monica Nyuswa – RCM: Mpumalanga Division



State Advocate
Thobeka Phungula

Prosecutor
Chané Rothman

Recently, the Ermelo Regional Court sentenced a former Eskom contractor, Simon Majaonke Shongwe (46), to a combined term of 35 years' imprisonment for tampering with essential infrastructure in 2022 at the Howden Power Station in Ermelo, a designated National Key Point.

Shongwe was convicted on two counts: contravention of Section 3(1)(a) of the Criminal Matters Amendment Act 18 of 2015, relating to damaging or interfering with electricity supply, and theft of ferrous or non-ferrous metal forming part of essential infrastructure.

The court heard that on 10 November 2022, the accused deliberately committed an act of sabotage at the power station. Shongwe proceeded to Unit 4, where he removed bearing oil drain plugs and a dipstick, disposing of them in a trench. This caused Unit 4 to overheat and the generator to trip. Eskom's technical team later detected an irregularity, which prompted an investigation. During the investigation, video footage was reviewed and the accused was identified as a person who had previously worked at the power station. He was arrested five days after the incident.

The accused subsequently confessed to the offence and pointed out the dipstick and drain plugs to his former manager. The State, represented by State Advocate Thobeka Phungula and Prosecutor Chané Rothman, presented strong evidence, including testimony from Howden employees who identified the accused based on the clothing he was wearing on the day of the incident. The court also heard evidence based on video footage and images of the crime scene. An Eskom investigator testified that the accused admitted to the sabotage from the outset and confirmed that he had acted alone when committing the offence.

In addressing the court, Prosecutor Rothman emphasised that although identification of the accused may have posed a challenge, when considered together with the other evidence presented, the State was able to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt.

In aggravation of sentence, the accused pointed out the dipstick and drain plugs. The Eskom investigator testified regarding the impact, gravity and financial loss suffered by Eskom, informing the court that the utility incurred losses exceeding R22 million as a result of the incident.

During sentencing, the court emphasised that Eskom has been plagued by acts of sabotage. It highlighted the economic damage caused by the offender, the inconvenience experienced by the public, and the disruption to service delivery. The court strongly condemned the accused's actions, noting that tampering with essential infrastructure constitutes a national crisis with far-reaching consequences.

The accused was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for damaging essential infrastructure and 15 years' imprisonment for the theft of ferrous or non-ferrous metal forming part of essential infrastructure. The court ordered the sentences to run concurrently, resulting in an effective sentence of 20 years' direct imprisonment. The accused was also declared unfit to possess a firearm.

The National Prosecuting Authority reaffirms its commitment to combating crime and upholding the rule of law. It further warns that tampering with essential infrastructure is a serious offence that carries severe consequences. Such offences negatively affect the economy and disrupt service delivery. Protecting South Africa's infrastructure is the responsibility of all who live in the country.

PROSECUTOR SECURES CONVICTION FROM EVIDENCE OF ONE WITNESS

Lumka Mahanjana
RCM: Gauteng Division, Pretoria

The Regional Court prosecutor at the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court, Reuben Chabalala, who joined the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in July 2004 through the aspirant prosecutor programme – takes us through a case and tells us how he managed to secure a conviction in a highly publicised case involving violent crimes using a single witness.

In this case Sabelo Landelani Manqe (39) was sentenced to 18 years for murder, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 8 years for attempted murder and 6 years each for two counts of kidnapping. Manqe and his co accused hijacked a couple in Katlehong, drove with the couple to a cemetery, shot the man and left the women and drove off.

When asked what went through his mind when he received the docket Chabalala said, he knew that the case was worthy to take to court for trial though the case was not simple and straight forward. He said upon perusing the docket he realised that there was only one single witness and the incident happened at night in winter when it is darker, which could affect the identification of the accused people and pose as a challenge.

"But I did not allow that to deter me" he said. In fact, it made me more determined as investigations as in this case were prosecution led, I got involved from the beginning. However, I must say consulting with the witness helped. Though she was traumatized because she witnessed the entire assault as well as her partner being killed, she was able to give investigators crucial information, that one of the accused was wearing black gloves. Indeed, during his arrest, when he was found in possession of the hijacked vehicle, Manqe was wearing black gloves.



