



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRESS RELEASE

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**LAW SOCIETY URGES JSC TO DEAL WITH ALLEGATIONS OF RACISM
EXPEDITIOUSLY AND TRANSPARENTLY**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) joins other bodies in expressing its serious shock and concern at reports that have emerged regarding alleged racist comments made by North Gauteng High Court Judge Mabel Jansen a year ago. The context of the comments and the reason for the one-year delay in reporting these are unclear.

The Judicial Service Commission (JSC) has confirmed that it has received a formal complaint and will deal with it in the prescribed manner.

The LSSA urges the JSC to deal with this matter expeditiously and in a transparent manner so as not to aggravate what is already an inflammatory and complex situation around the issues of racism in our country. 'Racist comments as we have seen repeatedly this year – and more so from a judge – are polarising and traumatic for our society. Society demands an explanation,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Jan van Rensburg and Mvuso Notyesi.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH
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Editor's note:

The Law Society of South Africa brings together its six constituent members – the Cape Law Society, the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society, the Law Society of the Free State, the Law Society of the Northern Provinces, the Black Lawyers Association and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers – in representing South Africa's 24 000 attorneys and 5 000 candidate attorneys.