

- **Organised Crime Unit
Sends Dangerous
Criminals to Prison**

- **A Prosecutor That
Keeps On Giving
Serving Victims,
Securing Justice**

3rd
Edition



- **Trusted Employee
Sentenced to 22 Years
for Murder of Retired
Magistrate in his Home**

- **From Strategy to Action:
Understanding the NPA
Annual Performance
Plan 2026/27**

- **A Serial Rapist
Sentenced to Two Life
Terms and an Additional
105 Years Imprisonment**

Letter from the Managing Editor	1
Leadership Corner	2
A Prosecutor that Keeps on Giving – Serving Victims, Securing Justice	3
From Child Witness to Star Witness: How Court Preparation Helped Secure Justice	4
NPA Organised Crime Unit Sends Dangerous Criminals to Prison for a Long Time	5
A Serial Rapist was Sentenced to Two Life Terms and an Additional 105 Years' Imprisonment	6
Heavy Prison Terms for Armed Robbery Syndicate	8
15 Years for Sophisticated Vehicle Fraud Scheme	9
From Strategy to Action: Understanding The NPA Annual Performance Plan 2026/27	9
Norwegian Crown Princess's Son Found Guilty of Two Counts of Rape	10
J88 Project Making a Difference at Sub-Cluster Level	12
NPA Launches Wellness Partnership with Virgin Active	14
Get to Know the International Cooperation Component (ICC) of The NPA	15
FAREWELL: Forty-Six Years in Pursuit of Justice: The Remarkable Legacy of Advocate Danie Pretorius	16
Makhanda National Arts Festival	18
First of its Kind: The NPA Hosts its First-Ever Men's Conference	20

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

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter, where we continue to showcase the work of the NPA and the dedicated professionals whose commitment strengthens our pursuit of justice every day.

This edition places a spotlight on some of the NPA's most critical work in protecting the most vulnerable members of our society. We feature powerful articles on the conviction and life sentences secured against perpetrators of rape, demonstrating the unwavering resolve of prosecutors and criminal justice partners to hold offenders accountable. While convictions bring justice, they also represent hope for survivors who courageously choose to speak out.

Supporting survivors extends far beyond the courtroom. We take a closer look at the invaluable role of Thuthuzela Care Centres, which provide integrated medical, psychological and legal support to victims of sexual offences. These centres remain a cornerstone of South Africa's victim-centred approach, ensuring that survivors receive compassionate care while strengthening the criminal justice process.

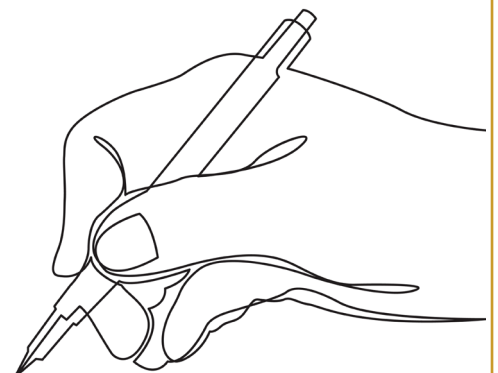
The edition also recognises the remarkable contribution of Court Preparation Officers, whose work often takes place behind the scenes by preparing and supporting child witnesses to testify with confidence. They play a vital role in reducing secondary trauma and helping courts receive the best possible evidence, ultimately contributing to successful prosecutions.

Justice is not always secured through direct eyewitness testimony. We feature an article that explores how circumstantial evidence, when meticulously gathered and presented, can successfully expose organised criminal networks and lead to convictions and appropriate sentences.

This edition also introduces readers to the International Cooperation Component, a specialised function that strengthens the NPA's ability to combat transnational crime. Through international legal cooperation, the component facilitates the obtaining of evidence from foreign jurisdictions and supports the extradition of fugitives, ensuring that those who seek to evade justice beyond our borders remain accountable under the law.

Finally, we reflect on the NPA's participation in the National Arts Festival in Makhanda, where we engaged with members of the public, promoted greater understanding of the work of the NPA and reinforced our commitment to building confidence in the criminal justice system through meaningful community engagement.

Happy reading!





Mr Makgomo Thupana

Acting Chief Director: Strategy Management Office

The 2026/2027 reporting period marks a significant step in advancing our strategic vision of **building a sustainable and resilient future while improving public trust through strategic and impactful prosecution and disruptive asset recoveries**. This theme has guided our planning, decision-making, and strategic priorities, ensuring that our service delivery model contributes to strengthening the criminal justice system, promoting accountability, and safeguarding the public interest.

The development of annual operational plans enables each business unit to redefine its performance environment, enhance governance, and strive for operational excellence. In addition, the newly introduced Quick Wins Action Plans (QWAPs) provide short-term, impact-driven initiatives to be delivered during the 2026/2027 reporting period. To ensure that plans translate into tangible results and measurable impact, the NPA has re-established the **Organisational Performance Review Committee (OPRC)** to strengthen strategic oversight, reinforce accountability, and enhance the monitoring of organisational performance.

The OPRC received and reviewed the Quarter 1 performance reports, which reflected a strong start to the reporting period, with an overall achievement of 87% against set targets (*13 indicators achieved out of 15 quarterly targets*). This performance was achieved despite modest increases to historical targets and persistent bottlenecks within the complex criminal justice value chain.

A key challenge that continues to affect the credibility of our performance environment is the audit outcome associated with performance reporting. Although notable improvements have been made during the period, including the introduction of proper checks and balances, the audit outcome remains a significant risk to the credibility of reported performance and to broader public confidence in the work of the NPA. In response, an audit steering committee has been established to monitor audit-related interventions, while business units have formed verification teams to provide an additional layer of assurance. Plans are also in place to procure a stand-alone performance information management system to further strengthen the accuracy and completeness of performance information.

The 2026/2027 reporting period marks the mid-term implementation point of the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP), the government-wide priority roadmap for the 7th Administration. This mid-term point provides an opportunity for departments to assess progress and interrogate operational efficiencies against committed priorities. For the NPA, the MTDP places emphasis on the following deliverables:

- Percentage conviction for sexual offences
- Number of Thuthuzela Care Centres established and operational
- Number of money laundering and terrorism financing cases investigated and prosecuted
- Conviction rate for serious commercial crime
- Conviction rate for serious organised crime
- Conviction rate for corruption
- Total value of recoveries and freezing orders

Preliminary results based on the current performance trajectory indicate that the NPA is on track to achieve its five-year targets.

A PROSECUTOR THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Serving Victims,
Securing Justice

Tshegofatso Makhudu
Communications Officer
Gauteng Division: Pretoria



Mr Andries Ntjana
State Prosecutor

Regional Court Prosecutor Andries Ntjana continues to demonstrate the National Prosecuting Authority's commitment to securing justice for victims of crime. In less than 30 days, he successfully secured three life sentences in two separate rape cases involving vulnerable victims.