*Regional Court Prosecutor
Reuben Chabalala*

That information helped me during the trial; I used circumstantial evidence to prove that the person who was found in possession of the car was the same person who robbed and killed the deceased four hours earlier that night. I also used the doctrine of possession to prove my case and a testimony of a single identifying witness.

When asked what helped overcome the many challenges he faced with the case, Chabalala said preparation of the case docket and the witness was key for him to ensure that he secured the conviction. Furthermore, building rapport with the witness also helped because the witness was traumatised and the court had to adjourn a couple of times because the witness was emotional.

When asked what keeps him going in doing his job, Chabalala said it's his love for justice, he says he loves to see justice served. "Destressing also helps, because in my spare time I also DJ as a hobby, I love and specially enjoy soul music. So, seeing people sing along and dance to the music I play is fun for me. It takes me away from thinking about dockets and courts all the time." he said.

When asked whether he would encourage his children to follow in his footsteps, Chabalala said he would, noting that a career in prosecution can be deeply rewarding. However, he cautioned that the profession requires courage, resilience and a genuine commitment to justice, particularly in the current climate where the role has become increasingly risky and prosecutors have been targeted and killed.

TAMPERING WITH ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE: 'COPPER' THIEF SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS FOR TAMPERING WITH SPRINGBOK WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Lindiwe Mabasa

Communications Officer: Northern Cape Division

Crimes targeting essential infrastructure continue to pose a serious threat to South Africa's economic stability and social wellbeing. Whether large-scale sabotage or seemingly minor acts of theft, the damage caused by tampering with critical infrastructure such as water, electricity and transport systems is far-reaching. These crimes disrupt service delivery, weaken investor confidence, and place immense strain on an already fragile economy.

The ripple effects of infrastructure-related crimes are felt across multiple sectors: Industries are forced to shut down or scale back operations due to unreliable services, jobs are lost, and livelihoods are destroyed. In some instances, lives have been lost as communities are left without access to basic necessities such as water and electricity. What may appear to be a small criminal act often triggers a chain reaction with devastating consequences for communities and the broader economy.

As South Africa works to rebuild and grow its economy, the protection of essential infrastructure remains a national priority. Acts of tampering undermine development efforts and deepen inequality, particularly in vulnerable and rural communities. Holding perpetrators accountable is therefore not only a matter of law enforcement, but a critical step in safeguarding service delivery, protecting lives, and ensuring economic resilience.

In the Namakwa area of the Northern Cape, Conray Cloete (26) who tampered with essential water infrastructure in Springbok, leaving parts of the community without access to water, has recently been sentenced to seven years' direct imprisonment.

Cloete was convicted following incidents that occurred on 17 September 2024 in Skietbank, where he unlawfully removed copper fittings from municipal water storage tanks that form part of the water supply system serving the broader Springbok area.

After removing the fittings, Cloete sold them to a local scrapyard, benefiting financially from the crime. His actions resulted in significant financial losses for the Nama Khoi Local Municipality, which was forced to incur

substantial costs to replace the damaged infrastructure.

The consequences of the theft extended beyond financial loss. Residents were left without reliable access to water, with many forced to travel long distances to obtain this basic necessity, highlighting the severe impact that infrastructure-related crimes have on already vulnerable communities.

Cloete's criminal activities came to an end after a concerned community member alerted the police. He was subsequently arrested and admitted that the infrastructure belonged to the municipality and that he had no lawful right to remove it.

He pleaded guilty and entered into a Section 105A plea and sentence agreement with the State.

During sentencing proceedings, the prosecution emphasised the broader impact of crimes involving essential infrastructure, noting that such offences undermine service delivery, erode public confidence, and hinder South Africa's developmental goals. The court was urged to consider the harm caused to communities that rely on basic services such as water for their daily survival.

