



MEDIA STATEMENT

NPA TAKES PART IN FRAUD AWARENESS SEMINAR

03 NOVEMBER 2017

BLOEMFONTEIN: The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in the Free State will take part in a fraud awareness seminar that will be held in Bloemfontein on 16 - 17 November 2017. The NPA will join other institutions such as the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Standard Bank, Free State Treasury, Price Waterhouse Coopers and University of the Free State at the upcoming fraud awareness seminar.

The purpose of this campaign is to promote anti-fraud awareness and education. The seminar will champion the need to proactively fight fraud and help safeguard business and investments from the growing fraud problem.

The seminar is also aimed at encouraging organisations, both in public and private sector to have a tenacious stance of zero tolerance towards fraud and corruption, to set the tone at the top in this regard, to demonstrate through their daily actions and words that fraud and corruption will not be tolerated, to educate employees about the risks of fraud and learn the necessary skills to identify and deter fraud.

The NPA will use this event to present the successes of the two units which are at the forefront of the fight against fraud and corruption. These units are the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit (SCCU) and the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU).

The NPA regards fraud and corruption as key priority crimes and has thus established the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit in August 1999 to specifically address commercial crime and corruption. The SCCU aims to reduce commercial crimes by the effective investigation and prosecution of complex commercial crime. The SCCU's mandate is to accept responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of commercial crime cases.

The client base of the SCCU comprises a broad spectrum of complaints in commercial cases ranging from private individuals, corporate bodies and state departments. The investigation and prosecution process of the SCCU is driven through a combined prosecutor and investigator approach conducive to the methodical planning of the outcome and speedy finalisation of cases registered. There are currently eight Regional Offices of SCCU in South Africa situated

in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town, Kimberley, Mmabatho, Mthatha and Bloemfontein.

The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) was established in May 1999 in the Office of the National Director of Public Prosecutions to focus on the implementation of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act. The AFU was created in order to ensure that the powers in the Act to seize criminal assets would be used to their maximum effect in the fight against crime, particularly organised crime.

The stakeholders will be hosting the seminar in order to promote and educate the members of the public and other interested parties on the impact of fraud in business and government. The stakeholders aim to promote alertness in the developments and current trends which should be considered when possible fraud indicators are realised.

Ends