



AFT PRESS STATEMENT

1 DECEMBER 2025

ON THE SHORTLISTING OF CANDIDATES FOR NDPP

Advocates for Transformation notes the release of the shortlist of six candidates for the position of National Director of Public Prosecutions. This is an appointment of national significance and will influence the direction, credibility, and stability of the National Prosecuting Authority for many years.

The NPA remains central to the protection of the public and the enforcement of the rule of law. It is the institution tasked with confronting corruption, organised crime, gender-based violence, and other serious offences. It continues to operate under considerable strain, and it requires a National Director who can provide principled leadership and rebuild confidence in its work.

The history of appointments to this office has often been marked by instability and litigation. These challenges have weakened public confidence and placed additional burdens on prosecutors who serve under difficult conditions. It is essential that this process results in an appointment that strengthens the institution and promotes continuity and stability.

The Constitution requires that the National Director be a fit and proper person. This standard includes integrity, independence of mind, sound judgment, an ethical record, and a demonstrated commitment to constitutional values. These qualities are foundational to the independence and legitimacy of the prosecuting authority.

The candidates who have been shortlisted bring a range of legal, prosecutorial, and leadership experience, including work in commercial and financial crime, asset recovery, and complex litigation. The NPA requires a National Director capable of revitalising specialised units, rebuilding internal capacity, and ensuring that major matters are prosecuted fairly and consistently.

AFT notes that Adv Menzi Simelane's previous roles as Director-General of the Department of Justice and as National Director of Public Prosecutions have attracted renewed

public interest. AFT does not prejudice any of the issues that have arisen from that period. However, it is essential that the Interviewing Panel interrogates the matter fully and affords Adv Simelane a fair opportunity to explain the circumstances. The overriding duty remains to ensure that every candidate meets the constitutional requirement that they be fit and proper to hold the office.

The authority of the NPA depends significantly on the ethical standing of its leadership. Where questions relating to integrity or professional conduct arise in relation to any candidate, these matters must be approached with care and seriousness. The next National Director must be able to take office without unresolved concerns that may affect the credibility of the institution.

AFT encourages the President to approach this appointment with the greatest regard for the constitutional values that govern the prosecuting service. The decision must reinforce the independence of the NPA, restore confidence in the administration of justice, and affirm the principle that all persons stand equal before the law.

Transformation remains a constitutional imperative. The leadership of the NPA should reflect the values of a capable, inclusive, and representative prosecutorial service. Transformation and excellence must operate together to build an institution that commands public trust.

AFT will continue to observe the process and will contribute where appropriate. The integrity of this appointment is vital to strengthening the rule of law and securing the effective administration of justice in South Africa. **A**

**Issued by the National Executive Committee
of Advocates For Transformation**

Adv Myron Dewrance SC
National Chairperson