In delivering the sentence, the court found that substantial and compelling circumstances existed to justify a deviation from the prescribed minimum sentence. These included the fact that Cloete was a first-time offender, had admitted guilt, and had cooperated fully with law enforcement. He was sentenced to seven years' direct imprisonment.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomed the sentence, describing it as a strong deterrent against tampering with essential infrastructure and a clear warning to those who seek to profit at the expense of vulnerable communities. The NPA also commended the South African Police Service (SAPS) for their swift response and effective intervention, which led to Cloete's arrest.

UGANDA'S LAWMAKERS FACE GROWING GRAFT CLAIMS

Political actors and analysts raised concerns over growing corruption within Uganda's Parliament, with budget processes allegedly vulnerable to financial inducements and informal influence networks, Nile Post says. The debate intensified after President Yoweri Museveni acknowledged corruption in Parliament at the close of a National Resistance Movement retreat in Kyankwanzi, alleging some MPs on parliamentary committees solicit payments from government agencies in exchange for budget approvals. He cited Lwengo Woman MP Cissy Namujju. Former Kampala Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago described Parliament as increasingly operating like a marketplace, alleging official reports can be altered through financial influence. Former MP Salaam Musumba claimed individuals are attached to government agencies to mobilise funds during budget processes to influence outcomes. Critics argued broader political practices, including inducements tied to legislative processes, have normalised transactional decision-making, and questioned the handling of corruption cases involving MPs Namujju, Paul Akamba and Yusuf Mutembuli. Parliament spokesperson Chris Obore defended the institution, saying the allegations do not reflect Parliament as a whole and wrongdoing involves isolated individuals. The National Unity Platform criticised reports of an alleged Shs100m facilitation linked to MPs, questioning its timing amid national priorities. Uganda loses an estimated Shs10trn annually to corruption.

Anti-graft chief accused of meddling in probe

The acting head of Malawi's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) allegedly used confidential corruption case files involving senior opposition politicians as leverage to pressurise the parliamentary committee examining his conduct. The allegation is contained in a formal, seven-page complaint filed Wednesday by Steven Baba Kamsiyamo, the chair of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), addressed directly to the official he accuses. The Mail & Guardian reports that the complaint describes a sustained effort by Gabriel Chembezi, the Acting DG of the ACB to secure his 'clearance' from the PAC. The committee had been investigating a pension fund's acquisition of a hotel at a price that independent valuers said was several times above market value. Chembezi has not publicly responded to the allegations, which remain untested in court. The controversy originates with the Public Service Pension Trust Fund, Malawi's third-largest pension fund, which administers retirement savings for teachers, nurses, police officers and other civil servants.

NPA PARTICIPATES AT RAND EASTER SHOW

Early in April, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) participated in the Rand Easter Show at Nasrec, Johannesburg, where it engaged with members of the public on the role and services of the institution within the criminal justice system.

The National Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv Andy Mothibi, together with NPA Spokesperson Kaizer Kganyago, Chief Director: Communications Bulelwa Makeke and other NPA leadership, visited the NPA exhibition to oversee activities and interact with officials working at the event.

The NPA exhibition, located at Hall 5, Stall C3, provided visitors with information about various services and programmes offered by the organisation. Members of the public learned about free court preparation services, the Aspirant Prosecutor Programme, as well as the work of the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit, Asset Forfeiture Unit and Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit.

Visitors also had an opportunity to engage directly with prosecutors and other NPA officials, gaining greater insight into the work of the organisation and its contribution to justice and community support.





STRENGTHENING JUSTICE: ADVOCATE ANDY MOTHIBI BEGINS HIS TERM AS NDPP

The National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), Andy Mothibi, officially assumed office on 02 February 2026, following his introduction by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mmamoloko Kubayi.

Minister Kubayi, supported by Deputy Minister Andries Nel, formally introduced the newly appointed NDPP to the executive and staff of the National Prosecuting Authority at its Pretoria offices. The introduction followed Advocate Mothibi's swearing-in by Acting Judge President of the Gauteng High Court, Aubrey Ledwaba. The swearing-in and formal introduction came after his appointment by the President of the Republic, Cyril Ramaphosa.

