

KHASHO

NEWS

6th Edition



FEATURED INSIDE

- Correctional officer sentenced to life for femicide
- Facebook rapist sentenced to life and 75 years imprisonment
- What is Mutual Legal Assistance
- NPA celebrates Women's Month



National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa

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Acknowledgements

Editor:
Vuyolwethu Sigaji
NPA Communications

Creative Direction:
Nthabisen Serumula
NPA Communications

Editorial Management:
Nomilo Mpondo
Bulelwa Makeke

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Ms Bulelwa Makeke
Chief Director:
Communications

Letter from the Managing Editor

This edition of Khasho is jam packed with a mixed bag of interesting articles that are both educational and enlightening. Amongst these articles there is one that seeks to educate the public about the dangers of social media. Mutual Legal Assistance, Special Tax Unit (STU) and Priority Crimes Litigation Unit (PCLU). From these articles, you will learn about the work done by these NPA specialised units. Importantly, as you read further you will also learn how the NPA pioneered the re-opening of TRC cases where victims' families and loved ones did not get deserved justice.

A few farewell tributes for long-serving colleagues leave us with bittersweet feelings, as they look forward to a new journey of retirement. Whilst we acknowledge the natural

phenomenon of aging, we also feel the loss of institutional knowledge that our retiring colleagues leave with. With the status quo of being unable to hire the equally high calibre talent as that of our retiring colleagues due to financial constraints, this becomes a bitter pill to swallow.

As the repository of NPA news, Khasho relies on you. We implore you to keep the information that you feel is relevant coming to us. If you do not have time to write an article about what you want to communicate, let us know about your story and we will make arrangements for an interview or write the piece on your behalf.

You are welcome to send your news contributions to: Khasho@npa.gov.za.



Adv Gideon Mashamaite
Acting Special Director: PCLU

Leadership Corner

Terrorism and Terrorism Financing (TF) remains a global and complex phenomenon and should be countered through a comprehensive investigation and prosecution response. Domestic extremism and international terrorism pose, in varying degrees, a threat to Southern African Development Community (SADC) security, principles, values, rights and freedom.

The links between terrorism, money laundering, drugs and human trafficking, terror financing, proliferation financing, as well as other types of organised crime, strengthen terrorism and make multi-faceted cooperation at the national, regional, and international levels an imperative in the SADC region, Africa and the rest of the world.

The South African (SA) government addresses the growing threat of terrorism, both domestically and beyond its borders, through the work of its diverse structures, including the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee (NICOC) and Counter Terrorism Function Committee (CTFC). The CTFC consists of the coordinated multi agency like State Security Agency (SSA), SAPS Crime Intelligence (CI), SA Defence Force Intelligence (DI), Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), Department of Home Affairs, Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations Unit of Crime Against the State (CATS) and NPA-PCLU. The CTFC meet monthly to address all issues related to terrorism and terrorism financing.

The Priority Crimes Litigation Unit (PCLU) deals with offences such as terrorism, terrorism financing, sedition and high treason, as well as contraventions of the Rome Statute, among others statutory offences. In 2019, the prosecution of the aforementioned matters was

decentralised throughout the provinces, with each DPP office dealing with matters falling within its jurisdiction, and the PCLU playing the support, guidance and oversight role.

In September 2022, the NDPP signed the Maputo Declaration in Mozambique, with the other SADC heads of prosecutions, with the aim of harmonising the informal exchange of information in order to combat and address terrorism and terror-financing.

SADC has placed legal frameworks to fight the scourge of terrorism. The various legal instruments touch on many issues, such as fostering cooperation and coordination amongst SADC member states in the fight against terrorism and terrorism financing, rejecting extremism, promoting human and moral values and prohibiting ransoms to terrorists. Despite the many decisions, resolutions and declarations in fighting terrorism, some states in the region continue to be vulnerable to the threat of terrorism. South Africa has put measures, strategies and legislations in place and SADC has an excellent Counter-Terrorism Strategy, but we continue to see groups like the Islamic State Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and/or Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) killing innocent people in Northern Mozambique and other part of Central Africa.

It is time that we hold hands as law enforcement agencies and prosecutions to ensure that our SADC region countries are safe and protected, so that our people/ communities can leave in peace and enjoy the freedom they deserve. In this edition of Khasho, we share some of the highlights in the work of the PCLU.

"Let us rebuild and reposition PCLU to be where it is supposed to be so that we can be able to address terrorism, terror-financing and related offences, as mandated".

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR FEMICIDE

Luxolo Tyali
RCM: Eastern Cape Division

For more than a decade, he was tasked with rehabilitating offenders convicted for serious crimes in the East London's West Bank Correctional Services Centre, but Simphiwe Mxosa (48) callously murdered his estranged wife inside these premises, in front of his and the deceased's child. For that, the High Court of South Africa, Eastern Cape Division, sitting in East London sentenced the former Correctional Services Official to life imprisonment for the murder. In addition to declaring him unfit to possess a firearm, the court made a special order for Mxosa's children with the deceased, as well as their maternal grandmother to receive psycho-social counselling and any other support by the Department of Social Development.

Mxosa hacked his ex-wife to death with a bush knife inside his house in the Correctional Services precinct of West Bank Prison Quarters in East London on 01 March 2022. He committed the heinous act in front of their nine-year-old daughter, who had accompanied her mother to fetch clothing from his premises. The couple had legally divorced in 2019 but maintained their relations as a customary wedded couple, and they visited each other's homes. Before the day of the incident, the deceased had broken up with Mxosa again for abusing her physically. He had asked the deceased whether she was leaving him for good and when she did not answer, Mxosa pretended to assist her fetch the shoes from under the bed but took out a bush knife and fatally attacked her.

The daughter ran away and alerted the community to what she had witnessed. Mxosa was arrested the same day while drinking alcohol with his friends at a nearby shopping mall. During the trial, he pleaded not guilty and claimed that his daughter was imagining things and had been coached by her maternal grandmother to implicate him.



Adv Andile Nohiya

The state prayed for the imposition of the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment, arguing that femicide and gender-based violence are rife in the South African society and deserve harsh sentences, especially given that Mxosa, as a law enforcement officer should have known better.

Adv Andile Nohiya had this to say about the case:

When I received and perused the docket, it became patently apparent that the main witness in this case is the nine-year-old daughter of the accused and the deceased. My concern immediately became whether she would be a competent witness after witnessing such a traumatic incident involving her parents. After consulting with her, the necessity for involvement of an intermediary became clear.

The case hit a snag when the intermediary was not available on the date planned for the minor witness, and we had to improvise and call other witnesses. They painted a picture of a traumatic crime scene, which caused them, even as adults to undergo trauma counselling.

When dealing with my star witness, the child, I had to win her trust by becoming more, a friend to her. The investigating team of Captain Chewane and Sergeant Mqokozzo was the best in ensuring that all the witnesses and evidence needed in the trial were diligently collected and brought before court. It also helped that the Minister of Police had recently released statistics indicating that the murder of women by their partners was on the rise in South Africa. So when I referred to those statistics, the court could not look the other way.

MOLEFE ENSURES THAT DUO GETS DOUBLE LIFE AND TWENTY YEARS EACH FOR MURDERING ELDERLY SHOP OWNERS

Henry Mamothame
RCM: North West Division

The High Court of South Africa; North West Division, sitting at the Klerksdorp Regional Court, sentenced Quinton Brits (38) and Mabote Ernest Lishea (31) to two life terms of imprisonment each for the murder of an elderly couple in their shop in Christiana. They were also sentenced to 5 years for housebreaking with intent to rob and a further 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances.

According to Adv Kgalalelo Molefe, this conviction emanates from an incident that occurred on the morning of 30 August 2020, at a Madeira Shop in Christiana where two customers found an elderly couple murdered in their shop. The two immediately notified the police of the incident. The scene was in disarray, with the husband tied with cable ties, dried blood on both the couple's noses, and money tills opened. The daughter of the deceased later came and confirmed the cellphones and money to be missing. Post-mortem reports revealed that the elderly woman died as a result of strangulation, while the elderly man died as a result of coronary artery disease. The two suspects pleaded not guilty.



Adv Kgalalelo Molefe

Adv Molefe described the dedication by investigating officers as commendable and she further lauded their cooperation during the planning phase of the case. The dedication of Warrant Officer Ofentse Diphokwana and Sergeant Tickyboy Jacob Mmusi led them to the arrest of Brits on 01 September 2020, at Jan Kempdorp where some of the stolen items were found on him, and later identified by the daughter of the deceased. Brits subsequently took the police to a house in Christiana, where the loot was shared among the two. On 03 September 2020, Leshea, who is a Lesotho national, was arrested at Durban Deep near Roodepoort, in Gauteng. During the arrest, police found items that were stolen in the shop during the robbery. Adv Molefe described the pain she observed from the daughter as devastating.

In aggravation of sentence, Adv Molefe, urged the court not to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence of life imprisonment on each of the counts of murder. She urged the court to consider the seriousness of the offence as the victims were elderly people and further pleaded that it impose a sentence that would serve as a deterrent. The Judge, Samkelo Gura, agreed with the state and imposed a double life imprisonment and 20 years for each accused.

Adv Molefe went on to describe the conviction as a victory for the family of the deceased, as it brought closure for them. She described the feeling as fulfilling, especially when families express gratitude for justice being served.

FACEBOOK RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE TERM AND 75 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

Monica Nyuswa

RCM: Mpumalanga Division

The Mpumalanga High Court sitting in Graskop convicted and sentenced Ben Ernest Mdhluli to a full life term and an additional 75 years imprisonment on six counts of rape and two counts of robbery. The crimes were committed in Acorn Hoek between July 2020 and December 2021. Mdhluli would lure his victims on Facebook by posing as a manager employed at a game reserve and informing them about employment opportunities. He would arrange to meet with the victims in Acornhoek town in order to take them to the game reserve. After meeting the victims, he would inform them that there were no work vehicles available to pick them up, therefore they would need to walk through the bushes to the game reserve, which is a shortcut that will lead them to the back gate. Whilst walking through the bushes with the victims, the accused would produce a knife, threaten, and then rape them. He injured one of his victims with the knife on her forefingers thus leaving her disabled. In respect of the other two victims, he robbed one of two cellphones while another of R200 cash.

