

No.	Date / Period	Institution / Body Dismantled or Destroyed	References (All Sources Found)	Impact Summary: Oversight & Public Protection Loss (≤50 words)
4	2008 – Jan 2009 (formally disbanded)	<b>Directorate of Special Operations (DSO / 'Scorpions')</b> [Type: Elite anti-corruption & organised crime unit within NPA – DISBANDED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wikipedia, 'Scorpions (South Africa)' <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorpions_(South_Africa)">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorpions_(South_Africa)</a></li> <li>• SAFLII, Glenister v President [2011] ZACC 6 <a href="https://www.saflii.org/za/cases/ZACC/2011/6.html">https://www.saflii.org/za/cases/ZACC/2011/6.html</a></li> <li>• Transparency International, 'South Africa's fight against corruption weakened,' May 2008 <a href="https://www.transparency.org/en/press/20080506-south-africas-fight-against-corruption-weakened">https://www.transparency.org/en/press/20080506-south-africas-fight-against-corruption-weakened</a></li> <li>• Corruption Watch, 'Scorpions' downfall due to political interference,' Oct 2018 <a href="https://www.corruptionwatch.org.za/political-interference-in-south-africas-elite-anti-corruption-unit-leads-to-impunity/">https://www.corruptionwatch.org.za/political-interference-in-south-africas-elite-anti-corruption-unit-leads-to-impunity/</a></li> <li>• ResearchGate, 'Countering corruption in SA: Rise and fall of Scorpions and Hawks' <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301275880">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301275880</a></li> <li>• NPA, 'Lessons From The Scorpions In Tackling Complex Corruption,' Mar 2022 <a href="https://www.npa.gov.za/media/en/investigating-directorate-sting-lessons-scorpions-tackling-complex-corruption">https://www.npa.gov.za/media/en/investigating-directorate-sting-lessons-scorpions-tackling-complex-corruption</a></li> <li>• ISS Africa, 'The Case For and Against the Scorpions,' Jan 2008 <a href="https://issafrica.org/iss-today/the-case-for-and-against-the-scorpions">https://issafrica.org/iss-today/the-case-for-and-against-the-scorpions</a></li> <li>• National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Act 56 of 2008</li> <li>• SABC News Facebook, Mar 2026 (historical context post)</li> </ul>	<i>Disbanding the Scorpions – with an 82–94% conviction rate – destroyed South Africa's most effective anti-corruption unit. Replacement Hawks had ~50% detection rates. Political motivation was transparent: Zuma faced 780+ charges. Loss of institutional independence cost the public billions in undetected corruption and organised crime proceeds.</i>