Advocate Mothibi succeeds former NDPP Shamila Batohi, whose term concluded after reaching the prescribed retirement age.

During his introductory remarks, Advocate Mothibi emphasised the importance of restoring public confidence in the NPA and strengthening accountability within the organisation. He highlighted the need for the NPA to fully understand the criminal justice system value chain and the critical role that prosecutions play in ensuring justice. He stressed that the NPA must continue to act independently and uphold justice without fear, favour or prejudice.

The NDPP also made it clear that wrongdoing must be met with consequences. "Where there is evidence of criminality, there must be consequences," he said, underscoring the importance of ensuring that impunity is not tolerated. He further emphasised the importance

of maintaining high ethical standards within the organisation. "The issue around integrity checks is non-negotiable. Lifestyle audits need to be conducted," he noted.

Advocate Mothibi indicated that strengthening performance through skills development is among the NPA's priorities. "It is critical that we are seen as a high-performing organisation. There is a lot of work that needs to be done with regard to enhancing our fight against complex crime and corruption. We need to enhance the capabilities of prosecutors, investigators and all officials working to combat crime," he said.

A key theme of the NDPP's message was the need to rebuild public trust in the prosecuting authority while ensuring that the organisation delivers results in significant and complex cases.

In welcoming the appointment, Minister Kubayi highlighted the critical role the NPA plays in safeguarding the rule of law in South Africa. She emphasised that strong and principled leadership within the institution is essential to ensuring that justice is delivered effectively and that the criminal justice system functions as intended.

Expressing confidence in Advocate Mothibi's leadership, the Minister noted that his experience within the justice sector would support ongoing efforts to strengthen accountability and reinforce public trust in the prosecutorial system. "This appointment is central to strengthening the rule of law and ensuring the effective functioning of the criminal justice system," she said.



Acting Judge President of the Gauteng High Court, **Aubrey Ledwaba**; NDPP, Adv **Andy Mothibi**; Minister of the DoJ, **Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi**; Deputy Minister of the DoJ, **Mr Andries Nel** during the swearing-in ceremony

The Minister also reaffirmed government's commitment to supporting the NPA in fulfilling its constitutional mandate, expressing confidence that under Advocate Mothibi's leadership the organisation will continue working to strengthen justice, accountability and public confidence in the legal system.

Following his introduction, the NDPP committed to engaging with business units across the NPA. He has already begun a programme of engagements, meeting with various units and visiting offices of Directors of Public Prosecutions across the country, including the Gauteng Local Division, the Pretoria Division and the Limpopo Division.

During these visits, he was accompanied by Acting Deputy National Directors of Public Prosecutions for

the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU), Advocate Chuma Mtengwane, and for the National Prosecutions Service (NPS), Advocate Sibongile Mzinyathi, as well as the NPA's Head of Communications, Ms Bulelwa Makeke.

These engagements highlighted a number of operational initiatives aimed at strengthening organisational performance. These include enhanced case flow management, community prosecution initiatives, specialised training programmes, and strengthened collaboration with key law enforcement stakeholders.

The visits form part of the NDPP's ongoing engagements with officials across the country to strengthen oversight and assess operational challenges. Additional visits to other divisions will follow in due course.



Acting DNDPP: AFU, **Adv Chuma Mtengwane**; Acting DPP: Gauteng Local Division (GLD), **Adv Livingston Sakata**; Deputy Director: Media Relations, **Phindi Mjonondwane**; NDPP, **Adv Andy Mothibi**; Acting DNDPP: NPS, **Adv Sibongile Mzinyathi** during the NDPPs visit at GLD

SHINING THE LIGHT ON COURT PREPARATION

Natasha Ramkisson Kara – RCM: KZN Division



Deputy Director: Court Preparation, **Motlhamme Frans Mantsane**, together with **Ms Mzobe** and her team of Court Preparation Officers in KwaZulu-Natal

The Court Preparation Program provides a vital service to the victims of crime and their families. Also known as the 'Ke Bona Lesedi' program, which translates into, 'I see the light,' the program serves as a beacon of hope for those directly affected by a crime and can be viewed as one of the preliminary steps in turning victims into survivors. I spoke to the Court Preparation Manager in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) about the program and her journey within the NPA.