On 30 July 2025, Ntjana secured a life sentence against 32-year-old Thabo Xolani Masoka, who was convicted of raping his 11-year-old neighbour, a girl living with down syndrome. The offence was committed at Masoka's flat.

In the second case, on 20 August 2025, he secured two life sentences against a 58-year-old parolee who raped his 13-year-old neighbour and his nine-year-old nephew. Both victims were referred to the Mamelodi Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) where they received medical, psychological and legal support.

When asked about the impact of the TCC's support on the case, Ntjana said the assistance played a significant role in preparing the victims and helping them feel at ease, which resulted in their full cooperation.

"Normally, it is difficult for male rape victims to open up and trust you as a male prosecutor, but with the help of the TCC, the victims felt safe around me," he said.

He added that the TCC also provided access to Dr Lukhozi, who was highly supportive and proved to be an effective state witness.

Reflecting on what motivates him to continue securing successful outcomes, Ntjana said that prosecutors serve as lawyers for victims of crime and derive satisfaction from serving those victims, regardless of the outcome.

Mr Ntjana said that when he first reviewed the docket in the first case, he immediately requested that the investigating officer arrange a consultation with the victim because of concerns about her condition.

"During the consultation, when I saw that the victim suffered not only from down syndrome but also from a speech impediment, I wondered how a person could do such a thing. But I also knew that, regardless of what I saw, I was going to secure a conviction," he said.

When discussing the second case, he said that upon learning the accused was a parolee, he immediately felt it indicated that the offender had not been rehabilitated.

"I prosecute many cases involving the rape of minor children, and in both these matters, even though the victims were violated by people who were close to them and were meant to protect them, I did not face many challenges. The investigating officers, witnesses and all three victims were cooperative, thanks to the support provided by the TCC and the Court Preparation Officers, who play a critical role," said Ntjana.

Asked how he felt when the sentences were handed down, Ntjana said he experienced a sense of warmth when he saw the victims' parents satisfied with the outcome. He believes justice was served, particularly for some of society's most vulnerable members.

He hopes the sentences send a clear message that those who violate the rights of vulnerable people will face the full might of the law.

In closing, Ntjana shared one important lesson he has learned from many years of prosecuting rape cases.

"When a person reports a rape, their greatest fear is often that they will not be believed. To address that, I always try to create an environment of trust during consultations. When victims feel that you believe them, they become more at ease, and that makes the prosecution process easier."

Reflecting on his career journey, Ntjana said he had initially wanted to become a police officer.

"When my efforts to join the police academy failed, I realised that becoming a prosecutor would afford me the same opportunity to serve victims of crime as I would have had as a police officer," he said.

Ntjana said that being a prosecutor is an extension of that original dream. He finds fulfilment in being part of a dedicated team of prosecutors and in seeing victims satisfied that justice has been served on their behalf.

FROM CHILD WITNESS TO STAR WITNESS:

How Court Preparation Helped Secure Justice

Lindiwe Mabasa

Communications Officer: Northern Cape Division

The National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) commitment to supporting vulnerable witnesses was recently demonstrated in a murder trial where a young boy's courageous testimony played a pivotal role in securing justice for his late mother.

At just 11 years old, Devan found himself at the centre of a traumatic and life-changing criminal case. What could have been an overwhelming experience became a story of resilience, courage, and empowerment through the support of the NPA's Court Preparation Programme.

The incident occurred following a domestic dispute between Devan's mother and his stepfather. During the altercation, Devan was sent to a nearby shop. Upon his return, the argument had escalated. After being instructed to go to bed, he witnessed a violent assault on his mother. His testimony later revealed that he saw the accused repeatedly attack her while she lay defenceless on the floor.

Following the incident, the accused attempted to mislead family members by claiming that the deceased had fallen and injured herself. However, investigations led to his arrest and prosecution on charges including murder.

As the sole eyewitness to critical events surrounding the crime, Devan's testimony became crucial to the state's case. Through the Court Preparation Programme, he received specialised support designed to help vulnerable witnesses understand the court process, manage anxiety, and build confidence before taking the witness stand.

When the time came to testify, Devan demonstrated remarkable composure and courage. His evidence was clear, credible, and compelling, contributing significantly to the successful prosecution of the accused.

The court ultimately convicted the accused and imposed the following sentences:

- 10 years imprisonment for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm;
- 10 years imprisonment for committing a sexual act with a corpse; and
- Life imprisonment for murder.

The sentences on the first two counts were ordered to run concurrently with the life sentence, resulting in an effective sentence of life imprisonment.

The successful prosecution was led by Advocate Anel Stellenberg, who reflected on the significance of the case and the important role played by child witnesses within the criminal justice system.

According to Advocate Stellenberg, child witnesses require specialised care and support throughout the court process. She emphasised that while every child responds differently

**Adv Anel
Stellenberg**

State Prosecutor



to trauma, proper preparation and support can empower young witnesses to share their experiences confidently and truthfully.

"In my early encounters with him, he was not different from any other child who had witnessed a horrific incident. However, he showed confidence after receiving the support services of the NPA's Court Preparation Programme. This demonstrates that child witnesses can be instrumental in securing convictions when they are properly prepared and supported through the court process," she said.

Advocate Stellenberg further highlighted the NPA's victim-centred approach, noting that all witnesses are referred for court preparation services to ensure that their needs are identified and addressed before trial.

Reflecting on the emotional impact of the case, she spoke about the resilience shown by young victims of violent crime and the importance of ensuring that their voices are heard within the justice system.

The case serves as a powerful reminder of the critical role played by prosecutors, court preparation officers, intermediaries, and all criminal justice stakeholders in supporting vulnerable witnesses. It also underscores the value of the NPA's Court Preparation Programme in helping victims and witnesses participate meaningfully in the pursuit of justice.

Advocate Stellenberg expressed her appreciation for the support provided throughout the case, stating: "My gratitude goes out to the Court Preparation Officer, Ms Dineo Speak, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the witness was adequately prepared to provide strong testimony against Kammies, ultimately contributing to the successful prosecution and the imposition of a life sentence."

Through dedicated support and professional care, the programme continues to transform fear into confidence and vulnerability into strength, ensuring that even the youngest witnesses can contribute to holding perpetrators accountable.

For Devan, the journey through the criminal justice system was undoubtedly difficult. Yet through courage, support, and determination, he became a powerful voice for justice and a testament to the impact of victim-centred prosecution.

ORGANISED CRIME UNIT SENDS DANGEROUS CRIMINALS TO PRISON FOR A LONG TIME

Eric Ntabazalila
RCM: Western Cape Division

A meticulous prosecution by the National Prosecuting Authority's Organised Crime Component resulted in lengthy prison sentences for Cebo Soboyise and Zola Golela, whose 24-hour robbery and murder spree claimed the lives of three people, including an off-duty police officer.

The case was built on circumstantial evidence supported by the testimony of 18 witnesses, ballistic and gunshot residue reports, cellphone tower data, distinctive clothing identification reports, the recovery of stolen items, and the circumstances surrounding the arrest of the accused.