Khasho spoke to Adv Phungula about the case:

What is unique about this matter?

The paradox was that the accused used the poor socio-economic factors to trick his victims whereas, on the other hand he struggled with the very same socio-economic factors. He targeted poor and desperate women whom he knew needed employment because they lived in poverty. As a sign of humanity, one would expect that living in and understanding these circumstances, he would not abuse another person based on this vulnerability.

Take us through your preparations:

During the preparation for the trial, it was evident that none of these victims knew the accused personally prior to the incidents. Despite not having known or seen the accused before, all the victims were clearly able to identify the accused when they saw his face. The victims were composed during consultation, the only notable emotion that I picked up from them was anger. It was this anger that gave them the determination and the certainty that they wanted to proceed with this matter and that they wanted the accused to be convicted and sentenced because he deserved punishment for what he had put them through.

During the trial:

The state called six victims. We also relied on six first reports as well as DNA reports. The testimony of the state witnesses was clear and so precise and there was no other version that could come forth that could have been



Adv Thobeka Phungula

believable in this instance. The accused of course pleaded not guilty, his version was that these were his girlfriends he had met either on Facebook or at a club and that when they came to Acornhoek they knew that they were going to have sex with him, a version that the court rejected. It was also interesting to note that the accused showed no remorse. While the victims were testifying he would look them straight in the eye with the intention to intimidate. He also falsely testified that he gave the women money after they met up with him and they were happy when he parted ways with them.

Lessons learnt:

Firstly, as a woman, I would say that dealing with this case taught me to be sensitive towards other people, because you never know what they are going through. It also taught me that people react differently to certain things and that a person should be treated with dignity and the necessary sensitivity when they report cases of sexual abuse, and they must be heard. In this case, the victims got comfortable with me such that by the time we went to court, they would smile when they see me and say that they feel supported, represented, and confident to go into court and testify. I would just constantly encourage them, and it helped them at the end. After the matter was finalised, they were grateful, and this made me feel like justice was served.

This is a case that should make the public aware about the dangers of social media. The public should be aware that some people use social media platforms to lure unsuspecting victims into situations of abuse. Social media platforms are not always safe, and people should be careful when using these platforms particularly when it comes to people that they do not know.

Would you say that the criminal justice system is winning the fight against gender-based violence?

I personally believe that the criminal justice system in cases where gender-based violence is reported, is doing its best in fighting the scourge in our society and to protect women. It's going to take successful prosecution of several cases to reflect to the entire society, but I think the battle is not lost and that the court system is working hard to send out a message through its sentences about this type of offences.

A PEADOPHILE STOPPED DEAD IN HIS TRACKS

Lumka Mahanjana
RCM: Gauteng Division: Pretoria

A 42-year-old father from Meyerton, Vereeniging was sentenced to 4 life terms and 73 years direct imprisonment for 2 counts of statutory rape, 2 counts of rape, 2 counts of sexual grooming, and 2 counts of instructing a child to commit sexual offences, incest and possession of pornography as well as sexual assault. Also, his name was to be added in the National Register for Sexual Offenders. His sexual escapade took place between 2019 and 2020 when he committed sexual crimes on 5 minor children, between aged 9 and 13 years old. Two of the children were his biological children, while others were his stepchildren.

Advocate Salome Scheepers prosecuted the case and ensured that the perpetrator received a harsh sentence.

When asked what her initial reaction was when she received the docket, Adv Scheepers said "I got this matter at trial stage, and was very disgusted to learn that a father could do such things to his own children and think that he could get away with it". After further investigation the indictment was amended because more evidence was introduced, and the charges had to be added. "The man groomed one of his children to a point where she fell in love with him and thought they would marry".

When asked if this was the worst case she has dealt with since she started working for the NPA in November 2019 as an aspirant prosecutor, she said no, I don't think so. "I have dealt with a lot more similar cases; however, this is among the worst".



Adv Salome Scheepers

Moreover, she said while prosecuting this matter and throughout her career as a prosecutor, she learnt that it is important to always look deeper into a case and not only accept investigation outcomes given to you. Furthermore, it is also very important to thoroughly consult as new information can assist in redirecting and proving the case. "When dealing with a matter such as this one, it is important to put your personal feelings aside and focus on the facts in front of you" she added.

When asked if she was currently busy with a similar case she said, "I have been promoted since 01 July 2023, I am now a Coordinator for Domestic Violence based at the head office SOCA unit. However, I have 3 matters that I am currently prosecuting, one of which is a serial rapist case which will be finalised at the end of September 2023, where a man was convicted of 148 charges, 96 of those are of rape of minors and adults.

When asked if she missed prosecuting, she said, "it's too soon to say. I have new challenges now because I am focused on public awareness". I now have the opportunity to impact South Africa as a whole as opposed to only focusing on matters at a divisional level", she added.

The DPP, Advocate Sibongile Mzinyathi said, the NPA exists to stop criminals and paedophiles like this one dead on their tracks. Adv Scheepers has always shown a particular preference to deal with cases of gender-based violence against children, He is pleased to work with dedicated prosecutors who live the mandate of the NPA.



THE GLD TAX UNIT MAKING IN-ROADS IN HOLDING TAX EVADERS ACCOUNTABLE

Hurbetin Mjonondwane
RCM: Gauteng Local Division

Tax offences are often viewed lightly by members of the public and the impact of these offences in our country's fiscus is quite significant. At the helm of these prosecutions, is a dedicated female who was appointed as Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in the region, Adv Duduzile Robertse, who had this to say:

1. Kindly share a summary about the Tax Unit's role

The Specialised Tax Unit (STU) is a component within the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa (NPA) established in terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NPA and the South African Revenue Service (SARS). The MOU was signed in 2003 and later updated in 2019 by the current National Director of Public Prosecutions. The role of the STU and its exclusive mandate is to prosecute serious and complex tax offences, ranging from VAT Fraud, Company Income Tax (CIT), Personal Income Tax (PIT), Customs and Excise Tax, including and not limited to Money Laundering and/or Racketeering.

2. To what do you attribute the 100% conviction rate achieved by your team?

Upholding excellence and dedication as the order of the day. Always instilling confidence and pride in my team by reminding them that they serve a greater purpose than just preserving and ensuring justice for all, and that they play a bigger role in safeguarding



Adv Duduzile Robertse

and maintaining the economy of the country. For the financial period that ended in March 2023, SARS collected R 2067.8 billion, which is a 9.7% increase in collection compared to 2022. The NPA played a major role in this, seeing the volume of impactful tax cases finalised by the STU, a clear message was sent to the public that they must comply with tax laws or face the might of the law. I applaud my team for turning the wheels of justice successfully by changing the perception and attitude of the judiciary on how they have been perceiving tax crimes. Since the establishment of the STU in 2003 it has been a challenge to move the courts' perceptions that tax crimes were just statutory contraventions calling for a mere fine as an appropriate sentence. Today the courts correctly place emphasis on the seriousness of tax crimes and how detrimental tax offences are to the South African economy as a whole. As a Jurist, it has been a concern to me that we have very few reported cases when it comes to criminal tax cases in comparison to civil tax cases. Now when looking at the number of convictions with direct imprisonment secured by the STU, one is put at ease by the justice attained for the society and impressed with the contribution done by the STU in reforming our justice system by creating precedence in the criminal tax laws of South Africa.

The following are some of the cases the STU prosecuted with direct imprisonment:

1. State vs Priteshkumar Naik (Customs Fraud): Accused was sentenced to an effective ten (10) years direct imprisonment.
2. State vs Nokuthula Cynthia Nene (VAT Fraud): Accused was sentenced to an effective eight (8) years direct imprisonment.
3. State vs Harisu Bukari (VAT Fraud): Accused was sentenced to an effective twelve (12) years direct imprisonment.

4. State vs Malatse Kolokoto (Customs Fraud/Corruption): Accused was sentenced to an effective seven (7) years direct imprisonment.
5. State vs Gladstone Sono (Income Tax theft): Accused was sentenced to an effective twelve (12) years direct imprisonment.
 - I must express and give gratitude for the excellent work the STU team is producing. Over and above their hard work, credit should be given for their outstanding achievements (compared to the other STUs nationally).
 - I encourage teamwork, unity, being supportive and caring towards the members in the unit by creating a family within the work environment.
 - Due to the fact that we spend most of our time at work as opposed to home, the way to perform at your highest level can only be achieved by providing a safe, relaxed and inspiring space, therefore a healthy moral hygiene at the workplace is one of my key principles.
 - I also inspire my team to maintain good admin support systems and healthy relations with the administrative staff, and build good working relations with all the stakeholders.

3. What are the challenges you came across and how were they mitigated?

Lack of tax prosecution skills in the team as there were a few newly appointed prosecutors. This was mitigated by mentoring and in-house trainings provided by myself as well as other experienced prosecutors in the unit. Lack of co-operation from some stakeholder. This was mitigated by regular meetings and training offered to our stakeholders to educate them and ensure they understood the impact of their role within the NPA prosecutions.

4. Now that we are approaching the new financial year, what are the immediate goals set for the tax unit?

Enhancing the relationship between the stakeholders and ensuring collaboration between the teams. Introducing more training sessions to enhance and sharpen the skills of our team. Ensuring high impact by increasing the number of convictions. Finally, closing and bridging all the gaps for the criminals, especially at the airport in relations to the customs cases.

5. What type of support would you like to receive in order to achieve these goals?

Increasing the capacity of the unit especially at the level of advocates because once junior advocates complete training, we lose them to other senior posts within the NPA, which impacts on productivity

- Training
- Team building sessions with stakeholders.



TWO DEDICATED PROSECUTORS OF TRC CASES BELIEVE IN IMPORTANCE OF JUSTICE AND CLOSURE FOR THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Eric Ntabazalila
RCM: Western Cape Division

Two dedicated prosecutors of Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) cases in the Western Cape agree that it is especially important to reopen the cases to help the victims' families and their loved ones get some semblance of justice and find closure as they have been failed by the state in their quest for that.

