

8 December 2021

To: Advocate Shamila Batohi
The National Director of Public Prosecutions

Per: E-mail (sbatohi@npa.gov.za)

And To: NMonageng@npa.gov.za and jdschmidt@npa.gov.za

Dear Advocate Batohi

REQUEST TO MEET ON PROSECUTIONS AND INVESTIGATING DIRECTORATE DEVELOPMENTS

We write to you out of concern and respect for your position and situation, having taken over a broken institution in 2019. Following your appointment and the introduction of the Investigating Directorate (ID) in April 2019, OUTA has been extremely supportive, despite having endured years of frustration with the NPA's lack of meaningful action during the Zuma era.

Accordingly, we committed ourselves to provide input and assistance in many cases in the form of manpower, information, systems and more in order to help advance the work of the NPA and ID. We also prepared and referred suspicions criminal activities in terms of Section 27 of the NPA Act, believing it will minimise the leg work that your teams would have to endure on some matters.

Since your appointment in 2019, we were acutely aware that the NPA was addressing capacity challenges and other barriers in order to 'restart the engines'. For this reason, through our communications and media structures, OUTA sought to placate the public's impatience and expectations of the NPA. However, over the past year our patience has begun to wear thin. We have found ourselves unable to defend the inaction of the criminal justice system, especially when it came to many apparent 'solid cases' which have languished or become dormant with very little meaningful advancement to date.

Accordingly, we wrote to Advocate Hermione Cronje on the 9th November 2021 requesting an informal meeting/ discussion with her to obtain input and understanding of why this might be the case. Unfortunately, we received no response to our letter and the recent development of Advocate Cronje's departure therefore comes as no surprise to us.

For this reason, we now turn to you for engagement. We are very pleased at your willingness to engage with civil society on these matters, as recently indicated by you. As such, we respectfully request you to engage with us, preferably at a private meeting with you (in person or virtually), but if not possible, then in a dialogue session with other civil society entities.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Duvenage

CEO – OUTA

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