The Western Cape Division of the High Court, Cape Town, convicted Soboyise and Golela on four counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, three counts of murder, and one count of illegal possession of a firearm. The pair were each sentenced to three life terms for murder, 60 years' direct imprisonment for the robbery convictions, and 15 years' direct imprisonment for the illegal possession of a firearm.

Both men pleaded not guilty to all charges, claiming they were elsewhere at the time of the offences. Their defence resulted in a protracted six-year trial marked by numerous delays, including the postponement of sentencing when one of the accused refused to leave his cell at Pollsmoor Prison. Despite these challenges, State Advocate Darren Rudolph remained steadfast in presenting the state's case, ultimately securing convictions on all charges.

Witnesses testified that on the afternoon of 26 November 2019, one of the accused entered the Shoprite Liquor Store in Makhaza, Khayelitsha, and requested a R100 cash-back transaction from two cashiers. He left the store and later returned with an accomplice, both armed with firearms. One held a security guard at gunpoint and forced him to lie face down while the other robbed the cashiers of their till drawers containing an undisclosed amount of cash. Although the victims were unable to identify the perpetrators, CCTV footage from the shopping mall was obtained and handed to the police.

Later that evening, three men robbed the Idaho Superette in Voortrekker Road, Bellville, of cash, cellphones and cigarettes. A customer was also robbed



Adv Darren Rudolph
State Advocate

of his iPhone, which was subsequently tracked and led investigators to the accused. The court later acquitted the accused on the robbery charges relating to this incident following a successful application for discharge in terms of Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

Shortly after midnight, Sandiswa Zwakala and his two sons, Siyabonga and Siyanda, were at their home in Delft preparing to go to bed. Siyanda stepped outside to smoke. Moments later, Sandiswa and Siyabonga heard him screaming, followed by gunshots.

When they rushed to investigate, they encountered one of the accused standing in the lounge armed with a firearm. Siyabonga attempted to close the burglar door but was shot. He managed to make his way back to his room, where he died in his father's arms.

After the assailant fled, Sandiswa searched for his other son and discovered Siyanda's lifeless body on a couch in the lounge.

A few minutes later, the accused and an unidentified accomplice confronted off-duty police officer Thanduxolo Wiseman Stuma while he was walking home in Thubelitsha, Delft. They robbed him of his cellphone and fatally shot him.

Adv Rudolph presented evidence that Stuma had been ordered to hand over his cellphone and was shot at close range after resisting the demand.

During the trial, both men denied any involvement in the robberies and the murder of the police officer. Golela acknowledged ownership of a vehicle linked to the crimes but claimed it had been stolen earlier that day and that he had reported the theft to the police.

Adv Rudolph successfully challenged this version, demonstrating that the purported stolen-vehicle report was not authentic and that there was no corresponding record of the theft at Philippi Police Station. The court found the accused's version of events to be not reasonably possibly true, rejected it, and convicted both men.

SERIAL RAPIST SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS

*And an Additional 105
Years Imprisonment*



**Adv Eugene Mathebula
and Investigator,
Mmeli David Nkosi**

Monica Nyuswa
RCM: Mpumalanga Division

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) welcomes the sentence of two life terms and an additional 105 years imprisonment handed down by the Mpumalanga Division of the High Court against Skhumbuzo Shongwe (48) following his conviction on multiple counts of rape, robbery with aggravating circumstances, housebreaking, and assault.

For nearly four years, residents of Silobela and surrounding areas in Carolina lived in fear of a serial rapist who preyed on vulnerable women, invaded homes, and left a trail of trauma across the community. His conviction has now brought that chapter to an end.

Shongwe's reign of terror spanned from July 2019 to January 2023 in Silobela and the surrounding areas of Carolina. During this period, he preyed on vulnerable members of the community by breaking into their homes, threatening them with a knife, raping them, and robbing them of their belongings. Some victims were assaulted and raped more than once; in one instance, the accused entered a victim's home through the roof.

In the first recorded incident, on 27 July 2019, the complainant was walking home after visiting her boyfriend when the accused confronted her. He produced a knife and ordered her to remain silent. As the complainant attempted to flee, she fell, and the accused grabbed her by her jersey, dragged her into a nearby forest, raped her, stole R250 and fled.

In another incident on 12 January 2023, the accused attacked a complainant who was jogging along Nooitgedacht Road in Carolina. Shongwe confronted her with a knife as she passed a nearby forest, forced her into the bushes and threatened to kill her if she screamed and ordered her into the bushes. During

a physical struggle, he strangled her and stabbed her in the hands and shoulder before raping her. He then robbed her of her cellphone and fled. Injured and traumatised, the complainant walked to the road received assistance from a passer-by, who took her to a police station.

Although the complainants did not know their attacker, they courageously reported the incidents to the police. Through diligent investigation, the accused was ultimately linked to the crimes through DNA evidence.

In court, the accused pleaded guilty to all charges in terms of Section 112(1)(b) of the Criminal Procedure, admitting that his conduct was unlawful and punishable by law. He was convicted on five counts of rape, three counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, two counts of assault and housebreaking.

In aggravation of sentence, the state, represented by Advocate Eugene Mathebula, submitted that the accused's guilty plea was motivated by the overwhelming evidence against him. The state presented J88 medico-legal examination reports confirming the victims' injuries. Advocate Mathebula argued that the accused had been convicted of extremely serious offences associated with gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), which has been declared a national crisis in South Africa. He submitted that the prescribed minimum sentences should apply, as there were no substantial and compelling circumstances justifying a deviation.

The court agreed with the state's submissions, finding that the gravity of the offences and their devastating impact on the victims and community warranted a severe sentence.

Before handing down the sentence, the Presiding Court said, "We are often alarmed when we hear that a lion has escaped from the Kruger National Park and is roaming freely. In this instance, however, it was not a lion that the community feared, but a dangerous human predator who terrorised the residents of Carolina for years".

The court imposed two life terms for rapes committed more than once, fifteen years' imprisonment on each count of rape, fifteen years' imprisonment for each count of robbery with aggravating circumstances, five years' imprisonment for each count of assault, and another five years' imprisonment for housebreaking. The court ordered that his name be entered into the National Register for Sex Offenders and declared him unfit to possess a firearm or to work with children.

CHALLENGES DURING PROSECUTION

Victim trauma and reluctance to testify.

Several victims were deeply traumatised and hesitant to testify. In one case, a victim's husband initially refused to allow her to testify, fearing social stigma. After extensive engagement, he agreed; however, before the trial proceeded, the accused elected to plead guilty.

POLICE – PROSECUTOR COOPERATION

The investigating officer played a critical role, tracing all victims, and made sure that none were overlooked and facilitated transport for witnesses to and from court, which contributed to the smooth progression of the prosecution.

