



## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

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### **RAF AND LAW SOCIETY COMMIT TO A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP AND TO ROOTING OUT CORRUPTION**

The Road Accident Fund (RAF) and the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) have committed to maintaining mutually beneficial relations to ensure that the best interests of road accident victims are served. In addition, both organisations are dedicated to actively rooting out fraud and corruption in the road accident claims process.

On 12 September 2013, the RAF hosted a high-level delegation from the LSSA at its head office in Centurion. The meeting was initiated by the LSSA with a view to discussing matters of mutual interest and establishing channels for continuing communication and co-operation. The Co-Chairpersons of the LSSA, Kathleen Matolo-Dlepu and David Bekker, were accompanied by members of the LSSA's Management Committee and directorate. In addition to the RAF management team, RAF Board members Messers Tondani Moyo and Jerry Masekoameng were part of the meeting, which was co-chaired by RAF CEO, Dr Eugene Watson, and Mr Bekker. Dr Watson outlined the state of his organisation and took the opportunity of highlighting its new structure, challenges and plans going into the future. He introduced the organisational flagship projects that include the Road Accident Benefit Scheme and RAF on the Road, as well as the Customer Services Centres. He also emphasised the importance of the roles that these projects will play in improving claimants' lives.

From the LSSA's side, the importance of maintaining good relations between the two organisations and significance of constant engagement on all matters of mutual interest were highlighted. In addition, it was stressed that both organisations have a joint obligation to root out fraud and corruption, which has had dire consequences to the reputations of the RAF and attorneys' profession. A joint strategy to deal with criminal elements in and outside of both organisations should be considered. Both parties committed themselves to sharing information with each other promptly.

Key areas of mutual concern such as fraud, delays in finalising claims, the accumulated backlog of both claims and bills of costs, underutilisation of undertakings issued for

future medical treatment, and the costs associated with the finalisation of claims, were identified. Suggestions were tabled in order to improve delivery of compensation to claimants.

Mr Moyo thanked the LSSA on behalf of the RAF Board and highlighted the Board's appreciation for the LSSA initiating the long-overdue meeting.

Both the RAF and the LSSA are committed to maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship in the interests of the public they both serve.

***ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, KATHLEEN MATOLO-DLEPU, AND DAVID BEKKER AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE ROAD ACCIDENT FUND, DR EUGENE WATSON***

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