Adv Lifa Matyobeni and Adv Deidre Julius are part of a team of three state advocates, under the supervision of a deputy director, tasked with guiding investigations, reviewing of cases, and prosecuting some of the cases emanating from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Since their appointment over two years ago, the unit has received requests to re-open the Heidelberg Tavern – armed attack on students in Mowbray in 1993; St James Massacre – armed attack on church congregation in 1993; Imam Abdullah Haron – death in detention of PAC political activist in 1969; Ashley Kriel – fatal shooting of ANC's MK political activist during execution of arrest in 1987; Robert Waterwitch and Coline Williams – fatal explosion resulting in deaths of two ANC's MK student activists during a mission; Anton Fransch – death of ANC's MK political activist due to detonation of a grenade during a six-hour long standoff with apartheid police in 1989; Bellington Mampe – death in detention of PAC political activist in Worcester detention facility in 1963 where cause of death is unknown and Luke Storey Mazwembe – death in

detention of an ANC political activist due to hanging in 1969.

So far only the inquest into the death Imam Abdullah Haron has been re-opened in the High Court of South Africa: Western Cape Division. The re-opened inquest attracted a huge audience including Imam Haron's family, friends, comrades, the clergy, political parties, and the media. The inquest included inspection in-loco at Maitland Police Station where Imam Haron was tortured and lost his life and at Cape Town Police Station (the old Caledon Square Police Station) where he was also tortured. The re-opened inquest commenced in the first two weeks of November 2022, with two day closing arguments in April 2023. The court has reserved judgment.

Khasho sat down with the two prosecutors to enquire about the importance of re-opening the cases, progress made so far, challenges facing investigations and taking the cases to court.

Adv Matyobeni explained: "The process of re-visiting these matters is indeed necessary to heal old wounds of families who for many years were given false information regarding their loved ones. It might be too late for some families to receive the required justice due to the time lapse regarding these matters and the fact that some perpetrators are already deceased. However, the point is to allow the process to be resumed to hopefully rewrite the history correctly."

At face value, it is easy to take these cases for granted but having encountered the victims' families, who recall events that took place when they were in their early teens and now are past their pension years, one begins to appreciate and can only imagine the pain they had to live with all these years, waiting for the truth to finally come out.

Adv Julius concurred: "In the current context of general disillusionment with the criminal justice system felt by the majority of South Africans, the task to see these matters through is an absolute necessity. As public servants called to the vocation of public prosecution, it is imperative that we have the interest of the public as the driving force while we conduct ourselves without fear, favour or prejudice. When victims through our transparency and sincerity can see that we have done our absolute best to ensure their sense of justice is satisfied, we would have proved our commitment to justice, and bolster a general faith in the criminal justice system."

The prosecutors, who are immensely committed to fairness and justice, especially for the victims and their families, know that the families are yearning for justice.

"Each family has its own expectation of the process. However, the golden thread among the families with whom we have extensively engaged is that they require justice to be served. The resulting outcome of



Adv Deidre Julius and Adv Lifa Matyobeni

investigations may not unfortunately always fully satisfy each family member according to their individual expectations, but our efforts on the path to justice in each case must be communicated in a team effort between the investigators and prosecutors for the families to know that the cases of their loved ones are not being ignored," Adv Julius said.

Adv Matyobeni emphasised: "The families all have one expectation, that justice finally prevails to allow them closure. Promises have been made in the past and these families were neglected and subjected to secondary victimisation by the present system. They have layed their hopes on us yet again after having done so previously and were ultimately disappointed to say the least."

Both advocates confirm that being pioneers of this process in the province requires careful consolidation of information and out of the box thinking. The major challenge is time lost regarding these cases, with witnesses and persons of interest having passed away, for some witnesses recollections of events and crucial details have waned, and various pieces of documentary and other evidence have either been destroyed or gone missing.

Adv Julius: "The keeping of accurate records of the movement of source documents, have posed a challenge for investigators and on occasion, prosecutors had to conduct investigative trips around the country to gather sufficient reliable information and evidence to proceed with the decision-making process. This matter (Imam Haron

inquest) was the first of its kind before this court division, we had to be creative in our approach to the entire process including, inter alia, investigation, research and consultation. We were pioneering the TRC project in the Western Cape division which required a hands-on approach to establishing protocols and developing best practices.

Despite the challenges, huge expectations and mounting pressure from different corners, the two young firebrand prosecutors are aware of what lies ahead and confident to deliver, conditions and evidence permitting.

"If I were to put myself in the shoes of the victims' families, I would hope that the person from whom I am desperately seeking assistance will do their best in their endeavour to assist in finding justice would be enough to give me hope," concluded Adv Julius.

Adv Matyobeni agreed: "We struggled to gain their trust, but there is a glimmer of hope on their side that this time around hope is a reality."



THREE LIFE TERMS FOR MEN ACCUSED OF RAPING MINORS

Mojalefa Senokotsoane
RCM: Northern Cape Division

Who is Bernice Bronkhorst?

I am a Regional Court Prosecutor, based at the Mothibstad Regional Court in Kuruman, Northern Cape.

I have been a Regional Court Prosecutor for 1 year and 6 months, and a legal practitioner for almost 7 years.

I am currently 29 years old and originally come from Uitenhage, Eastern Cape.

What motivated you to choose this career?

Ever since the age of 5, I wanted to become a prosecutor, however, I only decided in the third term of my matric year to study law.

I have always had a passion for fairness and I have always spoken up for those who could not speak for themselves. This has been a prominent feature of my personality since I can remember.

There is no particular person who motivated me to choose this career. I believe I was destined to follow this career path.

Could you please provide us with the background on this matter?

The accused raped two twelve-year-old girls in his shanty house at Seven Miles Village, Kuruman. During the testimony of the first victim, she informed the court that the accused would often ask her to go to the shops to buy cigarettes and other stuff as he is an elder in the community.

The accused would also invite the girls to watch television at his house from time to time, whereupon he would also make coffee for them.

Both victims later confirmed the accused's modus operandi, where he would chase all the other girls away from his home and allowing only the victims to stay behind. He would then play a DVD containing pornographic material for the victims, whereafter, he would take the victims to his bedroom and proceed to rape them. The accused would also threaten the victims with injury or death if they told anyone about the incident.



Regional Court Prosecutor, Bernice Bronkhorst

The accused's crimes came to the attention of the community when other girls told the mother of one of the victims what they suspected was happening, which was confirmed by the victim. A mother of another victim confronted the accused after he had kept her daughter overnight in his house.

Could you please take us through the process when prosecuting such a case?

Firstly, you need to be well-prepared to prosecute such a case. You need to be sure of the charges that you are going to put to the accused, and you have to establish who the crucial witnesses are. Due to multiple victims and therefore many witnesses, you need to ensure that you only call the witnesses that are absolutely necessary, so as not to overcrowd the Presiding Officer's thoughts.

Very often, accused persons prosecuted for these matters are very arrogant. It takes composure to ensure that you keep calm when dealing with their attitudes when cross-examining accused.

Please share your experiences when prosecuting such matters?

When dealing with a case of minors who were raped, you have to prepare yourself emotionally, as the victims will often cry and be ashamed of what happened to them. In addition to other court staff, such as court preparation officers and intermediaries, you also need to play a supportive role towards the victims.

When dealing with cases of such nature, you have to ensure that you play a helping role towards the victims, and not allow yourself to be overwhelmed by the tragic incidents that occurred.

You absolutely cannot allow your emotions to get the better of you, as this will hamper your ability to handle the next case of a similar nature.

Challenges experienced during the course of the trial?

In this particular case, the victims were very scared of the accused and would attempt to flee the courtroom, whenever they saw him present. Furthermore, one of the victims was very reluctant to speak about what happened, due to shame as well as having a learning difficulty, which caused her to struggle to explain herself. I had to revise my line of questioning, in order to use simpler words for the said victim to understand me properly. These were additional challenges that I did not expect.

The accused admitted to being in a sexual relationship with another young girl during cross-examination. It became clear that the accused had a repugnant history and it became evident that he might have affected more girls who did not report what happened to them. It also became known that he might have even impregnated one of the other girls. This created a further challenge, as it prompted me to inform the investigating officer to make enquiries about other girls in the village.

What can you share with colleagues who could possibly be dealing with a similar matters in their respective courts?

These cases require a lot of patience, as the accused can be a difficult person to deal with, and because the trial will possibly take months or years to complete, as there is most likely a lot of evidence to uncover.

Despite feeling your best and keeping your emotions intact, you will inevitably feel the emotional effects of dealing with matters of this nature.

Lastly, you need to be prepared for all eventualities when dealing with different witnesses, as they might be unexpectedly emotional, illiterate, ashamed, and even stubborn.

Your message to colleagues and communities regarding the work that you do?

This line of work is often dangerous as accused persons as well as their families or supporters might believe that you have a personal vendetta against them. Despite the antagonism, you should always treat everyone with respect, including the accused.

Furthermore, despite the scourge of rape in our country, there are prosecutors like myself and others who are working diligently to prosecute the perpetrators of rape. Our justice system is still effective in dealing appropriately with these offenders.

Despite the many delays that often occur in the court system, victims of rape should not be discouraged – their day in court will come and the perpetrators will be dealt with effectively.



A GRAVEYARD, “A RAPING PLACE”

Lumka Mahanjana
RCM: Gauteng Division, Pretoria

This is the argument prosecutor Lawrance Sivhidzho put to the court that, the Tsakane graveyard serial rapist Petetona Abel Lebele (43), who was sentenced to 3 life terms and 30 years direct imprisonment, turned a graveyard, a resting place for the dead, to a place where he raped his victims.

For 3 years from 2017 to 2019 when he was arrested, Lebele targeted his victims on their way to or from school and work. He would grab and drag them to the Tsakane graveyard where he raped them. Two of his victims were minor children aged 7 and 13 years old, while the other two were 16 and 32 years old.

When asked how it felt prosecuting this matter, advocate Sivhidzho, who has been a prosecutor for 11 years since 01 February 2012 said he felt honoured given a responsibility to prosecute such a serious case, especially because “it was my first time prosecuting a rape case”.

To me it meant that the DPP trusted that I will execute my duties to the best of my ability.