ADVOCATE MATHEBULA HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT THE CASE:

The successful conclusion of this matter brings relief and a measure of justice for the victims and the community. While justice can be slow, it prevailed. The accused has been removed from society and held accountable. DNA evidence was instrumental in linking him to the offences, demonstrating the importance of thoroughness in evidence collection and dedication of law enforcement officers who ensure forensic samples were properly obtained and submitted to the forensic science laboratory. As a result, residents in the Elephantine area can feel safer.

This case also underscores the importance for survivors of sexual violence to report crimes to police, even when they cannot identify their attacker. Advances in forensic science, particularly DNA analysis, can link offenders to crimes years after they are committed and help ensure justice is served.

1. One of the major challenges in this matter was that several victims were deeply traumatised by the incidents and were reluctant to testify in court. In one instance, a victim's husband initially refused to allow her to testify, fearing that the community would no longer respect him if it became known that his wife had been raped. After engaging extensively with both and explaining the importance of her testimony, he eventually agreed. However, as preparations for trial were underway, the accused elected to plead guilty.
2. How important is the relationship between the police and the prosecutor in ensuring successful prosecution?

The investigating officer played a critical role throughout the investigation and prosecution. He diligently traced all the victims involved in the matter, ensuring that none were overlooked. During the trial, he also facilitated the transportation of witnesses to and from court, contributing significantly to the smooth progression of the case.

This case also serves as an important reminder to survivors of sexual violence to report such crimes to the police, even when they are unable to identify their attacker. Advances in forensic science, particularly DNA analysis, can help link offenders to crimes years after they have been committed, ensuring that justice is eventually served.



HEAVY PRISON TERMS FOR ARMED ROBBERY SYNDICATE



Adv Joseph Sibanda
State Prosecutor

Mashudu Malabi

RCM: Limpopo Division

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) welcomes the sentence imposed on three accused convicted of three counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, as well as contraventions of the Immigration Act.

The Modimolle Regional Court sentenced Ayke Araminda (31) to 20 years imprisonment, Power Zimba Majeza (30) to 25 years' imprisonment, and Thabiso Seoketsa (39) of Hammanskraal to 15 years' imprisonment. Araminda and Majeza are Zimbabwean nationals.

All three accused pleaded not guilty to the charges. During the trial, the state presented evidence that, on 3 September 2023, the accused acted as a syndicate using firearms to rob residents of the Masakhane community of their cellular phones.

Police responded to the incidents that evening and swiftly apprehended the suspects. At the time of their arrest, the accused were found in possession of the victims' cellular phones. In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor Joseph Sibanda submitted that the accused were not first-time offenders and had shown no remorse for their actions. He argued that they had terrorised the community, demonstrated a propensity for criminal conduct, and displayed a blatant disregard for the law.

The state further submitted that a severe sentence was warranted to reflect the seriousness of the offences and to serve as a deterrent.

Can you explain why this case was only finalised in 2026 when it originated in 2023?

The matter first appeared in the Regional Court in November 2023. During its initial appearances, the case was postponed on numerous occasions to allow the accused an opportunity to secure legal representation in the form of Legal Aid judicare as there was a conflict of interest between the accused and they could not be represented by one attorney. Once legal judicare representation was in place and the necessary pre-trial processes had been completed, the matter was enrolled for trial for the first time on 25 February 2025.

The trial could not proceed on two occasions due to a congested court roll, with part-heard matters receiving priority. The trial ultimately commenced on 13 October 2025 and was subsequently finalised in 2026.

You joined the NPA as an Aspirant Prosecutor in 2022 and, within a short period, were entrusted with acting as a Regional Court Prosecutor. What led to that appointment?

I was appointed to act as a Regional Court Prosecutor in December 2023 and have continued in that capacity since then. The Senior Public Prosecutor explained that there was a shortage of prosecutors in the Regional Court and that she had identified potential in my prosecutorial abilities. She believed I could make a meaningful contribution and expressed confidence in my ability to perform the role diligently.

You have taken on responsibilities beyond your current rank. What message would you like to share with other District Court prosecutors who may be hesitant to pursue similar opportunities?

I did not shy away from the opportunity to act in the Regional Court. I was motivated by the words of Adv Ivy Thenga when we took our oath as aspirant prosecutors and was giving us our delegations, she emphasised that prosecutors are called upon to serve wherever their skills are required within the lower courts, that includes both the District and Regional Courts.

My message to other District Court Prosecutors is that prosecution is a calling. We are not here by mistake; we are where we are meant to be. Prosecutors should not be afraid to embrace new challenges, whether that involves acting in the Regional Court or applying for positions in the Regional Court or High Court. Professional growth comes from accepting opportunities that broaden one's experience and skills

Many prosecutors may find the transition to the Regional Court daunting. What has your experience been?

I adapted to the Regional Court environment with relative ease and have not experienced significant challenges in handling Regional Court matters. I am currently in my third year of acting in the Regional Court and have gained considerable experience in managing such matters. As a result, I have become well accustomed to the demands and expectations of the Regional Court environment.

15 YEARS FOR SOPHISTICATED VEHICLE FRAUD SCHEME

Adv Mvuseni Ponye

*Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions:
Northern Cape Division*

The Regional Court sitting in Kimberley, Northern Cape sentenced Mr Chikwani to an effective period of 15 years direct imprisonment, for a sophisticated vehicle fraud scheme that targeted unsuspecting sellers across the Northern Cape, Free State and Western Cape.

The case arose from an investigation by the Vehicle Crime Investigation Unit in Kimberley into allegations of fraudulent vehicle purchases. Evidence presented in court revealed that Chikwani targeted individuals advertising vehicles for sale on social media platforms.

Using different names, identity documents and pre-RICA'd SIM cards, he would contact sellers posing as a prospective buyer. After negotiating a purchase price, he would request banking details and arrange to inspect or test-drive the vehicle.

To create the impression that payment had been made, a fraudulent bank notification would be sent to the seller. Believing the funds had been transferred, victims would hand over their vehicles. Chikwani would then reassure them that the payment was taking time to reflect in their accounts while transporting the vehicles to Cape Town, where they were sold at reduced prices for cash.

The investigation uncovered multiple incidents linked to the scheme, resulting in charges that included theft, cyber fraud, money laundering and immigration-related offences. One of the individuals allegedly involved in the operation passed away during the investigation.

Following his conviction on numerous counts, the court imposed an effective sentence of 15 years' direct imprisonment. The court also declared Chikwani unfit to possess a firearm.

FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: UNDERSTANDING THE NPA ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 2026/27

The NPA's Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2026/27 sets out the organisation's priorities for the year ahead, with a strong focus on improving public confidence in the NPA and the criminal justice system, while expanding access to justice for all.

Under the leadership of National Director of Public Prosecutions Adv Andy Mothibi, the NPA will continue to strengthen the fight against corruption, organised crime and gender-based violence, while building a more agile, responsive and impact-driven organisation.

