



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS RELEASE

9 June 2010: For immediate release

**ATTORNEYS READY TO ASSIST WITH EXPEDITIOUS FUNCTIONING OF
SPECIAL WORLD CUP COURTS**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) is pleased to announce that some 500 attorneys in private practice and 108 attorneys from Legal Aid SA are available to assist with the efficient functioning of the specially designated 24-hour courts that will expedite World Cup tournament-related matters. This is in terms of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Administration of Justice Blue Print spearheaded by Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Jeff Radebe.

'Attorneys in private practice as well as attorneys from Legal Aid SA – who are also members of the law societies – are available at all the special courts attached to the stadiums throughout the country to ensure that cases are disposed of efficiently as soon as possible, and not postponed to after the World Cup, particularly if they involve foreign visitors,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Max Boqwana and Peter Horn.

They add: 'This initiative will go some way to ensuring that these matters are not added to the already congested court rolls.'

The special courts, which will operate in two shifts from 08h30 until 16h30 and again from 16h30 until 23h00, and will deal with offences

- committed by non-resident supporters,
- committed against non-resident supporters,
- to which a non-resident is a witness to a crime, or
- committed at a tourist attraction or any other place in the country which in the opinion of a Senior Public Prosecutor will classify the offence as a 2010 FIFA World Cup case.

Legal Aid SA attorneys will assist clients who qualify in terms of the means test for legal aid and attorneys in private practice will deal with all other matters.

'If this system of special courts works well, and taking into account all available resources, it could prove to be a useful model that can be followed as part of other initiatives to expedite access to justice and to the courts,' say Mr Horn and Mr Boqwana.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AFRICA, MAX BOQWANA AND PETER HORN**

by Barbara Whittle
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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 19 000 attorneys and 4 900 candidate attorneys.

In Afrikaans items, please refer to the 'Prokureursorde van Suid-Afrika'.