



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LAW SOCIETY OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO SAPS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF DAVEYTON INCIDENT**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) wishes to add its voice to those organisations condemning the actions of members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) who were involved in the recent Daveyton incident which led to the tragic death of a taxi driver. The conduct of these individuals and the way they dealt with the deceased was viewed across the world, causing condemnation internationally.

The action of the authorities to arrest and suspend the alleged culprits swiftly after the incident is commended.

The LSSA's Criminal Law Committee has met with the SAPS to try and deal with and assist with training initiatives where possible in respect of problems that are faced by SAPS members in their duties.

The LSSA is conscious of the fact that many police officers have been killed in performing their work and that they are often at the receiving end of violence when trying to combat the high incidence of violent crime in South Africa. The actions of police in general in resorting to violence against citizens are very worrying. They may be symptomatic of serious post-traumatic stress levels within the SAPS.

The LSSA calls on the SAPS leadership to put in place structures urgently to prevent this type of incident happening again. A formal enquiry needs to be held involving participation of all role players, including the public, to try and assist the police in combatting crime, as well as to ensure that the police are trained in dealing properly with situations similar to that which took place in Daveyton.

'At all times the rights of people – including foreign nationals – who are arrested must be protected and the procedures that are in place must be followed to ensure that violence is eliminated,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Krish Govender and Jan Stemmett.

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

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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 21 400 attorneys and 5 800 candidate attorneys.