Key priorities for 2026/27 include expanding Thuthuzela Care Centres to improve support for victims of sexual offences, enhancing ethics and accountability, strengthening organisational performance, leveraging technology and innovation, and improving public trust through proactive communication.

Among its key targets, the NPA plans to:

- Establish four new Thuthuzela Care Centres.
- Achieve a 75% conviction rate in sexual offences cases.
- Maintain a 90% conviction rate in serious commercial crime and organised crime matters.
- Obtain freezing orders valued at R1 billion and recover R350 million through asset forfeiture interventions.
- Ensure that no witnesses or related persons are harmed while participating in the Witness Protection Programme.

The APP reaffirms the NPA's commitment to delivering justice without fear, favour or prejudice, while strengthening the rule of law and contributing to a safer South Africa. Through impactful prosecutions, victim-centred services, ethical leadership and innovation, the organisation will continue working towards a justice system that earns and retains public trust.

NORWEGIAN CROWN PRINCESS' SON FOUND GUILTY OF TWO COUNTS OF RAPE

By Paul Kirby

Europe digital editor

Marius Borg Høiby, the 29-year-old son of Norway's Crown Princess Mette-Marit, has been found guilty of two counts of rape and sentenced to four years in prison.

The three judges in courtroom 250 at Oslo District Court cleared him of two other counts of rape, but found him guilty of many of the other offences of which he had been accused.

Høiby was not in court for the verdict for unspecified health reasons, but joined the session via video link.

Prosecutors had called for Høiby to be given seven years and seven months in prison. His defence lawyers had called for a lesser term of 18 months and have said he will appeal.

Even though Marius Borg Høiby is not himself a royal figure, the trial has cast a shadow over the broader royal family. His mother married Crown Prince Haakon when he was four, and he grew up within the family. The palace has said it will not comment on Monday's verdict.

Mette-Marit is very ill with a form of pulmonary fibrosis and has recently been placed on a lung transplant list.

Her son's lawyers have repeatedly sought his release from prison so he could spend time with his mother because of her declining health.

After the verdict, Høiby's defence lawyer Petar Sekulic again asked the court for his release, however the court rejected the plea late on Monday, ruling that there was a risk that he might contact a woman he was convicted of

assaulting, and who he had broken a restraining order to see in the past.

One of the three judges in the trial, Judge Jon Sverdrup Ejfestad, began the session early on Monday with a summary of their conclusions, before going into a 128-page ruling explaining the verdict.

Høiby had denied all four counts of rape, but the judges convicted him of raping two women, including one on the Crown Prince's estate at Skaugum in 2018 and another involving a woman in Oslo in 2024.

He was also convicted of abusing an ex-girlfriend, Norwegian influencer Nora Haukland and of causing serious bodily harm to another partner, in whose flat he was arrested in the upmarket Frogner area of Oslo in August 2024.

However, he was cleared of two further rapes, involving a woman he met at a hotel in Oslo in November 2024 and another he met while on holiday in the Lofoten islands in 2023.

Sekulic said it was "in the nature of the case that there could be an appeal".

His defence colleague Ellen Holager Andenæs told reporters they were satisfied with the acquittals but were more critical of other aspects of the verdict.

Both lawyers then went to discuss the verdict with Høiby at Ila prison and detention centre outside Oslo.

The case against Høiby involved six women, but only one of the women was in court to hear the verdict and she was seen crying as Høiby was found guilty of raping her.

Prosecutors said she had been either incapacitated or asleep when she was raped after a party in Oslo in March 2024, and after they had engaged in consensual sex.

The case rested on videos that Høiby had filmed at the time and, giving evidence in February, the woman told the court that she was asleep and would never have allowed it to happen.

The court agreed the victim had been unable to resist what had happened.



All four rape charges involved women who had been either asleep or incapacitated at the time. The women had been unaware of the incidents until police found videos on Høiby's phone after his arrest.

The judges also found it proven that the woman in the 2018 rape case had been asleep at the time and unable to resist Høiby. She only found out that Høiby had filmed what had happened last year.

Høiby was also convicted of several offences including abuse and reckless behaviour towards the sixth woman in the case, who became known as the Frogner woman because of the area of Oslo where she lived.

The court ruled he should pay a total of 640,000 kroner (£50,000; €57,000) in compensation to four of the women, including Nora Haukland, the only woman judges ruled could be named in the case.

Anja Emilie Kruse, a criminologist at the University of Oslo who researches sexual violence and attended part of the trial, believes there is a frustration in parts of Norwegian society that the courts seem unable to deliver justice in rape cases.

"The burden of evidence needs to be high," she concedes. However, most rape allegations by women are placed on file by police, Kruse has told the BBC, and the state prosecutor told the court on Monday that one in three Norwegian rape cases that do reach court ends in acquittal.

"These two women who today experienced their cases ending in acquittal are far from alone in having that experience, and the rape cases that do make it to court are just a kind of tip of the iceberg," says Kruse.

The palace said in an email to the BBC that "the matter has been considered by the courts, and we have no comment on the outcome". It has already made clear there will be no further statement on Mette-Marit's declining health until she has had a lung transplant.

"There is no doubt that this case has affected people's perception of the royal family," said Caroline Vagle, royal correspondent for *Se og Hør* magazine.

That was further compounded by revelations on the eve of the trial that the crown princess had had a three-year friendship with late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

But Vagle believes the mood now is completely different: "Her health is the main concern now - and it overshadows everything else."

Peggy Simcic Brønn, who is a specialist in reputation and public relations and professor Emerita at BI Norwegian Business School, believes the royal family is in the midst of an institutional crisis.

"[The Høiby case] is a tragedy and a crisis for any family," she said.

"The way they handle it is let the person be convicted, let him serve his sentence, but try to make amends as a family for what that person has done to their reputation and the impact on the royal house itself."

J88 PROJECT MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT SUB-CLUSTER LEVEL

Natasha Kara

RCM: KwaZulu-Natal Division

Towards the latter part of 2025, the NPA in KwaZulu-Natal, particularly, a sub-cluster in Empangeni, initiated a project in partnership with the Department of Health to conduct training on the completion of the medico-legal examination report, commonly known as the "J88".

This project was initiated by a Regional Court Prosecutor from Esikhaleni, Ms Kamogelo Mahila-Nkwatle. This was after she identified shortcomings in the way the J88s were being completed by staff at the local clinics, in that the J88s were not being properly completed. Speaking to Ms Mahila-Nkwatle, provided further insights into the training project.

How did you get the project started?

Support from Chief Prosecutor (of the Empangeni Cluster), Advocate S Mkhonza, as well as Ms BJ Khubeka from the Department of Health (DoH) were pivotal in the success of this project. Through approval by management, the DoH was approached and they appointed Dr Emeka E Orisakwe to participate in the project. Dr Orisakwe is the Medical Manager: Medical Services and a Specialist Family Medicine Physician at Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital. He has 18 years experience in clinical forensics and medical services and has been testifying in courts as an expert witness for many years. Incidentally, Dr Orisakwe was part of the team that contributed to compiling the new J88 form. A professional nurse from the Ngwelezana Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC), Sister Bongeni B. Zulu, was also selected to join this project. We then jointly embarked on the journey to train doctors and nurses at clinics in the sub-cluster and the Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital. The project took off in October of 2025 and is ongoing.