1. A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF

My name is Xolile Phindile Mzobe and I am the Deputy Director for Court Preparation in KwaZulu-Natal.

2. TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY IN THE NPA

I joined the NPA on 01 September 2010 when I worked at Empangeni Magistrates' Court for two months as part of the Court Preparation induction program. Thereafter, I moved to Eshowe Magistrates' Court where I stayed until 2013. I then transferred to Ntuzuma Magistrates' Court, and I worked there until 31 July 2021. I was subsequently appointed as Deputy Director for Court Preparation in the Mpumalanga Division and resumed that post on 01 August 2021. I worked in Mpumalanga until 17 January 2024, when I returned to KZN, and I am currently the Court Preparation Manager for KZN.

- I have served the NPA at an operational level, as a Court Preparation Officer (CPO), for 11

years and I have been part of management for over four years. Even though I am at management level, I often perform operational duties as well.

3. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BE A CPO?

I did not choose to be a CPO, but I am the chosen one. Being a CPO is not a job, instead it is a calling. It is a calling to love, care for and support the vulnerable members of our society – the victims of crime. CPOs go above and beyond the call of duty in their daily scope of work.

4. WHAT IS THE CPO PROGRAM ABOUT

CPOs prepare witnesses for cases and to testify in court. This preparation aims to boost the confidence of the witnesses, thus allowing them to testify honestly, credibly and without fear of the perpetrator. CPOs also facilitate Victim Impact Statements (VIS). CPOs often extend their working hours and the workday, as in some instances they must visit complainants at home or at work. The court preparation and facilitation of the VISs are done with the assistance of SAPS members who help with transporting the CPOs to provide the service.

The programme ensures a better South Africa by empowering victims and witnesses to have the confidence to appear in court and give their best evidence. The program aims to prevent secondary traumatisation and safeguard the rights of the victim/person involved. Their fears and concerns are addressed and allayed.

5. HOW MANY CPOS ARE THERE IN KZN

There are 27 CPOs in the province with four vacant positions, namely Ixopo, Madadeni, Ingwavuma and Ulundi. The CPOs in KZN are as follows:

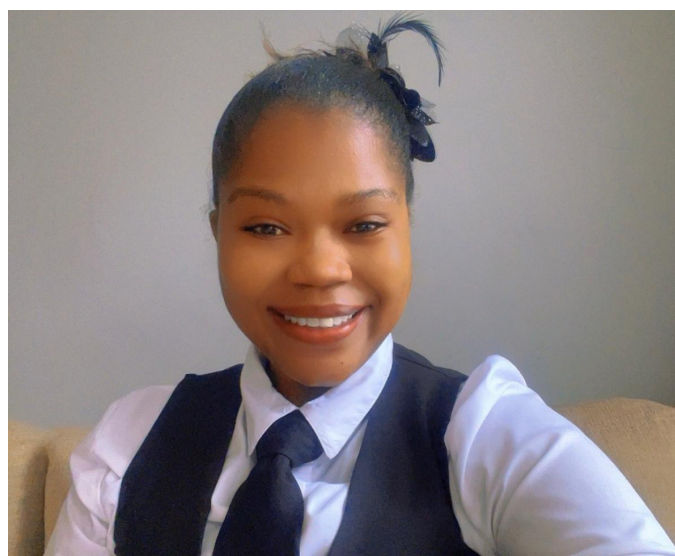
Location	Name
DPP: Pietermaritzburg	Mbali Komane
DDPP: Durban	Thandeka Mofokeng
Durban Magistrates' Court	Nondumiso Nyembe Prudence Geraud
Umlazi Magistrates' Court	Phumlile Khumalo Thuliswa Sontsela
Umlazi and Umbumbulu Magistrates' Court	Jeanette Shabalala
Esikhawini Magistrates' Court	Ntombi Chonco
Empangeni Magistrates' Court	Seneliso Sibanda
Empangeni and Richards Bay Magistrates' Court	Mandisa Sikakane
Inkanyezi and Eshowe Magistrates' Court	Amanda Nxumalo
Vryheid Magistrates' Court	Bheki Sithole
Mtubatuba Magistrates' Court	Sithembile Cebekhulu
Dundee Magistrates' Court	Victoria Griffiths
Ladysmith Magistrates' Court	Khulekani Mthembu
Verulam Magistrates' Court	Bongiwe Qwabe
KwaDukuza Magistrates' Court	Sfiso Nene
Ntuzuma Magistrates' Court	Princess Mlangeni Senzi Mtetwa
Pinetown Magistrates' Court	Bonisile Mthethwa Nomonde Zokwana
Port Shepstone Magistrates' Court	Beaufort Shinga
Scottburgh Magistrates' Court	Nokukhanya Mkhize
Pietermaritzburg Magistrates' Court	Princess Khumalo, Nokuvela Mlotshwa, Nonhle Cemane and Nelile Mvemve