Moreover, when the docket was given to me and I saw the ages of the victims, the offences as well as the place the offences took place, I became more determined to ensure that I secure the conviction and make sure that the perpetrator goes to prison for a very long time. Moreover, this was important to me because I have a mother and sisters who need to live in a safe environment. I imagined those victims to be them. That thought motivated me to study the docket, prepare my case for the outcomes I got.”

Though Lebese pleaded guilty he had no other option because the state had overwhelming evidence against him.

When asked if he is busy with any interesting case, Sivhidzho agreed.



He said he is currently busy with a gang related murder case where the two accused in the matter were convicted of murder, attempted murder, possession of firearm and ammunition.

“I am just waiting for the sentence to be handed down.”

The DPP Advocate Sibongile Mzinyathi said he was pleased by the dedication and commitment displayed by prosecutors in his division, who take it upon themselves to ensure that perpetrators, who not only disrespect the living people but do not does that at a place that the society regard as a resting place of the dead, are sent to jail.



WHAT IS MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE?

Natasha Ramkisson Kara
RCM: KwaZulu-Natal Division

The province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has recently been inundated with requests for Mutual Legal Assistance (MLAs) and extraditions. Khasho spoke to the two Advocates who are largely dealing with these cases.

What is an MLA?

An MLA refers to the rendering of assistance by one country to another, in securing information or evidential material for the purpose of investigation and/or prosecution.

MLA requests can either be formal or informal in nature. Informal requests will generally be addressed by Interpol. These are often aimed merely at information gathering and not for evidential purposes.

Where information is invasive or cannot be obtained on a voluntary basis, the request is dealt with on a formal basis. The information obtained through a formal request can be used for evidential purposes and prosecution, provided it complies with the applicable evidential rules.

What is an extradition?

Extradition is the legal means for the return of a perpetrator to the country where they committed an offence. It is the oldest form of international cooperation with the first treaty signed during the 13th Century. It is a formal request through diplomatic channels from one State to another for the return of a requested individual. Extradition is provided for by both international and domestic law. Part 44 of the Prosecution Policy Directives deals with Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance.

What instruments exist between South African and other countries for the extradition processes?

There are several treaties that exist between South Africa and other countries that provide for the extradition of individuals. Treaties exist, for example, between the United States of America, Ireland, Eswatini, United Arab Emirates and others.

In instances where there is no extradition treaty, other international instruments like the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol and the European Convention on Extradition exist to deal with this process. These instruments can be relied on since South Africa is a signatory thereto. Extraditions are both incoming and outgoing requests, and our domestic law provides for legislative guidance in this respect by way of the Extradition Act. An important factor to note in an incoming extradition request is that the Extradition Act provides that the requesting state must provide a Section 10(2) certificate that a *prima facie* case exists against the person sought to be extradited. In an incoming extradition request the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services will make the final determination whether the person sought to be extradited can in fact be surrendered to the requesting state.



From left SSA Adv Naveen Sewparasat, DDPP Adv Deneshree Naicker, Adv Luvuyo Mfaku- NPA ICC HO, Adv Luckson Mgiba - DDPP, Senior Police Officer from Irish police (also called the Garda), Micheal Mullen, Sergeant Kabelo Seanago - Interpol and Isak Gelderblom - Central Authority DOJCD during a meeting between NPA officials and their Irish counterparts



Senior State Advocate Naveen Sewparsat and Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Deneshree Naicker

What legislation exists in respect of MLA requests?

International Co-operation in Criminal Matters Act 75 of 1996

Tell us about the two recent extradition matters that took place between Eswatini and South Africa, both involving murder and femicide

In respect of the Eswatini Extradition Request to South Africa, the suspect was arrested in Kokstad and appeared in the Kokstad Magistrate's Court. The suspect consented to the extradition request. A consent order was drafted and presented to the assigned Magistrate at the Kokstad Magistrate's Court who found the suspect was liable to be surrendered to Eswatini on a charge of murder. The minister thereafter decided in terms of section 11 of the Extradition Act for the suspect to be surrendered to Eswatini. The suspect was handed over by Interpol officials to Eswatini officials for prosecution on a charge of murder.

In respect of South Africa's extradition request to Eswatini, the suspect was arrested in Eswatini for illegally being in the country. It was thereafter established that he was sought in South Africa on a Nongoma murder docket. The investigating officer contacted our office seeking assistance. We proceeded to draft a request for provisional arrest that was signed by the DPP in KZN, Adv. Elaine Harrison, and transmitted it through Interpol channels. We also drafted the extradition request which was also signed by the DPP and transmitted through diplomatic channels to Eswatini within the prescribed time limit. We were informed by the Eswatini prosecutors that the suspect was found liable to be extradited. The Minister subsequently confirmed the surrender of the suspect to South Africa. The suspect was subsequently handed over to South African officials and is being prosecuted for Murder in the Regional Court within the relevant jurisdiction of Nongoma.

Are there other extradition matters underway in KZN?

We currently have three extradition matters before court:

- a) A UK extradition matter where charges include dealing in drugs. This is being dealt with by Adv. Attie Truter.
- b) An Irish extradition matter involving two counts of murder. Dealt with by Advs. Deneshree Naicker and Naveen Sewparsat.
- c) An Eswatini extradition matter involving charges of murder and robbery dealt with by Advs. Deneshree Naicker and Naveen Sewparsat.

There is a pending outgoing extradition matter to Uruguay which is being dealt with by Adv. Nadia Moosa. The suspect is still at large and there are several other extradition requests from the United Kingdom and the United States of America that are awaiting arrest via Interpol.

What does this mean for victims of crime?

The world has now become a global village where it is possible for criminals to hide in foreign jurisdictions and evade prosecution. Through international cooperation it is now possible, through effective inter-departmental and intercountry relationships, to bring fugitives to justice. Victims of crime no longer feel despondent if a suspect has fled the country. Interpol can effectively track and trace the suspects and bring them to book so that justice can be seen to be done. This also applies to tracing the proceeds of crime used in money laundering schemes from one country to another.

Tell us about the most interesting experience when dealing with an ICC matter

All the matters have been interesting, and we have learnt to deal with various challenges and how to practically deal with issues that have arisen during dealing with extradition and MLA matters. These matters are dealt with at district court level, and we have had the pleasure of engaging with prosecutors from various courts who display a keen interest in sitting in on our matters and are always eager to assist where they can. We have also been fortunate to be able to engage with colleagues from various countries via various platforms to enable us to learn about their legal systems and better present extradition requests to court.

GRAFT-ACCUSED VICE-PRESIDENT SEEKS RELAXED BAIL CONDITIONS

Legalbrief

Malawi's Vice-President Saulos Chilima is facing charges in the financial crimes division of the High Court. He was granted bail on the day of his arrest in November 2022, when the magistrate set conditions that Chilima has observed since then. This month, however, the High Court had to consider an application for certain bail conditions to be changed. During his judgment on the issue, High Court judge Redson Kapindu had to deal with some strange moments from the hearing, writes Carmel Rickard. Like Chilima's counsel quoting the case of United States v Donald Trump, dealing with the former US President's release on bail without any conditions. It sounded on point, but since no-one could find a copy of the judgment text, the Malawian court could put no weight on it.

It's not every day that a court has the country's Vice-President before it as a litigant in a corruption crime case, asking for bail conditions to be changed. As you might expect, there were some surreal moments. But as you might also expect, knowing Malawi's Judge Redson Kapindu, the sensible conclusion was a model

of thoughtfulness. While the judge acknowledged the circumstances of the litigant and how this impacted on the application, there's no hint of obsequiousness nor a sense that the court is bending the rules for the Deputy President.

The charges against Saulos Chilima are brought by Malawi's anti-corruption bureau (ACB), an official government department. He was released from detention on the day of his arrest, on several conditions set by the Chief Resident Magistrate.

Among these conditions was a stipulation that he must report to the ACB offices once every three months and that he had to surrender his passport to the court. Though he has so far complied with these conditions, Chilima now wants them scrapped.

He argued that, given his office, there's no practical purpose served by requiring him to report to the ACB office at three-monthly intervals. The reporting requirement is supposed to assure the prosecuting authorities that he is available for trial, he said. But his vice-presidential schedule is well publicised, and 'most of his movements are a matter of public record'. At any time, he claimed, 'almost every Malawian, including officers of the ACB, will know where he is.'

As for his passport, in terms of government protocol, no senior government official leaves the country without 'taking leave of the ... President' who has 'overall superintendence' of Malawi's security agencies. When the President grants leave, this typically details where the official is going and for how long. In addition, any trip outside Malawi, private or official, is 'co-ordinated and planned' by the government. It is thus not reasonable for the prosecution to fear that he would 'flee the jurisdiction by simply skipping the borders.'



Letter of Gratitude



Dear Advocate Elaine Zungu

CC : Advocate Shamila Batohi

CC : Advocate Gonasagren Naidoo

CC : Shireen Govender

Re: Shireen Govender / Report on Umbilo 51/05/2021: Shaukath Malani

I trust you are well.

The above mentioned criminal case has finally been concluded in the Durban Magistrates Court F on Wednesday the 20th September 2023. The learned Magistrate passed her judgment to the disbelief of the accused and his legal team. This accused was finally found guilty as charged.

The last time we sent a correspondence to your office about this very same accused was to highlight the incompetence of the State's legal representatives that was handling the matter. This time it is a complete turnaround of events and we, for the first time, met a person representing the KZN Judiciary that fitted the words competent and dedicated.

Her name is Shireen Govender and she adopted a very positive attitude since the inception of this case. This very same case was at a stage where the charges against the accused were provisionally withdrawn in Court.

After the reinstatement of the matter Shireen was appointed as the Control Prosecutor and she encountered many challenges in the initial stages. I would like to draw your attention to the 28th September 2022. The Matter was listed on the court roll for that day. The first shocking part was that the docket was not in Court. The matter was stood down and the State was given a day's grace to ensure that the docket reached court on the following day. The docket did get to court on the 29th September 2022 and the second shocking discovery was mind boggling. The prosecutor needed 45 minutes to peruse the docket and familiarize himself with the case. At this juncture all fingers were pointed in the direction of the Control Prosecutor, Shireen.

