Widespread support for draft DNA bill

DNA evidence is more important and accurate than fingerprints, and can exonerate the innocent as well as convict the guilty.

by Omeshe Naidoo

DNA database index

For the effective management of the National DNA Database of South Africa (NDDA), the new DNA bill proposes the creation of five different sections in which DNA profiles are be established, namely:

1. The Crime Scene Index, containing DNA profiles collected from crime scenes.
2. The Reference Index, containing DNA profiles taken from people suspected, reported, charged or convicted for any recordable offence.
3. The Convicted Offender Index, containing DNA profiles of convicted offenders.
4. The Elimination Index, containing DNA profiles of people working in the collection and analysis of forensic samples.
5. The Volunteer Index, containing DNA profiles of, as well as people requesting their profiles to be kept on the database. Parents may volunteer to record their children’s DNA on the Volunteer Index in case they ever go missing.

The Crime Scene Index, the Reference Index and the Convicted Offender Index are the most crucial for criminal investigators, as they play an important role in the resolution of the crime. The Elimination Index is used to identify if a crime scene sample is taken from the scene of a crime (hair, blood and semen). The Volunteer Index is used to identify if the perpetrator is unknown. The Volunteer Index is used to identify if the perpetrator has been investigated if there are profiles already available on the NDDA. The Volunteer Index is used to identify if the perpetrator has been investigated if there are profiles already available on the NDDA. The Volunteer Index is used to identify if the perpetrator has been investigated if there are profiles already available on the NDDA.

Since the advent of DNA technology, it has revolutionized the system in South Africa. DNA profiling has become an essential tool in identifying individuals and solving crimes.

DNA was first discovered in 1953 by Swiss physiologist Friedrich Miescher. Since then, technology has advanced leaps and bounds, to the point that it is now considered a vital tool in identifying an individual’s presence at a crime scene.

The draft bill, which is currently being debated in Parliament, will allow for a database of DNA profiles to be established, which will enable the authorities to identify suspects and link them to crimes.

The provision of DNA reference samples for the purpose of creating a DNA database, is provided for in the law. The database will be used to identify and convict criminals, and will also be used to exonerate innocent individuals.

A DNA profile is difficult to dispute, but can also be used to link the correct suspect to the crime.

The DNA database will be used to identify the suspect and exonerate the wrongful prisoner.

The database will also be used to identify the identity of the suspect and exonerate the wrongful prisoner.

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While this might sound like a new development, one must consider that the bill states the requirement to acquire a reasonable amount of scientific skills, said professor of constitutional law Karin Govender. Our most important concern, must be that the suspect to the crime is linked to the crime, and not just that the suspect has a DNA profile.

We are not in the position of saying to the minister of justice that there needs to be a DNA profile of a suspect. We have a DNA profile of a suspect, but we do not know if the suspect is the perpetrator.

Even if a perpetrator is not identified through the NDDA, crimes may be linked to each other in this way, thereby adding an investigation and potentially leading to the identification of a suspect.

By Omeshe Naidoo

Lynch

THE MERCURY

FOORD

Crime scene forensic specialists gather evidence in the garage of a house in Bryanston where a large amount of drugs and related chemicals were found to be used in the manufacture of drugs was found last.