

# FOREWORD

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Together with the people of South Africa, the National Prosecuting Authority will this year be celebrating ten years of freedom and democracy.

Apart from celebrating, we will also critically review and reflect upon the role the NPA currently plays in upholding the rule of law, protecting our constitution and enhancing the depth and quality of our democracy. We will be examining how far we have come in fulfilling our vision of a just society where our people can live in safety and security, free from the fear of crime.

In particular we will be examining the functioning of one of our newest and most important constituent parts, namely the Directorate of Special Operations, or the Scorpions, as they are more commonly known.

The phenomenon of serious and organized crime, particularly in its transnational manifestation, is one that poses a real and imminent threat to our democracy and economy. The ever increasing interconnectedness and dynamism of the world we occupy, means that organized crime is more sophisticated than ever in the manner it goes about its business.

I am proud of the role the DSO is starting to play in countering this threat. It has already shown its sophistication, professionalism and organizational mettle by taking on some of the market leaders in crime, the big players who believe they can defraud, smuggle, murder, deceive, threaten and corrupt with impunity.

The NPA welcomes this timely monograph by the Institute of Security Studies. It contains the outcome of an objective and arms-length examination to which we have willingly subjected ourselves.

The reason we adhere to this level of transparency is that it is good for our organisation. It leaves us with a more acute and informed sense of our strengths and our weaknesses. Transparent scrutiny of this kind minimizes the risks of self-delusion. It ultimately makes us do our work better.

For that we are grateful.

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**National Director of Public Prosecutions**