



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA
PRESS RELEASE

26 March 2015: For immediate release

**LAW SOCIETY SHOCKED AND CONCERNED AT SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR
JAILED SWAZI HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, THULANI MASEKO**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) is shocked and disturbed at reports that jailed Swazi human rights lawyer Thulani Maseko has been placed in solitary confinement at Big Bend Prison for a period of three weeks.

The LSSA joins the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) in expressing its deepest concern and condemning this measure in the strongest possible terms.

'The LSSA urges the South African government to intervene with the Swazi authorities and to join the legal profession in condemning this latest development,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons Richard Scott and Busani Mabunda.

In March 2014 the LSSA joined the SADC Lawyers Association and law societies from across the region in condemning the irregular and arbitrary arrest – and later the incarceration – of Mr Maseko and Editor of *The Nation*, Bheki Makhubu, on contempt of court charges for writing and publishing editorials that were critical of the Kingdom of Swaziland, its governance and judicial system.

The LSSA continues to condemn the subversion of legal proceedings and internationally accepted legal and human rights principles by Swaziland's Chief Justice, Michael Ramodibedi, as well as by the judicial and correctional systems in the country.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH
AFRICA, RICHARD SCOTT AND BUSANI MABUNDA**

by the Law Society of South Africa Communication Department

Tel: (012) 366 8800 or Website: www.LSSA.org.za

Contact: Barbara Whittle, Communication Manager, barbara@LSSA.org.za (012) 366 8800 or 083 380 1307

Nomfundo Manyathi-Jele, nomfundom@LSSA.org.za (012) 366 8800 or 072 402 6344

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 23 000 attorneys and 5 500 candidate attorneys.

The Law Society of South Africa is a member of the SADC Lawyers Association.