6. WHAT IS A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT AND HOW ARE THESE BENEFICIAL?

It is important for the court to know the impact the crime has had on its victims. Victim Impact Statements (VIS) describe the emotional, physical, and financial impact the victim and others have suffered as a direct result of a crime. VISs can be in the form of a written statement which is handed in to the court, or the victim can choose to give oral evidence before the court. The victim can choose which approach they are most comfortable with. The CPOs facilitate the process and the VISs are used at the pre-sentencing stage of a case. The KZN Division are champions in the facilitation and the use of VISs.

VISs also aid in providing closure to the victim and/or victim's/deceased's family. The affected parties get the opportunity to tell the court how their lives have changed as a result of the crime, be it financially, emotionally, psychologically and even physically. In instances where a person is deceased, the court is given an understanding of the magnitude of the loss felt by their loved ones and the value and meaning that the deceased person added to their family during their lifetime.

7. PARTING SHOTS?: I BELIEVE THAT THE NPA SHOULD REVIEW THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM FOR GROWTH AT OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT LEVELS TO HAVE FULL CAPACITY OF RESOURCES.



Court Preparation Manager: KZN, *Ms Xolile Phindile Mzobe*

NPA STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

In February 2026, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) held its first Strategic Planning Session under the leadership of Advocate Andy Mothibi. The session occurred during a period of leadership transition, public scrutiny, and delays in complex cases, making it a critical moment for reflection and alignment.

Senior leadership reviewed the 2025–2030 strategy, focusing on improving prosecutorial efficiency, strengthening organisational resilience, and rebuilding public trust. The session also set the tone for the 2026/27 performance cycle and reinforced the NPA's role in building a credible and ethical state.

Strategic Focus and Direction

Adv. Mothibi emphasised the importance of **strategic fit**, aligning purpose, people, systems, and execution to enhance performance and teamwork. Leadership was challenged to reflect on the question:

"Are we winning?"

Success was defined beyond conviction rates to include:

- Improved outcomes in high-impact cases and asset recovery
- Reduced case backlogs
- Stronger international cooperation
- Increased public confidence

Key Priorities (2025–2030)

- Resolving apartheid-era/TRC cases
- Strengthening ethical prosecution standards
- Expanding digital and AI capabilities
- Tackling corruption and organised crime
- Enhancing community engagement

Urgent focus areas include implementing Madlanga Commission recommendations, addressing gender-based violence, improving prosecutor and witness security, strengthening performance monitoring, and resolving resource constraints.

Way Forward

The NPA aims to:

- Improve alignment and break down silos
- Strengthen accountability and ethics
- Accelerate digital transformation
- Enhance execution across all levels

Ministerial Address

Mmamoloko Kubayi highlighted the need to build a resilient, high-performing NPA to restore public trust. She emphasised:

- Improving conviction rates in priority crimes
- Strengthening institutional independence
- Enhancing prosecutor safety and staff morale
- Addressing governance and appointment concerns

The session marked a strategic reset for the NPA, with a strong focus on alignment, performance, and restoring credibility in the justice system.



