



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRESS RELEASE

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**LAW SOCIETY EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN AT VIEWS BY PRESIDENT ZUMA
ON THE COURTS**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) expresses grave concern at the comments relating to the courts made by President Jacob Zuma when addressing a gathering of Traditional Leaders in Pretoria yesterday.

'The principle of *audi alteram partem* – or 'listen to the other side' – is vested in our legal system, and the insinuation that our courts listen only to one side of a story is ludicrous,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Mvuso Notyesi and Jan van Rensburg.

They add: 'The fact that this address – and the views relating to the courts – was made shortly after our highest court, the Constitutional Court, found that the President's actions in relation to the Public Protector's '*Secure in Comfort*' report had been inconsistent with the Constitution, illustrates the President's persistence in flouting the Rule of Law.'

The Co-Chairpersons stress that the President's comments are regrettable and call on President Zuma to acknowledge clearly that South Africa is a constitutional democracy where the Rule of Law, the courts, the judiciary and the judgments of the courts must be respected by all, including the Government and the Head of State.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH
AFRICA, MVUSO NOTYESI AND JAN VAN RENSBURG**

by the Law Society of South Africa Communication Department

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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 23 600 attorneys and 5 400 candidate attorneys.