What is a J88 and what information appears therein?

A J88 is a medico-legal examination report that details the information of the patient (complainant) and the doctor who examined them. It contains a short history of the incident and the outcome of the physical examination of the patient, including visible injuries noted, the treatment given (e.g. suturing, patient referred for surgical intervention, etc.) and sketches depicting the injuries which were noted.

What value does the J88 add to a case? How does it assist in the prosecution of a case?

The J88 is used as documentary evidence in criminal cases involving inflicting grievous bodily harm. The Prosecution uses the J88 in cases of Common Assault, Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, Attempted Murder and Sexual Offences. It is used to indicate to the court injuries suffered because of the crime as well as to serve as corroboration to the report of the complainant.

The first page of the J88 is a 212(4) certificate that is completed by the healthcare professional examining the patient and it serves as prima facie evidence of the contents of the J88. In the absence of any other contrary medical evidence, the J88 becomes the evidence of same without calling the nurse or doctor to testify in court, except for sexual offences, wherein we are mandated by case law and the NPA policy to lead the evidence of the medical doctor.

What is the duration of each training session?

Each session takes about an hour and a half because it is interactive, inclusive of questions and answers. We start at around 7 am when the nurses begin their morning shift. With regards to the doctors, we are guided by their weekly meeting times, and we join them at these meetings.



How many more clinics still need training?

Thus far, we have trained 11 clinics and doctors from two departments of the Ngwelezana Tertiary Hospital, namely the Emergency Department and the Family Medicine Department (for sexual offences at Thuthuzela Care Centre). We have about three more facilities to train within the sub-cluster including Nseleni Community Healthcare Clinic.

How many people who were trained thus far?

We have trained over 160 people since October 2025 because a group usually comprises of 7 – 15 people. Once we are done with the remaining three facilities, we would have trained over 200 healthcare professionals. Among the clinics visited are Phaphamani and Thokozani clinics in Esikhawini, Khandisa, Richards Bay, Umkhontokayise, Brackenham, Sboniso, Empangeni and Meerensee clinics as well as the two Departments at Ngwelezane Tertiary Hospital.

Will the training be held in other sub-clusters?

Taking the project to other sub-clusters with the aim of doing training in the Cluster will require more resources since Empangeni Cluster includes uMkhanyakude, King Cetshwayo and Umlalazi Districts. We are willing to expand the project should the resources be made available. The project is a clear display of how stakeholder cooperation and sharing of resources can improve service delivery.

How was the training received by the clinics?

The doctors and nurses received us with warmth and enthusiasm. They had various questions and sought clarity with regards to some aspects, including giving expert evidence in court. The results of this training are already bearing fruit. Stakeholder collaboration helps in achieving the mission of the NPA - to ensure justice for the victims of crime by prosecuting without fear, favour or prejudice and by working with our partners and the public to solve and prevent crime.



The J88 Project brings together prosecutors, doctors and nurses to improve service delivery through skills sharing and stakeholder collaboration.

NPA LAUNCHES WELLNESS PARTNERSHIP WITH VIRGIN ACTIVE

INVESTING IN HEALTH. EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE. STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURE.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has taken another significant step towards enhancing employee wellness through the official launch of its wellness partnership with Virgin Active. The partnership provides all NPA employees and their spouses with an exclusive 20% discount on Virgin Active memberships, making quality fitness and wellness services more accessible.

The launch forms part of the NPA's broader Employee Health and Wellness Programme (EHWP), which is committed to creating a healthy, resilient, and productive workforce. Recognising that employee wellbeing is fundamental to organisational success, the partnership reinforces the NPA's commitment to supporting employees beyond the workplace.

The virtual launch attracted employees from across all NPA offices, who were introduced to the benefits of the partnership, membership options, and the simple process of accessing the discounted membership.

The Acting Deputy Director General, Ms Salome Baloyi welcomed the partnership as a strategic investment in the organisation's most valuable asset, its people.

"The NPA's success depends on the well-being of our employees. This partnership demonstrates our commitment to creating an environment where our people are supported not only in delivering on our mandate but also in living healthier and more balanced lives. By investing in employee wellness, we strengthen our organisational resilience, improve productivity, and reinforce our Employee Value Proposition. We want every employee to know that their health and well-being matter."

The Acting Deputy Director General further encouraged employees to embrace the opportunity and make wellness an integral part of their daily lives.

The Chief Director: Human Resource Management and Development, Ms Tshidi Modise reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to employee wellness as an important component of effective people management.

"Employee wellness remains a strategic priority for the NPA. Through initiatives such as this partnership, we continue to create an environment where employees feel supported to thrive both professionally and personally. Healthy employees contribute to a healthy organisation, and we will continue exploring initiatives that enhance employee well-being and strengthen our value proposition as an employer of choice."

The Director responsible for the Employee Health and Wellness Programme, Ms Licky Dlodla highlighted



HT Transformation team, together with Acting DDG, Ms Salome Baloyi and representatives from Virgin Active, during the launch of the NPA-Virgin Active Wellness Partnership.



the importance of continuously identifying innovative opportunities that improve employees' quality of life.

"Our responsibility extends beyond responding to employee challenges, we must also proactively create opportunities that enable our employees to live healthier lives. This partnership with Virgin Active is one example of how the Employee Health and Wellness Programme continues to seek meaningful collaborations that provide real value to employees. We remain committed to expanding wellness initiatives that support physical, emotional, financial, and social well-being."

More Than a Gym Membership

The NPA-Virgin Active partnership is more than a discounted gym membership. It is an investment in healthier lifestyles, preventative healthcare, improved mental well-being, and a workplace culture that values its people.

Employees are encouraged to take advantage of the 20% membership discount and make wellness a personal priority. Whether embarking on a new fitness journey or maintaining an active lifestyle, the partnership offers an opportunity to invest in long-term health and well-being.

GET TO KNOW THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION COMPONENT (ICC) OF THE NPA

The International Cooperation Component (ICC) is a unit within the NPA. It assists in carrying out the mandate of the NPA by supporting the prosecution services to obtain evidence in foreign states, by ensuring that fugitives from justice are extradited to either stand trial or serve sentences and by facilitating asset recovery in other countries.

Along with the other government entities, the NPA has a responsibility to contribute to South Africa's performance on its international obligations.

The ICC is responsible for the coordination of the NPA's work relating to international and regional cooperation obligations as South Africa is a party to international and regional instruments and the country is often required to submit reports to various international bodies.