She, nevertheless, picked herself up ever so professionally and took charge and made a very bold decision to prosecute this matter herself. Her planning from thereon was absolutely amazing. She set up meetings with all the relevant parties in her team and got to grips with all facts about the case in such spectacular fashion. She understood that it was her duty to make sure that justice prevailed and quickly got her plan into motion. Her initial focus was to make sure that the Investigating Officer compiled the docket properly and that there were no loose ends that could allow the defense team to outwit her. Her preparation was very thorough leading up to the trial and this is where she shone ever so brightly and led her team from the front. She knew what was needed to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that the accused was guilty and even though she was going up against Senior Council she never faltered or showed any signs of nervousness. The manner in which she led her witnesses in court was that of a person in control and she always showed signs of a natural leader. She had captured the attention of

many in court, especially the Magistrate, with her precise form of attack. She had broken down the armour of the defense team bit by bit over the past year at every court appearance.

It was quite evident that Shireen had put in many hours to know the merits of this case inside out. She always came to court prepared and very gracefully went about her duties as the prosecutor that had a zest for victory. Her meticulous preparation of the questions posed to the witnesses in the defense was in fact the fine line that is so often spoken about to determine whether you win or lose. She was victorious at the end of the trial and she deserves every form of accolade that can be directed to her.

Well done to the Control Prosecutor on making sure that Justice prevailed and that the accused was found guilty as charged. I would recommend this brilliant woman to any person that needs assistance in legal matters and if they have lost their faith in the legal system Shireen will definitely restore their faith in the National Prosecution Authority.

It will be a pleasure and a great feeling to witness a person like Shireen and other individuals of the same caliber occupying the position of Senior Public Prosecutor. This will be a great reward due to her level of professionalism and the warm reception and hope she gives to any person that enters her office. This attitude is the key to restoring the public's faith in the National Prosecution Authority.

I would like to accentuate that no words can express our gratitude towards Shireen for her competent, diligent and sterling performance during the duration of this trial.

Thank you.

ARROGANCE IS NOT TOLERATED IN THE NPA: NDPP

*Phaladi Shuping
RCM: Free State Division*

"We are the lawyers for the people and that means people must have confidence in us. Arrogance is not tolerated in this organisation. When we put on those gowns, we must not become something else. We must remain humble civil servants because we serve, and that means we are servants. We serve the people of this country, to ensure that as hard as it is for them, we can make it bearable by bringing them justice, and that's what we must remember all the time when we are at work. Humble civil servants, that's what we are", said Adv Batohi.

This is a message the National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Shamila Batohi conveyed to the NPA officials during her visit in Bloemfontein in July. Advocate Batohi visited the Free State and spent time engaging with NPA officials in Bloemfontein on issues that affect their daily work. She kicked off her engagement at the Bloemfontein Magistrates' Court, where she addressed NPA officials that are based there.

In addressing the staff, she emphasised the importance of NPA officials acting as lawyers for the people. She told them that there is no room for arrogance in the NPA because officials are civil servants and therefore, they are the servants of the people of South Africa.

Speaking directly to aspirant prosecutors who were part of the officials that were addressed at the Magistrates' Court, Advocate NDPP told them that they are representatives of the NPA, and they must never be tempted to do anything that will cost them their jobs.

"Do you know how lucky you are? You have one of the best jobs. There are people out there who would like to

be in your positions, and we all know the unemployment rate in this country. Don't take a chance because there is absolutely no room for dishonesty or corruption in the NPA, from the National Director down to the district court prosecutor, aspirants, and support staff. There is zero tolerance. I will support you to the hilt for as long as you do the right thing, you will have my support", she said.

After addressing the officials at the magistrates' court, she went to the DPP Office to address the managers in the region for a second session. The second session was attended by Deputy Directors of Public Prosecutions, Regional Heads, Senior Prosecutors and Control Prosecutors.

In addressing the management team, Batohi stated that it is such an important aspect of the NDPP's work to meet with prosecutors who make things happen in the organisation. She emphasised the important role that prosecutors play in assisting the NPA to achieve its mandate by prosecutors who keep in contact with victims of crime and the population in general. She emphasised the importance of prosecutors prosecuting without fear, favour, or prejudice.

"Prosecuting without fear, favour or prejudice means you do not shield your friends from prosecution, nor target your enemies. If there is evidence against your friend, he must be prosecuted, the same as if there is no evidence against your enemy, you must not manufacture any evidence just because he is a little irritant. It is such a blessing for us to be able to do our jobs. We should be grateful, honoured and blessed to be doing a job that helps people when they are at their lowest. They must see you as people who can help them and you must respond with humility and kindness", said NDPP.

In her parting shot, the NDPP told the officials that no one is bigger than anyone else in the organisation because we all have, roles to play. "Everybody in this organisation has a role. You must be an embodiment of humility, service, and sacrifice. We must serve the victims of crime and help them make the unbearable bearable. It is our job. We are a victim-centered organisation and in serving the victims, we must respond to their needs. The community depends on us and there is no need to be grumpy at work. If you can't smile, stay at home", concluded Batohi.



NDPP, Adv Shamila Batohi, DPP Free State, Adv Navilla Somaru with DPP Free State staff during the visit



PROSECUTORS EMPOWER LEARNERS WITH INFORMATION ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Eric Ntabazalila
RCM: Western Cape Division

Prosecutors from Cape Town and Atlantis Magistrates' Courts engaged learners in their clusters to raise awareness of the rights of children as set out in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Children's Act No. 38 of 2005.

The prosecutors in collaboration with their stakeholders which include, SAPS' FCS Units, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Social Development, Child Line, Rape Crisis, Department of Education, CPF representatives and NGOs dealing with Children and Youth at Risk interacted with learners to raise awareness.

Courts in the Western Cape are inundated with cases involving the abuse, neglect, violence, and the exploitation of children. Police and prosecutors continuously strive to prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes, but also to raise awareness to ensure a safe environment for children.

As part of creating such an environment, prosecutors joined hands with schools in the areas they serve to create awareness about the rights of children. They did presentations on cyber bullying, drug and substance abuse, gangsterism, sexual exploitation and other priority crimes in the areas.

Goodwood District and Regional Courts had an interactive programme with Edward Primary, Goodwood Park Primary, and Goodwood College where learners explained their understanding of Children's Rights using artwork and short essays. Below are excerpts from some of the essays written by the children:



Prosecutors addressing the learners

"... every child needs to be protected and be in a safer environment to live in and to be educated rather than being scared or fearful to go to basic places like school or even their own home. Children shouldn't be scared that people or their own peers might harm them. No child should be bullied, but rather protected from it." – Emily Rachel Meyer, Goodwood Park Primary

"There are many more children who have died, because of child abuse, and there are still children today who suffer from abuse. It isn't fair. No child should suffer from abuse. As they say, "Every child deserves a parent, but not every parent deserves a child." Every child on this earth deserves to be protected and in a safer environment to live in and to be educated rather than being scared or fearful of basic places like school or even their own home. Children shouldn't be scared that people or their own peers might harm them. No child should be bullied, but rather protected, protected from abuse, no matter the bad things they've done. It breaks me knowing that every day I wake up, there's a child in fear of being abused." – Sarah Jane Lotz, Goodwood Park Primary

"As South Africans, we have many traditions and religious beliefs. These may be the cause of people violating the rights of children. Some people use children to make money and others violate children's rights because they do not have the money to maintain these rights." – Lulupho Hlanjuwo, Goodwood Park Primary

"I feel it's important for SAPS and the NPA to come into schools MORE regularly to create more awareness and advise children on the dangers of drug abuse, gangsterism, sexual abuse, child pornography and especially the effects social media and sharing information with the wrong people has on young lives, the consequences of making the wrong choices and following trends that could be detrimental to us as youth." - Taybah Mfumbi, Goodwood College.



NPA staff members with learners from various schools during the awareness session

NPA BIDS FAREWELL TO ADVOCATE CHRISTHENUS VAN DER VIJVER

Pretty Mabanga & Pfano Chililo

Knowledge Management Team: SMO

After 37 years of service in the law profession and having been involved in some of the major cases, Adv Christhenus Van Der Vijver is heading for a well-deserved retirement.

Adv Van Der Vijver began his career in 1986 where he was appointed as a prosecutor in the Bellville District Court in the Western Cape. In 1988, he was appointed as Candidate Attorney where he remained until 1990. In that same year, he was appointed as a prosecutor at the Department of Justice (DoJ) in Cape Town. After two years at the DoJ, he was then appointed as a State Advocate in the former Office of the Attorney General in 1992. Adv. Van der Vijver has contributed immensely towards the Law profession. He provided training to Aspirant Prosecutors in the Western Cape and Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape.

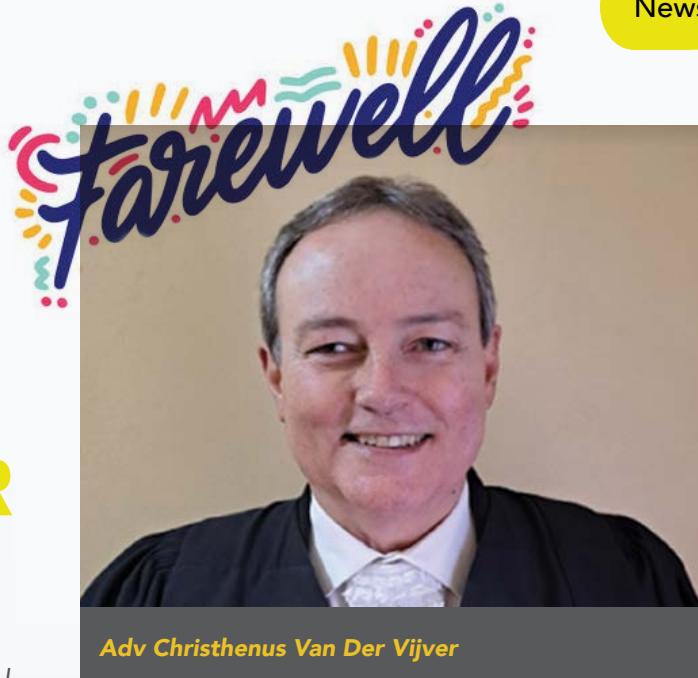
He is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Alcohol & Drug related matters work group under the Technical Committee for Standards and Procedures for Traffic Control Equipment (TCSP). TCSP is a national body consisting of all Directors of Public Prosecution (DPPs) that sit on a committee to make provision for the operational guidelines to ensure the accuracy and reliability of measurement results for fair prosecution relating to speed, drunken driving, overloading and red traffic signal prosecutions. He is also a member of the Traffic Chief Forum (TCF) in the Western Cape.

