

Press statement by the GCB on new cabinet


The General Council of the Bar of South Africa (the GCB) congratulates President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe and the new cabinet on their respective appointments and wishes them, individually and collectively, every success in the discharge of their duties in high office.

The GCB again offers its continued support to government in

maintaining and upholding the rule of law, and in strengthening the respect owed and to be shown to the institutions of democracy in our country.

We make special mention of welcoming the appointment of Minister Jeff Radebe, MP as the new Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, and Deputy Minister Andries Nel, MP as the new Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. We look forward to speedily cementing a warm and healthy working relationship with them. We pledge to them our continued support in providing the Bar's long-standing and traditional assistance in all matters relating to the administration of justice in South Africa.

Patric M Mtshaulana, chairman, General Council of the Bar of South Africa, Johannesburg

11 May 2008 

Judicial Service Commission: Media statement

At its meeting held in Cape Town on 8 June 2009, the JSC decided by a majority to postpone the interviews of all candidates for judicial appointments. The reasons for postponement were the following:

1 The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development requested a postponement to consider the following:

- the enhancement of the independence of the judiciary and;
- the vital question of the transformation of the Judiciary in terms

of the Constitution with regard to race and gender representivity in order to facilitate meaningful input into the appointment process.

2 The JSC also felt that the eight new members are not at this stage au fait with the processes and procedures of the JSC and did not have adequate time to prepare for the meeting. These new members were confirmed by parliament on 26 May 2009.

3 The JSC further decided to use the time set aside for this sitting to deal with all other items on the agenda, including the induction of new members and complaints against judges.

4 The JSC intends to set down a date for the next sitting as soon as possible.

5 The JSC expresses its regret and tenders its apology to all the candidates who made themselves available for interviews for judicial appointment.

8 June 2009 

Law Deans' Association (SALDA)

At a recent meeting held at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth the South African Law Deans' Association, composed of the deans of all law faculties and law schools at South African universities, resolved to make the statement below.

Statement on concerns and public responsibilities regarding the role and rule of law in South Africa

Recognising the adverse impact of recent events and rhetoric in the public domain affecting legal institutions and the role of law;

Recognising further the opportunities presented by a new phase in the evolution of our constitutional democracy;

Affirming its commitment to the constitutional dispensation and the role of the courts and institutions created thereby and the role of law in our society as an instrument of transformation, and

Affirming the importance of law as a mechanism for the ordering and progressive development of society and the supremacy of the Constitution as the framework for political processes,

SALDA –

Calls on politicians, lawyers and other role-players to accept their collective responsibility to maintain and enhance the effective functioning of the legal system and to promote public respect for its institutions and processes, in particular: the judiciary, the Judicial Service Commission, the Chapter 9 institutions and the National Prosecuting Authority;

Cautions against public discourse which undermines the significant gains made in the establishment of our constitutional democracy;

Reaffirms the commitment of the deans of law to the values and principles embedded in our legal system in terms of the Constitution;

Asserts the importance of legal education for the proper functioning of the legal system;

Affirms our responsibility to produce lawyers with the necessary analytical skills, critical disposition and independence of thought to play a meaningful role in the further development of our society, and **Calls** upon all legal educators and stakeholders to exert their energies to these ends.

Issued by Professor Francois Venter, President, Potchefstroom, on 13 May 2009. Enquiries: Francois.Venter@nwu.ac.za

This statement is also subscribed to by the Council of the Society of Law Teachers of Southern Africa

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