The component manages and coordinates incoming and outgoing requests for mutual legal assistance including asset recovery and extradition. Since formal requests for international cooperation are transmitted through diplomatic channels, the NPA collaborates with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development as the Central Authority, the National Central Bureau of Interpol in Pretoria, as well as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in ensuring that requests are transmitted and executed efficiently.

Crime knows no borders, and the phenomenon of crime in its myriad facets often presents a challenge in the investigation of cases and prosecution of offenders, as well as for the cross-border recovery of proceeds of crime. The collaboration with authorities in foreign states, international and regional bodies is therefore necessary in combating trans-border crime. The principle of state sovereignty enjoins nations to collaborate in the fight against the scourge of crime as it is evident in the accession and conclusion of multilateral and bilateral treaties.

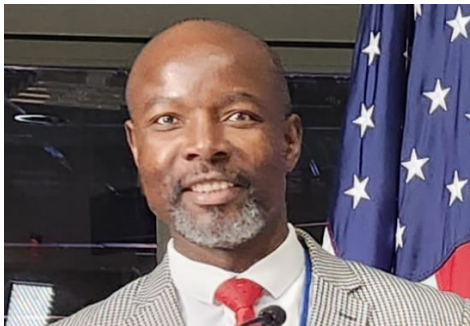
Structure of the ICC and operations

The ICC is small component based at the headquarters of the NPA comprising of a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Senior State Advocates and administrative support staff.

The component works with nodal points in the offices of the Directors of Public Prosecutions, the IDAC and AFU. It works closely with specialised units and components on international obligations relating to corruption, organised crime and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The ICC participates in various fora including Anti-Corruption Working Groups of the BRICS countries, G20 countries and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime.

MEET THE TEAM



Adv Luckson Mgiba:
Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions: ICC Desk, NPS



Adv Hitler Thenga:
Senior State Advocate: ICC Desk, NPS



Adv Luvuyo Mfaku:
Senior State Advocate: ICC Desk, NPS



Adv Buhle P Vilakazi:
Senior State Advocate: ICC Desk, NPS



Ms Boitshoko Patience Senokwane:
Administrative Assistant: ICC Desk, NPS



Ms Thabisile Ngidi:
Administrative Assistant: ICC Desk, NPS

FAREWELL!

FORTY-SIX YEARS IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE: THE REMARKABLE LEGACY OF ADVOCATE DANIE PRETORIUS



Adv Danie Pretorius
State Prosecutor

Mojalefa Senokoatsane

Acting RCM: Free State Division

Retirement is often described as the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another. It is a moment of reflection, a time to look back at years of sacrifice, discipline, and unwavering commitment to a calling greater than oneself. For those who dedicate their lives to public service, retirement is not merely about stepping away from a profession; it is about honoring a legacy built through integrity, resilience, and devotion to justice.

For over four decades, Advocate Danie Pretorius embodied that dedication. His career was not defined simply by titles or positions held, but by the quiet, consistent pursuit of fairness and the unshakable belief that justice must prevail, no matter how complex the matter or how long the road to conviction.

As he bids farewell to active service within the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Advocate Pretorius leaves behind more than case files and court transcripts. He leaves behind a footprint of excellence, mentorship, and institutional memory that has shaped generations of prosecutors and strengthened the justice system of South Africa.

A Journey Rooted in Humble Beginnings

Born and bred in Rouxville in the Southern Free State, Danie Pretorius matriculated in 1978 and immediately set his sights on the legal profession. His journey began modestly on 27 November 1978 when he joined the Rouxville Magistrate's Office as a clerk. He commenced his National Military Service in July 1979 serving until 1981 and earning the rank of Lieutenant, an early testament to his discipline and leadership.

In 1981, he took up a position at the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein as a Registrar's Clerk. Determined to grow academically while working full-time, he pursued his studies part-time, a demanding path that required sacrifice and focus. He obtained his B Juris (Commercial) degree in 1984, completed his LLB in 1990, and was admitted as an advocate the same year. In 1995, he crowned his academic journey with an LLM, reinforcing a lifelong passion for law and scholarship.

What makes this story remarkable is not merely the qualifications but the perseverance behind them, studying at night, working during the day, and steadily building a foundation for a career that would span more than 46 years.

A Career Defined by Service and Courage

Advocate Pretorius served in various capacities: district court prosecutor, control prosecutor, regional court prosecutor, regional control prosecutor, and assistant Senior Prosecutor at the Magistrate's Court, Bloemfontein. In 1991, he formally joined the Attorney-General's Office as a Junior State Advocate and steadily rose through the ranks. By 1999, he had been appointed Senior State Advocate, serving in that role for several years before advancing.

His appointment to the Organised Crime Unit at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State, where he served as its head, marked a significant chapter in his career. It was here that he became deeply involved in restructuring efforts and strengthening prosecutorial systems.

He worked closely with the South African Police Service, particularly the Commercial Crime Unit and the Hawks, managing numerous investigative projects. This collaboration proved to be one of the most fulfilling periods of his career, as it combined strategic leadership with hands-on legal expertise.

Among the high-profile matters he prosecuted were cases involving right-wing elements seeking to destabilise the state, a serious murder and robbery case at the Tempe military base, bombings, racketeering prosecutions, and other grave offenses. Two of the racketeering cases alone took approximately 15 years from inception to conviction and sentencing, a testament to his patience, endurance, and unwavering commitment to seeing justice through to its conclusion.

Scholar, Mentor, and Institutional Pillar

Beyond the courtroom, Advocate Pretorius dedicated 15 years to lecturing on Criminal Procedure at the University of the Free State. His academic contributions were evident in shaping not only prosecutors but also advocates (some appointed as judges) and legal practitioners.

Mentorship remained close to his heart. He believed the strength of the justice system lies not only in the convictions secured but also in the people nurtured along the way. Throughout his career, he consistently emphasized objectivity and the pursuit of justice for all, principles that guided every prosecution he undertook.

He also served as Acting Director of Public Prosecutions on multiple occasions, stepping into leadership roles when called upon. Despite the titles and responsibilities, he remains most proud of the meaningful contribution he made to the justice system and the colleagues he mentored.

The Next Chapter

While the courtroom will miss his measured arguments and steady presence, Advocate Pretorius now looks forward to embracing another passion, mountain biking. An avid rider, he plans to participate in several races, finally having the time to pursue the sport he loves.

His retirement is not an end but a transition from public service to personal exploration, from structured court calendars to new horizons.

A Message to Those Who Carry the Baton

To his colleagues and the young prosecutors who will carry forward the NPA's mandate, Advocate Pretorius leaves a powerful example: let your work speak for itself. Uphold objectivity. Pursue justice without fear or favor. Remain patient in complex matters, for justice often requires endurance. Embrace challenges. Titles may change, systems may evolve, but integrity must remain constant.

To the next generation, his career is a reminder that excellence is built daily through preparation, discipline, and a genuine commitment to fairness. Represent the NPA with humility and courage. Protect the Constitution. Serve the public with honor. And above all, ensure that when your own chapter closes one day, it tells a story of purpose, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to justice, just as his does.