Life as a Prosecutor:

With his immense knowledge in court work and Traffic Law, Adv Van der Vijver emphasised to his junior prosecutors that they should always remember that they are playing an important role of setting a good example of the country's criminal justice system and ultimately, the NPA. According to Van der Vijver, the most important aspect of his work is decision making, stating that 99% of work as a prosecutor is to make decisions.

He further encourages junior prosecutors to always be open to learn from senior prosecutors and other colleagues, to be patient and to wait their turn while sharpening their knowledge on case law and reading up on case law related articles if they aspire to be successful prosecutors.

"I was always open to learn from someone, I learned a lot from old magistrates, old court orderlies and I taught myself to be patient and to wait my turn while I acquire enough knowledge to equip myself with the required knowledge to be able to perform best in the future".



Adv Christhenus Van Der Vijver

Challenges Faced:

Adv. Van der Vijver highlighted the challenge of incompetent Investigating Officers. *"This has become a great challenge because it is of paramount importance that investigation be done properly."* He further suggested ways to resolve this by stating that training should be provided to ensure Investigating Officers are competent to do proper investigations.

Moreover, Adv. Van der Vijver highlighted that prosecutors and the detectives assigned to the case should interact more often, by so doing, he articulated how it will assist with updating each other of the challenges or difficulties encountered by both parties and how to best solve these challenges in obtaining a conviction.

Advice to the NPA:

According to Adv Van der Vijver, the NPA is facing a challenge of having excellent court prosecutors who get promoted to senior management positions and become Deputies. This means, they do not go to court anymore whilst they have valuable expertise in terms of court work. He advises that measures be taken to explore how to best manage this transition.

"I believe this is something that should be explored because the consequence of this is, if prosecutors do not appear in court as often as they used to, they start to lose confidence. They do not necessarily read up on case law like before due to their new managerial position. Moreover, the NPA should not allow very good prosecutors who have the necessary skills in the lower courts to be lost to the private sector".

Lessons Learnt:

Throughout his successful career, Adv. Van der Vijver stresses the importance of being an honest person and never being too eager to win a case by compromising one's integrity. Additionally, to always be humble and treat everyone with respect.

Message From Adv. Van der Vijver:

I can only wish the NPA the best for the future. However, I do think the NPA must consider making the environment of every employee (particularly in the smallest towns) conducive and ensure the organisation's infrastructure is up to standard. *"If you want a person to be professional, then at least make his environment look professional."*

The NPA wishes him good health and the very best with his future endeavors.

NPA BIDS FAREWELL TO MS KRISTA VESTER

Pretty Mabanga & Pfano Chililo
Knowledge Management Team: SMO

A custodian of the NPA's records, Ms Krista Verster, Director of Library Services and Records Management has taken a befitting retirement after 23 years of immense contribution in the NPA. With over 38 years' experience in Library Service/Information Service, 23 of which are with the NPA, it goes without saying that Ms Verster has had an illustrious career. After completing her studies in 1980, Verster decided to travel the world as part of her gap year before she joined the job market. She started her library career at the then Technikon Pretoria as an Information Specialist in 1983. In 2000, she joined the NPA at the then Directorate of Special Operations (DSO). Her dedication saw her being appointed Director of Library Services in 2006.

Life at the NPA:

With a career that spans over two decades in the NPA, Verster highlights making information resources available to prosecutors as the most important aspect of her job. She further opines that legal officials must have access to up-to-date information for their work and court preparation to be on par with the opposition/ defense. Understanding that information professionals operate within the framework of their organisations, she stresses the importance of documents and records to be stored in line with legislative



prescripts and to also be traceable. Furthermore, there should be compliance with all prescripts such as asset management principles, policies, and quality control as information quality ensures information integrity. Because of the sensitivity of information that the Document Centre manages, Verster cautions against the leakage of sensitive information and emphasises that necessary controls be put in place. "We have to ensure that information leakages do not happen", she said.

Career Highlights:

Ms Verster prides herself on being responsible for the setting up of NPA libraries across the country. She recalls the state of libraries when she started. "The DSO libraries didn't have anything, whilst some regional libraries had old, out of date books. The NPA Head Office library was small with DOJ's donated basic legal collection. There were old Homeland Libraries, the then Transkei, Mmabatho, Thohoyandou and Bhisho offices with very little in those libraries. The libraries were all on a different standard."

She also cites the implementation of the library system that the NPA now uses to manage a collection of over eighty thousand (80 000) books as a significant career milestone!

Lessons Learnt:

She outlines the following as her key lessons learnt:

- Make sure that you have decisions in writing; promises or commitments must be in writing.
- If you follow the correct procedures, things will work out. Procedures are there for a purpose, follow them.
- You must not think you know everything; you learn every day.
- You must know how to communicate and build relationships.

Parting words From Ms. Krista Verster:

"I have been very happy at the NPA, I had opportunities and made the best of them."

NPA BIDS FAREWELL TO ADV HELEN VAN JAARSVELD

Pretty Mabanga & Pfano Chililo
Knowledge Management Team: SMO

Adv Helen Van Jaarsveld is going to a well-deserved retirement. She has four (4) decades of service and has served the NPA as a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for 27 years. She considers her primary expertise to be prosecuting in the High Court. She obtained her B. Juris degree in 1978 at the University of Potchefstroom and her LLB at Unisa in 1992. In 1983, she was admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa. She worked at the master's office for a period of 2 years before she started her career as a prosecutor.

In April 1982, she was appointed as a prosecutor and worked in the magistrate's office in Soshanguve, where she was responsible for a variety of tasks related to the work of a prosecutor. During this period, she also acted as a magistrate presiding over several cases. In 1985 she was transferred to Pretoria Magistrate's office where she oversaw the Occupational and Safety Division of the prosecution. In 1987 she was once again appointed as additional magistrate. She was transferred to the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP): Transvaal (TVL) in January 1988. In 1992, she was promoted to the rank of Senior State Advocate. In June 1996, she was promoted to the rank of Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions.

During the period that she has been stationed at this division, she prosecuted numerous cases, at times on her own, sometimes as a junior, and others as the leader of a team. She also argued numerous appeals in the High Court as well as in the Appellate Division and wrote several opinions in respect of various legal aspects. Several of the cases that she dealt with are reported. She was also a senior member of the team that argued the first case in the Constitutional Court, namely the "death penalty" matter.



Thereafter, she was again involved in constitutional litigation and compiled the heads of arguments and assisted Dr J d' Oliveira in the bail matter in the Constitutional Court. She has written comments on various aspects of legislation inter alia the plea-bargaining process. As a result of her knowledge and experience, she was appointed as a senior member of the so-called "rescue team" of the NPA, which conducted several operations at various offices in the country. The team was appointed shortly after the NPA was founded, with an aim to bring about change in all the offices in the country and to ensure a centralised operational system. She was also on the team appointed by the then Minister of Justice that had to investigate and report on the viability of the HEATH Commission. The Commission was later disbanded and replaced with the Specialised Investigating Unit (SIU).

Recently, Adv Van Jaarsveld was the Roll Planner for the division. She dealt directly with the Judge President and placed the court rolls for the High Court.

According to Adv van Jaarsveld, to become a successful prosecutor, it is essential to acquire certain skills such as: above average knowledge of Criminal Law, drafting skills, decisive decision-making, communication, project management, organisational skills, moreover, knowledge of Law of Evidence, Documentary Evidence and Forensic Evidence. Adv Van Jaarsveld is of the view that the NPA is on the right path with the Aspirant Prosecutor Programme. "Prosecution is a trade, it's not a skill that you have, you need to acquire this skill on the job" she stated.

What would you like to see done differently in the NPA?

Prosecutors should remain prosecutors and be occupational specific. The managerial tasks should be given to those who want to manage. People should have a choice to become specialists or to be in managerial positions because the higher the ranks you occupy, the more managerial tasks become your responsibility and that is not good practice.

Parting message from Adv Van Jaarsveld:

When you are a prosecutor, your job satisfaction comes from how you perform your job. You must always perform the task at hand to the best of your ability. Prosecutors assist with the quality of the jurisprudence of the country. Personally, I am satisfied with the work I have done

VETERAN PROSECUTOR HANGS HIS GOWN

*Luxolo Tyali
RCM: Eastern Cape Division*

After more than 40 years of prosecutorial experience and knowledge, Eastern Cape Division Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (DDPP) for Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit (SCCU), Theunis Christoffel Goosen, affectionately known as "TC", has left an indelible legacy in the entire country, after his recent retirement.

Adv. Goosen was born 65 years ago in Somerset East/KwaNjoli. His parents farmed in the district, and he matriculated at Gill College. He studied at Nelson Mandela University, then known as University of Port Elizabeth, where he obtained a B Juris (junior degree), and a post graduate LLB degree. He began his career as a prosecutor on 18 December 1979 until January 1981 in Gqeberha. He was then conscripted to the South African Defense force for two years where he became a Lieutenant.

From 1983, the married father of two, worked himself up through the ranks to regional court prosecutor and in 1990 joined the office of the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in Makanda. Goosen thereafter joined the late Advocate Estian Pretorius at the newly formed Deputy Directors Office at the High Court in Gqeberha. Goosen became a Senior State Advocate on 1 June 1991.

With hundreds of convictions under his belt, one of the cases he holds dearly is where a rape victim gave him a little card wherein, she wrote: "Thank you, you have really changed my life", after the rapist was sentenced to life. This became his goal to help all victims and make the world a better place.

Other cases that he worked hard on with success include the Bilrich fraud case (Mr Richard Eckert and Mr Albert Garth Bishop) and Gervan Lubbe (the malaria monitor case).



Goosen headed the first SCCU in the Eastern Cape from 01 October 2004 with greatest of success until his retirement. He plans to spend more quality time with his dearest wife, Yvonne, take up farming, and thereafter, he plans to take a long vacation later this year to New Zealand to visit his sister.

