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OCKERT STEFANUS TERBLANCHE, MP
DA DEPUTY SHADOW MINISTER OF POLICE

10 October 2022

Adv. Shamila Batohi

National Director of Public Prosecutions

Delivered per email: communication@npa.gov.za; ndpp@npa.gov.za; id-leads@npa.gov.za

Dear Adv Batohi

SAPS OFFICERS FOUND GUILTY OF RAPE BY IPID DURING 2021/22

As a member of the Portfolio Committee on Police in Parliament, I am hereby formally advising your offices of a recent revelation that has come to light upon the release of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate's Annual Reports for 2021/22 together with the recent release of a Sunday Times article, dated 9 October 2022, in which it has been found that three police officers had been investigated for allegations of rape by internal IPID investigations and let off with a slap on the wrists by SAPS.

As sanctions for their alleged crimes, SAPS merely gave two of the officers written warnings whilst the third officer had their salary suspended. The two officers who received written warnings were situated at the Kuils River station in the Western Cape, and Mount Road station in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape. The third officer was situated in Oudtshoorn, Eastern Cape.

Whilst it is shocking that the officers received such a light slap on the wrist despite IPID recommending sanctions for the allegations of rapes, it is equally shocking that it has been alleged that neither SAPS, nor IPID, have handed over the matter to the NPA for prosecution. Whether an investigation by IPID was conducted internally or not, it does not mean that they are now exempt from additional criminal prosecutions.

I have written to the National Police Commissioner requesting that these cases be referred to your offices (in the event no such cases have been referred). I now write to you as well to advise of this development and request that you please follow up with members of the SAPS and ensure that these officers have their day in court. To refuse would be an injustice to the victims and to the rule of law, especially considering the pandemic of violence against women in this country.

Given the severe nature of this issue, I trust that you will deal with it accordingly and ensure that justice is not only done, but that it is also seen to be done as well.

I am looking forward to your positive response in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Mr O Terblanche
Deputy Shadow Minister of Police
Democratic Alliance