LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS RELEASE

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LAW SOCIETY WELCOMES RELEASE OF *STATE OF CAPTURE* REPORT AND ALSO THAT NDPP IS TO BRIEF JUSTICE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WITHDRAWAL OF CHARGES AGAINST FINANCE MINISTER

The Law Society of South Arica (LSSA) welcomes the order by the Gauteng High Court this morning that the Public Protector's report on the 'State of Capture' had to be released by the Office of the Public Protector this afternoon. 'We urge the court to consider punitive costs against the President for bringing what was patently an unfounded application to interdict the release of the report and then withdrawing it. The cost of all the teams of counsel should not be borne by the taxpayer,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Mvuzo Notyesi and Jan van Rensburg.

The LSSA also welcomes the remedial action by the Public Protector that the President is to appoint a commission of inquiry within 30 days headed by a judge solely selected by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, who must provide the name of the judge to the President for this purpose. The commission must be properly resourced and it must present the report with findings and recommendations to the President within 180 days. The President must then submit a copy with an indication of his intentions regarding the implementation to Parliament within 14 days of releasing the report.

In addition, the LSSA welcomes the fact that the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services has called National Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv Shaun Abrahams, to brief it on Friday on the recent developments in the National Prosecuting Authority and specifically the withdrawal of charges against Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan. 'We trust that the portfolio committee will, after the briefing on Friday, also consider recommending an investigation into the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation – The Hawks,' say Mr Notyesi and Mr Van Rensburg.

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

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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 24 300 attorneys and 5 000 candidate attorneys.