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LAW SOCIETY CONGRATULATES DR DLAMINI-ZUMA ON AU POST; URGES HER TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AGAINST DICTATORSHIPS, TYRANNY AND ATTACKS ON DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) congratulates Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma on her appointment to a symbolically powerful position on the African Continent as Chairperson of the African Union Commission. 'We believe that Dr Dlamini-Zuma, as a woman venturing into the male-dominated AU, will be a champion for the rights of women and children on a continent which has seen the rights of women and children ravaged by wars, looting, rape and poverty,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Krish Govender and Jan Stemmett.

They add: 'Dr Dlamini-Zuma will have to provide the leadership which the AU is finding hard to provide against dictatorships, tyranny and attacks on democratic institutions. She must deal firmly with autocratic rulers on our continent and on our doorstep, like Swaziland, where the legal and judicial system has been under serious attack and has been compromised. In addition, the ongoing crisis in Zimbabwe and the flood of political refugees flowing into South Africa from all parts of Africa are an indication of the challenges that Dr Dlamini-Zuma faces. The flow of arms into Africa instead of food, health and educational aid, and the promotion of wars by western countries under the guise of 'regime change', must be reversed under Dr Dlamini-Zuma's leadership. These and a myriad of other challenges await her. Celebrating her appointment must be seen in the context of the enormous odds facing her in leading our continent into an era of justice, prosperity, peace, education and health for all who inhabit it. The LSSA is committed to supporting all of Dr Dlamini-Zuma's initiatives to realise this dream for Africa.'

'However, the LSSA must note with some regret that while the appointment of Dr Dlamini-Zuma is Africa's gain, as South Africans we do not celebrate the loss of a Cabinet Minister who set standards for efficiency and leadership which are in short supply in South Africa,' note Mr Govender and Mr Stemmett.

Also, the LSSA adds its voice to the call made by the SADC Lawyers Association (SADCLA) – of which the LSSA is a member – that the SADC Tribunal be reopened after being shelved for the past two years. The need to hold leaders in Southern Africa accountable for gross human rights against their people is becoming more imperative by the day. The rights of SADC citizens to access justice are being undermined,' say Mr Govender and Mr Stemmett.

[Click here](#) to read SADCLA press release.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, KRISH GOVENDER AND JAN STEMMETT

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About the LSSA:

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 21 000 attorneys and 5 000 candidate attorneys.