MAKHANDA NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

As part of the NPA's public awareness programmes, the NPA participated in the Makhanda National Arts Festival from 25 June to 05 July 2026 in Makhanda, Eastern Cape.

The National Arts Festival in Makhanda is the largest performing arts festival on the African continent. The 2026 edition featured an extensive 11-day programme showcasing theatre, dance, visual arts, comedy, and music.

The National Prosecuting Authority remains committed to building safer communities and delivering justice for all.

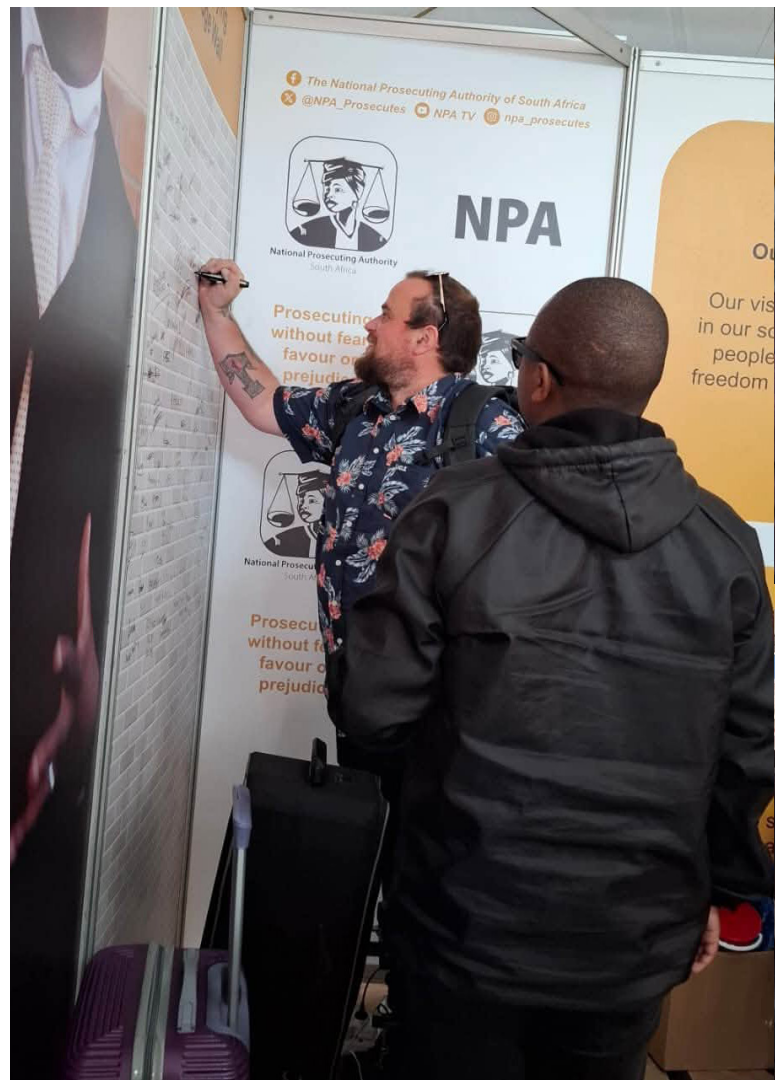
Thank you to everyone who visited our stall at the National Arts Festival Makhanda, engaged with our officials and signed both the Anti-Bullying Pledge and Gender-Based Violence Pledge.

Your voices and signatures strengthen our fight for dignity, respect and safety in our schools, homes and workplaces.

NPA TV podcast were hosted throughout the festival and highlighted the vital role of court preparation officers in supporting witnesses through the criminal justice process; how the AFU targets the proceeds of crime, and more. Catch up on these meaningful conversations on NPA TV via this link: https://www.youtube.com/@NPA_TVchannel

The festival included a curated selection of high-quality local and international performances and installations. In addition, attendees enjoyed a vibrant open-air market offering a variety of food stalls, fashion, and locally crafted goods, alongside daily entertainment.

Festival-related content and photographs were shared on NPA social media pages, including videos.





Festival attendees visiting the NPA stand and interacting with NPA officials

FIRST OF ITS KIND: THE NPA HOSTS ITS FIRST-EVER MEN'S CONFERENCE

Magaboke Mohlatlole

Acting RCM: Gauteng Local Division

In a groundbreaking move aimed at challenging societal norms and creating a safe space for men to engage in meaningful conversations, the National Prosecuting Authority's Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Gauteng Local Division in Johannesburg, hosted its first-ever Men's Conference at Hoyohoyo Chartwell Lodge in Fourways, Johannesburg.

The historic event, organised collectively by the NPA's Office including the three clusters, was held under the theme "Empowering the Modern Man: Health, Wealth and Purpose." The conference coincided with the beginning of Fatherhood Awareness Month in June, providing an opportunity for men to reflect, connect and address issues that often remain hidden behind societal expectations.

For generations, men have been taught to be strong, silent and resilient, often at the expense of their own wellbeing. The conference sought to defy the status quo that suggests men should not be vulnerable or openly discuss their challenges. Instead, they were encouraged to embrace conversations around mental health, emotional wellbeing and personal growth.

The programme featured keynote speakers and motivational presenters, including a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a Trade and Regulatory Affairs Specialist, an international performance coach, a Urologist, a pastor and motivational speaker, a Child Protection and Development Specialist, and medical doctors. They addressed key issues affecting modern men, including mental and physical health, financial wellbeing, masculinity, gender-based violence, relationships, stress, depression, alcohol abuse, self-awareness and the importance of building healthy support systems and living purposeful, balanced lives.

One of the recurring messages throughout the day

was that men also experience emotional pain and hardship. Speakers challenged stereotypes such as the often-repeated phrase "men are trash," urging society to recognise the humanity of men and the pressures they face daily. Discussions highlighted that while accountability remains important, men should not feel guilty simply for being who they are.

Participants were reminded that men cry, men struggle and men need support. In a world that places immense pressure on men to provide, protect and succeed, many carry burdens in silence. The conference encouraged attendees to acknowledge their vulnerabilities rather than suppress them, emphasising that seeking help is a sign of strength rather than weakness.

The conference provided valuable networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect, share experiences and learn from one another. Speakers stressed the importance of creating support systems that can help men navigate life's challenges before they reach a point of crisis.

As the world continues to place increasing demands on men, the conference served as a timely reminder that men have a right to prioritise their mental health and wellbeing. The event challenged long-held misconceptions and created an environment where men could openly discuss the issues affecting them without fear of judgement.

"Men cry too"

The success of the inaugural Men's Conference marks an important milestone for the NPA's Gauteng Local Division. By addressing issues that are often overlooked, the organisation has demonstrated its commitment to supporting the holistic wellbeing of all its employees.





Men united in purpose and empowerment during the NPA's GLD inaugural Men's Conference, engaging in meaningful conversations on health, wellbeing, leadership and personal growth



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