NDPP, Adv Andy Mothibi together with his deputies, Acting DNDPP: NPS, Adv Sibongile Mzinyathi and Acting DNDPP: AFU, Adv Chuma Mtengwane during the strategic planning session

THE ORGANISED CRIME COMPONENT ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLANNING SESSION



The Organised Crime Component successfully held its Annual Operational Planning session on 02 and 03 February 2026 at the ANEW Hotel in Hatfield, guided by the theme “Disrupt. Dismantle. Deliver,” marking a significant milestone in strengthening strategic alignment and operational effectiveness for the year 2026/2027.

The session brought together key leadership and operational stakeholders and offered the Organised Crime Component an opportunity to review performance, assess priorities and develop actionable plans aligned with the organisation’s mandate and long-term objectives. Robust discussions, collaborative planning and impact-based decision making characterised the engagements, resulting in a clear and focused operational roadmap.

The successful conclusion of the session positions the NPA to effectively execute its Strategy Against Organised Crime: to enhance service delivery and achieve its goals for the coming year.

The National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Andy Mothibi, honored the session with his presence, just one day after taking office, demonstrating strong leadership commitment and institutional support. The NDPP commended the collaborative team for their dedication, commitment and forward-thinking approach, and reaffirmed EXCO’s commitment to providing the necessary guidance and resources to ensure successful implementation of the agreed plans.



PCLU AOP PLANNING SESSION

The Priority Crime Litigation Unit (PCLU) recently convened its strategic planning session to map out priorities for the year ahead. The session was attended by the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), Advocate Andy Mothibi, who delivered the keynote address and set the tone for the discussions. In his remarks, Adv Mothibi emphasised the urgent need to strengthen efforts to combat terrorism financing, noting that the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy has already been developed. He further indicated that the NPA is currently in the process of conducting a comprehensive National Risk Assessment.

AFU HOSTS MALAWIAN DELEGATION TO ENHANCE REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

*A high-level delegation from the Republic of Malawi, led by **Acting Director General Mr Gabriel Chembezi**, comprising representatives from the Malawian Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Financial Intelligence Authority, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Attorney General's Office, senior police officers and investigators and the International Centre for Asset Recovery met with the Asset Forfeiture Unit, the Organised Crime Component(NPA), the International Co-operation Component (NPA), and the Financial Intelligence Centre on 17 February 2026.*

The engagement formed part of the AFU's ongoing capacity-building initiatives across the African continent, aimed at strengthening regional co-operation in combating corruption, organised crime, and illicit financial flows.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for the exchange of best practices in financial investigations, intelligence development, evidence gathering, mutual legal assistance, and asset forfeiture proceedings. Practical challenges relating to cross-border tracing,

restraint, confiscation, and repatriation of assets were discussed in depth. The sharing of operational experiences and procedural frameworks enhances institutional understanding and promotes greater alignment in investigative and prosecutorial approaches.

Such high-level engagements are critical in strengthening stakeholder relationships, fostering trust, and establishing direct lines of communication between competent authorities. In complex criminal matters – particularly those involving transnational organised crime, corruption, and money laundering– effective asset recovery is heavily dependent on swift information sharing, coordinated investigative strategies, and mutual legal assistance. Strong institutional relationships significantly reduce delays, mitigate procedural obstacles, and enhance the admissibility and evidentiary value of material obtained across jurisdictions.

In line with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the AFU remains committed to offering the widest possible measure of international co-operation and assistance to partner states. These engagements not only build technical capacity but also reinforce a shared commitment to accountability and the recovery of proceeds of unlawful activities.

The continued collaboration between South African and Malawian authorities will contribute meaningfully to more effective criminal prosecutions and the identification, preservation, and recovery of assets derived from unlawful conduct, ultimately strengthening the rule of law in both jurisdictions.



NPA AFU officials with the Malawian delegation

NPA STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY AWARENESS IN ENNERDALE

Abram Mohlatlole, *Communications Officer: Gauteng Local Division*



The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) continues to strengthen community engagement and public education on victims' rights and access to justice, following its participation in a community outreach programme hosted by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) as part of the 2026 State of the Nation Address campaign.

