

**Strengthening Prosecution of Corruption at the ODPP**

*The Anti-Corruption Department (ACD) of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has strengthened its capacity to handle corruption cases.*

Justice Abodo headed the Anti-Corruption Department (ACD) at ODPP from 2010 until 2018, when she was appointed as a Justice to the Criminal Division of the High Court. From 2015 until the time she left, she worked closely with SUGAR TAF. This was a particularly noteworthy relationship which resulted in impressive improvements in her department’s conviction rate.

The relationship between the ACD of the ODPP and SUGAR TAF has been a collegial one that benefitted from Justice Abodo’s clear vision for her department. Specific areas of support that SUGAR TAF provided to the ACD included, staff training, and help in clarifying and improving processes related to the prosecution of cases. In addition, SUGAR TAF provided critical case support, especially on a number of complex high profile cases, and provided technical support to improve usage and usability of the ODPP’s existing digital Prosecution Case Management Information System (PROCAMIS).

One aspect of SUGAR TAF’s support that both Justice Abodo and Leam Thompson, the SUGAR TAF Asset Recovery Advisor agree worked particularly well was the provision of informal in-house training sessions for the ODPP ACD prosecutors, done at Justice Abodo’s request. Topics included financial profiling, various aspects of asset recovery (such as assessment, beneficial ownership, etc.), or simply discussing a particular case that someone in the department was working on. The practicality and informality of these, plus the fact that they were driven by specific and immediate needs of the department, made them particularly effective.

“If you look at the conviction statistics at the Anti-Corruption Court, ODPP has always been the highest. In recent years, the quality of the work that we’re presenting has improved greatly...A Court of Appeal Justice gave us a compliment – he said, “I like to handle appeal cases from the DPP.” When a judge says that, it means you’re actually engaging them... So we improved greatly...People said, it’s just because you have SUGAR TAF. Yes, but it also takes us to see where our needs are and apply what we have learned.”

- Justice Jane Abodo, former head of the Anti-Corruption Department at ODPP

Justice Mike Chibita, the Director of Public Prosecutions at the time, notes SUGAR TAF's support on a particularly complex high profile case as being significant. As he describes it, the case had stagnated until SUGAR TAF brought in experts to work with the ODPP on it. Justice Abodo explains that she pinpointed particular areas where the case was getting bogged down and SUGAR TAF then targeted additional support to those areas: "We lacked expert support on handwriting and it was delaying us so much. We only have about three handwriting experts in the country, and they are handling so many dockets. So we asked SUGAR TAF 'Is it possible for you to facilitate two handwriting experts to work on weekends to produce this report?' So they did this, and produced the report within a month." Working together on the case allowed ODPP prosecutors to learn new skills and approaches from SUGAR TAF Advisors, many of whom have extensive experience in other jurisdictions.

The results of this positive collaboration speak for themselves, and continue to multiply with present and ongoing work of the ODPP. One exciting development is the decision to increase the profile and scope of asset recovery efforts within the ODPP by upgrading the existing asset recovery unit to a department, thereby broadening the ODPP's asset recovery mandate to cover all acquisitive crime.