Tribute from Senior State Advocate Lise Keech to TC

In The Art of War, Sun Tzu, (771-256 BCE) characterised great leadership as a mixture of five traits: intelligence, credibility, humaneness, courage and discipline.

Adv. Goosen is to his staff all of the above. It will be impossible to replace him, as respect is not acquired but earned. Goosen was the driving force behind every single prosecutor's success at the SCCU in the Eastern Cape. No prosecutor went to court without Goosen checking that the case is properly investigated, that the charge sheets are precise and that a conviction will be guaranteed.

TC's drafting skills are legendary and no heads for appeal to any court in South Africa, including the Constitutional Court were, served without Goosen scrutinising heads of argument and guiding the prosecutor.

He not only stood behind his staff, but was there for them and they knew that they could rely on him completely, at work and in their personal lives. His door was always open, and it was common for him to work till the late hours. He would stay at the office until he has resolved whatever issue his prosecutors might have encountered. He was a force to be reckoned with, but he is also a genuine, compassionate, and patient man.

TC, you will be dearly missed. You were a constant support system that we relied on for assistance and knowledge.

ADVOCATE CHALALE HANGS HIS ROBE AFTER YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE

Phaladi Shuping
RCM: Free State Division

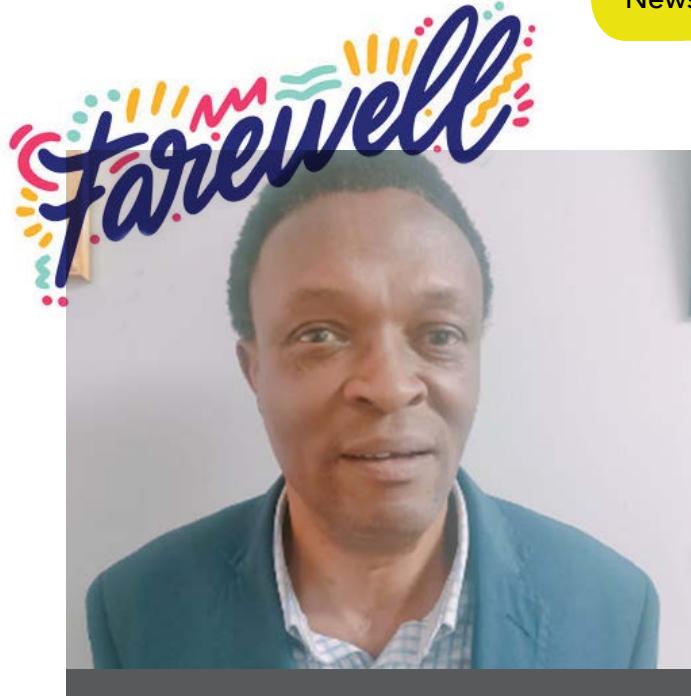
After spending four decades in the field of law, Advocate Silas Chalale will be hanging his robes at the end of September to enjoy his retirement. We speak to Oom Chaks, as he is affectionately known, to find out how the journey has been since he started his job as a lawyer.

What influenced you to be a lawyer?

I used to watch television programs about legal issues when I was young, and I also read law books and articles which inspired my passion for law. After matric, I enrolled to study law at the University of the Western Cape. During my first year, my father's company, which promised to pay for my tuition fees, was liquidated and I struggled financially to continue with my studies and to make matters worse, I was a victim of a near fatal accident and had to suspend my studies for two years.

I took on part time jobs and was berated by my peers. Fortunately, my elder sister managed to secure a bank loan to finance my studies. A hungry stomach, empty wallet and broken heart can teach you the best lessons in life. Despite all these obstacles, I managed to pass my B Juris and LLB degrees and became the first university graduate in my family.

After graduating, I had to start paying off the bank loan and was desperately looking for employment. The bank threatened me with civil action if I failed to start paying off the loan within six months as agreed. My father contacted a member of parliament who referred my plight to the Deputy Minister of Justice, who in turn, requested the head of Justice to arrange a post for me as a prosecutor, due to my background and academic performance.



Adv Silas Chalale

What was your early experience in the legal profession?

I started working at the Odendaalsrus Magistrates' Court as a prosecutor. Within three weeks, I attended a Prosecutors Beginners Course at Justice College. During those years, the accused person did not have access to the contents of the dockets, and we were very skeptical about Legal Aid representation. There were specialised courts and I had to prosecute every matter that was on the court roll. First appearances were done first, then part-heard matters, followed by trials. A new case could be finalised at the very first appearance. Court officials could also enjoy tea together in the morning and maintain their independence and objectivity in court.

After two years as a prosecutor, the then Attorney General instructed me to start prosecuting at the Regional Court. I gained a lot of experience as I appeared before some of the best Regional Court Magistrates. As a result, I was regularly requested by the Attorney General to do chamber work in his office and appeals in the High Court. He then arranged for my admission and later appointed me as an advocate in his office. A few years later, I was appointed as a Senior State Advocate. After serving in this position for twenty years, I was then appointed as Acting Deputy Director and headed various sections for several years until I was replaced by a colleague due to my upcoming retirement.

What is the most important advice you would give to young prosecutors in the NPA?

Be comfortable with who you are and not the person you think you should be or the employee you think your employer wants you to be. Your authenticity will make you unique. Ask if you are not sure because asking for help does not make you weaker or incompetent. Fast-track your career by asking when you need help. Learn legal principles and case laws very well and understand them so that you can apply them correctly and consistently. If you do that you will gain knowledge and understanding of the law. Do not cringe when you face setbacks, people around you will not have confidence in you. Use setbacks as part of the learning process.

GET TO KNOW PCLU

Priority Crimes Litigation Unit (PCLU) was established on 24 March 2003 through a proclamation issued by then President Thabo Mbeki.

Advocate Anton Ackerman was appointed as the Head and Special Director of PCLU and led from 2003 to March 2013 when he retired from NPA.

Since then, many leaders were appointed in acting positions as special directors. Currently, Advocate Gideon Mashamaite is the acting head of the unit.

The unit is mandated to manage and direct investigations and prosecutions of serious national and international crimes, which include the following crimes:

- Acts of terrorism and sabotage committed under the Internal Security Act, 1982 (Act No 74 of 1982). This Act was repealed by the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act No 33. of 2004, as amended- **POCDATARA**.
- High treason
- Sedition
- Contraventions of the Implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Act No 27 of 2002- **ICC ACT**.

The Government is in the process to repeal this Act and substitute it with International Crimes Act,

- Foreign military offences committed by mercenaries under the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act No 15 of 1998-**RFMA Act**

PCLU, through its national office and the offices of the DPP, operates in all nine (9) provinces and covers the whole range of offences mentioned in above.

In July, the PCLU together with various law enforcement agencies such as SSA, FIC, ISS, DCPI CATS, etc. held a Multi Agencies Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering Training. The training was held at FIC and almost 65 officers from various agencies attended the training.

The purpose was to have a joint training for all relevant stakeholders that included prosecutors in the DPP offices and PCLU HQ, DPCI CATS investigators in the regions and Head Office and various section of the DPCI Forensic Accounting, Crime Intelligence, Interpol, SSA and FIC. The training was conducted to enhance the ability, skills and to develop the capacity of officers and prosecutors that deal with terrorism and terror financing investigations and prosecutions. The training was also conducted in compliance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations and in line with SA action plan to FATF recommendations.

The PCLU continues to engage with various stakeholders and provides support to the various structures available that deal with PCLU related matters. This includes, but not limited to, the Counter Terrorism Functional Committee (CTFC) and other sub-committees established to deal with PCLU related matters.



Notable achievements of the PCLU since its establishment:

S v Henry Okah	Nigerian Militant leader on terrorism- 24 years imprisonment	S v HJ Knoesen (2022)	Right-wing in Mpumalanga was convicted for planning terrorist activities was sentenced to life imprisonment .
S v Kiratziidis and Another	Right-wing extremist who conspired to engage in terrorism acts against black ANC members in Phalaborwa- 12 years and 5 years respectively	S v Eric Donald Abrams and Erroll Abrams	sentenced to 7 and half years for TF and planning terrorism activities.
S v Andre Vissagie	AWB Secretary General – Possession of self-made arms and a large quantity ammunition- 5 years imprisonment	S v Brandon-Lee Thulsie and Tony	Lee Thulsie (2022): Convicted and sentenced to 8 and 11 years respective for attempting to leave SA to join ISIL, conspiring to carry terrorism attack in SA and possession of materials connected with the engagement of terrorism.

The PCLU is located at the NPA Head Office and reports to the office of the DNDPP-NPS. The PCLU is a small specialist prosecution unit, embracing expertise in specific categories of complex litigation falling within its mandate.

The Unit is currently led by an Acting Special Director PCLU (DDPP) that reports directly to the DNDPP. There are three (3) Senior State Advocates that report to the Acting Special Director of PCLU.

WHO'S WHO AT PCLU



Adv Gideon Mashamaite
Acting Special Director: Head Office



Adv Kalaivani D Govende
DDPP OCC: DPP KZN



Adv Ntsika Mpumalanga
DDPP OCC: DPP Mpumalanga



Adv Lwazi Ngodwana
Acting DDPP OCC: DPP JHB



Adv Wessel Van Biljon
DDPP OCC: DPP North West



Mr Vernon Nemaorani
DDPP OCC: DPP PTA



Adv Shareen Riley
DDPP OCC: DPP Western Cape



Adv Mashudu Mudau
DDPP: DPP Limpopo



Adv Nomapa Mvandaba
DDPP: Eastern Cape Nodal Point



Adv Sandile Mthethwa
DDPP: Free State Nodal Point



Adv Mpho Makhaga
DDPP: Northern Cape Nodal Point



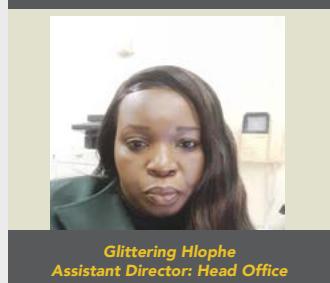
Adv Cornelius Mkhulise
Senior State Advocate: Head Office



Adv Mkhulisi Ntaba
Senior State Advocate: Head Office



Adv Ronnie Sibanda
Senior State Advocate: Head Office



Glittering Hlophe
Assistant Director: Head Office



Tshokolo Mogotsi
Admin Clerk: Head Office



Zamuxolo Nkume
Admin Officer: Head Office

MEET THE NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, SPECIALISED TAX UNIT

Monica Nyuswa
RCM: Mpumalanga Division

Khasho spoke to the newly appointed Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Specialised Tax Unit, Adv. Mokgaetji Juliet Makgwatha.