The NPA was featured during the awareness activation held at Osizweni community center in Ennerdale, where senior prosecutors engaged directly with community members on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), legal remedies available to victims and the role of the NPA in ensuring justice and victim support.

Among those representing the NPA were Senior State Advocate Tshimangadzo Mbodi, Community Prosecutors Lukas Smit and Leonard Dakile as well as Court Preparation Officer Jennifer Sibisi. The team conducted an interactive session with residents, focusing on constitutional rights, access to justice and available support services for victims of crime.

In her presentation as keynote speaker, Adv Mbodi highlighted that gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) are serious violations of human rights, undermining dignity, equality and security. She emphasised that addressing GBVF requires collective action, citing a Constitutional Court decision that affirmed the State's duty to protect victims.

The NPA team educated the community on GBVF's root causes, forms of abuse and available legal remedies, including protection orders and support services. They stressed the importance of reporting incidents and highlighted the role of Thuthuzela Care Centres in providing integrated support to survivors.

Through such campaigns, the NPA reaffirms its commitment to empowering communities, supporting victims, and strengthening access to justice. By collaborating with partners and continuing outreach initiatives, the NPA aims to inform communities of their rights, available legal remedies and support structures.

NURTURING THE HEARTS OF JUSTICE: THE LAUNCH OF SEXUAL OFFENCE PROSECUTORS' EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (SOPEP)

Adv Elivera Dreyer, *Senior State Advocate: Gauteng Local Division*

The work of a sexual offences prosecutor is a journey of immense courage, but it is also one that carries a heavy emotional weight. Every day, our prosecutors and court preparation officers stand in the gap for the vulnerable, witnessing the deep trauma of others while navigating the complexities of the law.

Recognising that this dedicated service can lead to secondary trauma and exhaustion, the Office of the DPP Gauteng Local Division is proud to introduce the Sexual Offence Prosecutors' Empowerment Project (SOPEP).

Born from a vision within our Innovation Team and warmly supported by Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Livingstone Sakata, SOPEP is a sanctuary for those who give so much of themselves to their work. This project aims to provide a soft place to land, a space where 140 of our colleagues can find the peer support and professional care, they need to continue their vital mission without losing their own well-being.

A Day of Healing and Connection

Our inaugural workshop, held at the serene Engedi Manor was a testament to the power of community. In partnership with the compassionate team at Matla a Bana (<https://www.matlaabana.co.za>), our staff stepped away from the high-pressure court environment to reconnect with themselves and one another.

The day was filled with moments of quiet reflection and gentle learning:

- A Shared Journey: We launched our dedicated WhatsApp support group, ensuring no prosecutor has to carry their burden alone.
- Trauma-Informed Care: Charmanay de Klerk from Jelly Beanz shared profound insights on caring for child survivors, helping us approach our work with even greater empathy.
- The Language of Art: Guided by artist Kim Paxton, our team explored healing through creativity, crafting paper-and-glue artworks that expressed what words sometimes cannot. Members were treated with take home art projects generously supplied by Jan Balt from Crazy Crafts([crazycrafts.co.za](https://www.crazycrafts.co.za)).

As Adv Jacqui Drotsky, Lizel van Eeden and Adv Elivera Dreyer officially opened this project, there was a palpable sense of relief and renewal. Our team left the workshop in high spirits, reminded that their mental health is just as important as the justice they seek to serve.

SOPEP is more than just a project; it is our commitment to ensuring that those who protect the vulnerable are, themselves, protected and valued.

Thank you to our partner Matla a Bana and all the generous sponsors that made this dream a reality.



National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa

CONTACT
US

Learn more, visit www.npa.gov.za



@NPA_Prosecutes
The National Prosecuting
Authority of South Africa
National Prosecuting Authority

Victoria & Griffiths Mxenge (VGM) Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park, Silverton
Pretoria 0184
Tel: +2712 845 6000

www.npa.gov.za