



**LAW SOCIETY**  
OF SOUTH AFRICA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: 29 January 2008  
For immediate release

**LAW SOCIETY CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF RULE OF LAW IN KENYA**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) calls on the parties involved in the election dispute in the Republic of Kenya to work speedily to restore the rule of law and the human rights and dignity of the people of the country.

'The election process at the end of December and the ensuing disputed outcome which have led to the widespread political violence and abuse of human rights are of grave concern. We call on the Kenyan leadership to heed the calls of the people and reach a settlement which will restore peace, security and justice in this once-stable East African country,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons David Gush and Henry Msimang.

The LSSA lauds the efforts by the international community to assist the Kenyan leadership in reaching a settlement, particularly the mediation efforts of former United Nations Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan and Ms Graça Machel under the auspices of the African Union, among others.

The Chairperson of the LSSA's Human Rights Committee, Vincent Saldanha, says: 'The LSSA calls on law societies and bar associations in the region to support the progressive lawyers' organisations that are working in the mediation process in Kenya. He added: 'Lawyers have a critical role to play especially in times of such grave conflict. We support the efforts of the Law Society of Kenya and the East African Law Society in their endeavours to assist in securing a just peace in Kenya.'

The LSSA also adds its voice to those of the SADC Lawyers Association and the International Bar Association which recently called for the restoration of democratic rights and the rule of law in Kenya, and for those who have committed crimes and atrocities against the Kenyan people to be held accountable and brought to justice.

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 17 500 attorneys and 3 500 candidate attorneys.

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

*ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LSSA CO-CHAIRPERSONS AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
STANDING COMMITTEE*

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