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LSSA URGES SPEEDY INVESTIGATION BY THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MINISTER SHICEKA

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) welcomes the referral by the joint chairpersons of Parliament's ethics committee of the allegations of the abuse of public office by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Sicelo Shiceka, for investigation by the Public Protector. The LSSA urges the Public Protector to treat this investigation as urgent and to publish her report speedily, particularly since this appears to be the first time that the ethics committee had referred such a request to the Public Protector.

'Although the LSSA cannot prejudge the issue, the public is entitled to a proper explanation. Unauthorised and fruitless expenditure violates good governance and is unlawful,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Praveen Sham and Nano Matlala.

They add: 'Corruption and wasteful expenditure are a cancer in our society. Any inference and allegation of corruption must be investigated publicly and urgently at the highest level and the necessary steps taken to bring those involved to book. It is unconscionable and shameful for Ministers to live lives of opulence while millions of South Africans are living in abject poverty.'

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, PRAVEEN SHAM AND NANO MATLALA

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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 20 000 attorneys and 5 000 candidate attorneys.

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