



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRESS RELEASE

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**LAW SOCIETY CONGRATULATES NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MICHAEL MASUTHA**

On behalf of the attorneys' profession, the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) congratulates new Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Michael Masutha on his appointment to head the newly combined Department of Justice and Correctional Services.

We note the thinking behind the combination of two large and challenging departments to be guided by the intention to improve efficiency in the criminal justice system. We wish the Minister well in this regard. We are pleased to note that two deputy ministers have been appointed to support him in this enormous task, namely former Deputy Justice Minister John Jeffery who will be responsible for the justice and constitutional development component and former Deputy Defence Minister Thabang Makwetla who will be responsible for the correctional services portfolio.

The LSSA offers its support to Minister Masutha and his deputies, and looks forward to an early meeting with him in order to discuss various issues affecting the legal profession and its service to the public generally; but in particular the LSSA wishes to expedite discussions around setting an agenda for the implementation of the transitional National Forum envisaged in the Legal Practice Bill. Although the Bill is awaiting assent by the President, the LSSA believes that much of the preparatory work can be initiated to start implementing the new legal dispensation as envisaged in the Bill.

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

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 22 400 attorneys and 5 600 candidate attorneys.