

DNA PROJECT

EXPANDING SA'S DNA CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE DATABASE

For more information about this exciting project, visit www.dnaproject.co.za, email info@dnaproject.co.za or fax 086 684 8018.

The DNA PROJECT

DNA analysis is considered the new gold standard for criminal investigation. As such, the DNA Project is committed to advancing justice through the expanded use of DNA evidence in conjunction with a National DNA Criminal Intelligence Database.

The impact of DNA profiling in South Africa is limited, and despite the profound success of DNA analysis and its revolutionary effect in the resolution of crime throughout the world, it remains a resource that is underutilised in South Africa.

With the intention of growing the national DNA Criminal Intelligence Database, the DNA Project plays a role in educating the public, amending current legislation relating to DNA sampling and driving ongoing diagnostic reviews of the South African Forensic Science Laboratory.

The DNA project's main goal is to develop and expand the National DNA Criminal Intelligence Database to the point where it provides a conclusive form of evidence to prosecute serious offenders, exonerate the innocent, as well as act as a deterrent of serious and repeat offenders in the future. This will be achieved by:

- Educating the lower level police officers, security services , emergency services and general public to safeguard a crime scene in order to maintain and preserve the integrity of DNA evidence. Hand-in-hand with this education process is the need to develop a Forensic DNA post-graduate course at a Tertiary Education facility which will provide DNA analyst training as well as offer continuing education to these graduates.
- Effecting changes in existing legislation which currently prevents DNA samples from being collected from convicted offenders. The amendment of current legislation will ensure that the DNA profiles of convicted offenders are added to the national DNA database, thereby making full use of the power of DNA technology to solve crimes and act as a deterrent.
- Raising funds to equip the South African Forensic Science Laboratory (SAFSL) with crucial and much needed DNA profiling equipment, which will help to reduce the current backlog of unanalysed DNA samples and biological evidence. The more equipment that is given to the FSLs, the more chance we will have of improving the FSL capacities to analyse more DNA samples, which translates into a larger National DNA Database.
- Acquiring the services of teams from developed DNA Database administrations, to perform ongoing diagnostic reviews of the SA FSL, the outcome of which will be a comprehensive findings report with recommendations to support the enhancement of DNA Processing in SA, including proposed solutions to meet the recommendations.