1. Please tell us a bit about yourself.

I hold a B Proc and LLB degrees obtained in 2001 and 2005, respectively. I attended the School for Practical Legal Training in Pretoria from January to June 2002. I have been in the employ of the National Prosecuting Authority for the past 20 years. I started as an Aspirant Prosecutor from 1 July 2002 to 31 December 2002. I then became a District Court Prosecutor from 1 January 2003 until end of February 2007, wherein I served as a prosecutor in various courts in the lower court, including at a specialised fraud court. From March 2007 I was promoted to the position of State Advocate in the Organised Crime Unit at the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions – Johannesburg. I then joined the Specialist Tax Component in Johannesburg on 01 July 2008 as Senior State Advocate. I thereafter joined the Serious Commercial Crimes Unit – Pretoria, still as Senior State Advocate from September 2009 until July 2010. On 01 August 2010, I joined the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions -Pretoria: General Prosecutions where I prosecuted trio crimes with special focus in offences against vulnerable groups. From May 2018 until 31 July 2023, I was acting as DDPP on an ad hoc basis, managing the Portfolio for vulnerable groups. On 1 August 2023, I was appointed as the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions STU Mpumalanga. I am the current Regional Head for STU in the Mpumalanga Division.

2. You are a woman appointed as Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions; Specialised Tax Unit for the Division, how do feel about your appointment?

Being appointed as the DDPP during women's month is a wonderful and exciting experience. It re-affirms the fact that women are more than capable and have a significant role to play in the management of the NPA and in shaping a formidable NPA. Women have a big role to play in the fight against crime to improve investor confidence in the country and ensure that there is a sense of safety and security felt by the people of this country. This appointment honours the role women of today and those of the future play and will continue to do so in advancing this country.



Adv Mokgaetji Juliet Makgwatha

3. What plans do you have for the Division in fighting Crime?

The Division is strategically positioned to make a big impact in the fight against tax offences. We share borders with two countries and borders are well known to be breeding grounds for various tax related and customs offences. The plan is to intensify the Unit's efforts in these areas and make life very uncomfortable to offenders operating in those spaces. Furthermore, we are home to the biggest and most loved nature reserve, yet another breeding ground for criminality. The plan is to look closely at all criminal matters in the region looking out for tax offences because commercial offenders, money launderers and criminals in general will inevitably also evade paying taxes and are prone to tax related fraud. Working closely with the SCCU and Organised Crime Units, we intend to scrutinise the matters they receive for possible tax offences.

4. What message do you have for aspiring women who also want to see themselves in your position?

To fellow women aspiring for growth in their careers - be intentional about your self-growth and development. Take every opportunity to develop, learn new skills, welcome challenging cases and situations. Every challenge you face and overcome can only make you stronger and wiser. Nothing can replace hard work. Work hard in whatever space you find yourself in. Make your mark and let your light shine brighter. Sooner rather than later, someone is bound to recognise your hard work and dedication. Transfer your skills to other women because it is in teaching that we learn and in learning that we teach.

5. Any other information you want to share with us?

Take time out often. Do things that make you happy with your friends and family. We work in a stressful environment, and it is important to disengage and recharge your batteries. Reward yourself for working hard. You will be a happier, balanced person.

ID EMBRACES EQUITY AND DIVERSITY IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S DAY

Women's Day celebration marks the historic events of 09 August 1956, which attests to the bravery of about 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest legislation aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women in urban areas.

ID EMBRACES EQUITY AND DIVERSITY IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S DAY

*Kholofelo Mogotlane
ID Communications*

The Head of the NPA's Investigating Directorate (ID), Adv. Andrea Johnson, has urged all women to be a true reflection of who they are, either in a social or professional environment. Adv. Johnson was speaking during the commemoration of National Women's Day held on Monday, 07 August 2023 at the ID's Pretoria head office.

Nearly 50 ID women, among them, senior and junior advocates, investigators, and corporate personnel gathered at the company's auditorium for the special occasion in glitz and glamour. The celebration was made possible through the assistance of the NPA HR Transformation's Employee Health and Wellness programme. They provided health screening services through external service providers which included, among others, dental, orthopaedic, optometry, podiatry, and massage services.

Adv Johnson commended all the women for honouring the invitation and making this day a success. She said that for a company to be successful, its workforce needed to be authentic and embrace its different beings and characteristics. Whilst Johnson advised the crowd not to confuse religion with spirituality, she maintained that being a true reflection of oneself will help to align in a diversified environment.

"There is no way you can be productive in a workplace if you are not true to yourself. You need to be authentic and embrace your real being," said Johnson.

Under the theme "Embracing Equity and Diversity", the Women's Day celebration chipped into pressing topics such as transformation and inclusion of women in higher positions, striking balance between work and personal life, as well as dealing with pressure faced by females in the legal profession.

Meanwhile, Dr. Cynthia Khumalo from Eskom, a seasoned and adaptable Social Worker with 29 years of experience in the non-profit making, government as well as State Owned Entities (SOEs) stressed the issue of exclusion of women from occupying managerial positions in most government departments. Although this may not be the case for the NPA, Khumalo encouraged the ladies to embrace each other.

"It's very important to embrace and support one another as women. It is believed that women are not fit to occupy positions of authority. Such stereotypes need to be dealt with and it is us, women, who must change that," said Dr. Khumalo.

The event featured a question-and-answer session with all women asking questions relevant to the subject topic of the day.



Adv Andrea Johnson and Toni Skhosana during the event

Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment

#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2023

In 2007, the Minister of Public Service and Administration launched the PSC Head of Department's 8-Principle Plan of Action. The last week of August has since been reserved as the Public Service Women Management Week on the government calendar. The NPA held a two-day conference on Monday, 28 August and Tuesday, 29 August 2023 in Pretoria, where senior managers from various NPA offices engaged in robust discussions over the implementation of the plan of action. The conference was officially opened by the National Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv Shamila Batohi where senior managers engaged on the NPA's policy framework to empower women. The Strategy, Operations and Compliance division also made presentations on the mentorship and development programmes available to women in the organisation. Various senior managers who are beneficiaries of these programmes also shared their career development journeys to inspire more women to make use of these opportunities.



NDPP and senior managers from various NPA offices during the conference

NDPP CELEBRATES NPA WOMEN AT DPP NORTHERN CAPE

On 11 August 2023, the NDPP, Adv Shamila Batohi addressed NPA Northern Cape women during a Women's Day event, to honour the power and struggles of women who have broken all barriers and reached the pinnacle of success in every sphere of life, under the theme "Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment".



Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment

#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023



DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

DPP	POSTAL ADDRESS	OFFICE NUMBER	DIRECT NUMBER	PHYSICAL ADDRESS
Gauteng Local Division: Adv MA Chauke achauke@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X8 JOHANNESBURG 2000	Tel: 011 220 4000 Fax: 011 220 4232	Tel: 011 220 4122/ 1425 Mamikie Suping	Innes Chambers Building C/o Pritchard and Kruis Streets JOHANNESBURG 2000
Free State Division: Adv N Somaru nsomaru@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X20506 BLOEMFONTEIN 9300	Tel: 051 410 6000 Fax: 051 410 6051	Tel: 051 410 6009 Mpai Noe	Waterval Centre C/o Aliwal & St Andrews Streets BLOEMFONTEIN
Gauteng Division: Pretoria Adv S Mzinyathi smzinyathi@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X 300 PRETORIA 0001	Tel: 012 351 6700 Fax: 012 323 0866	Tel: 012 351 6704 Lizzy Maphutha	Prudential Building 28 Church Square PRETORIA
Northern Cape Division: Mr L Sakata lmsakata@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X5037 KIMBERLEY 8300	Tel: 053 807 4500 Fax: 053 832 9434	Tel: 053 807 4572 Janine Fouche	Wilcon House 22 Fabricia Road KIMBERLEY
KwaZulu-Natal Division: Adv E Harrison EHarrison@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X9008 PIETERMARITZBURG 3200	Tel: 033 845 4400 Fax: 033 392 8700	Tel: 031 334 5094 Nothando Mpisi	7 th Floor 286 Pietermaritz Street PIETERMARITZBURG 3200
Eastern Cape Division: Mr B Madolo bmadolo@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X 1009 GRAHAMSTOWN 6140	Tel: 046 602 3000 Tel: 047 501 2600	Tel: 012 842 1454 Nomfuneko Kamana Tel: 047 501 2655 Lindiwe Gondinduku	94 High Street, GRAHAMSTOWN 6140 Broadcast House, Lower Sissons Street, Fort Gale MTHATHA
Western Cape Division: Adv N Bell nabell@npa.gov.za	Private Bag 9003 CAPE TOWN 8000	Tel: 021 487 7236 Fax: 021 487 7236	Tel: 021 488 7236 Sumi Singh	115 Buitengracht Street CAPE TOWN 8001
North West Division: Dr R Makhari-Sekhaolelo rmakhari@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X2009 MMABATHO 2735	Tel: 018 381 9001/2 Fax: 018 843 1005	Tel: 018 381 9002 Tertia van Biljon	Megacity Complex East Gallery 3139 Sekame Road 3 MMABATHO
Limpopo Division: Adv I Thenga lthenga@npa.gov.za	36 Biccard Street Block B (Floor 5) NPA POLOKWANE 0700	Tel: 015 360 0274	Tel: 015 045 0275 Adelaide Modubu	36 Biccard Street Limpopo High Court Block B (Floor 5) NPA POLOKWANE
Mpumalanga Division: Adv N Kanyane nrkanyane@npa.gov.za	Private Bag X 11266 NELSPRUIT 1200	Tel: 013 045 0620	Tel: 013 045 0634 Sivekati Dlamini	Mpumalanga Division of the High Court 52 Samora Machel and Kaapsehoop Streets NELSPRUIT 1200