



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS RELEASE

4 March 2011: For immediate release

**LAW SOCIETY URGES SPEEDY EXPLANATION FOR SAPS INCURSION AT
OFFICE OF PUBLIC PROTECTOR**

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) has raised its serious concern at the lack of clarity around the so-called 'raid' by the Crime Intelligence Unit of the South African Police Service (SAPS) at the Office of the Public Protector earlier this week. 'We urge the National Commissioner to clarify the situation speedily and to explain whether the correct procedural steps were taken in carrying out the unannounced incursion,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons.

They add: 'Although the actions of the SAPS do not appear to have been threatening or intimidating, the unexplained actions by a crime investigation unit create the perception that criminal activity is involved. In addition, the public perception is created that the Office of the Public Protector cannot independently investigate complaints about abuse of power, maladministration, improper or unlawful conduct against public bodies or public servants without fear of intimidation or reprisal. This is unacceptable.'

'The Law Society of South Africa supports the Office of the Public Protector in her endeavours to serve as the bastion between the public and Government authority,' say Mr Boqwana and Mr Horn.

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

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 20 000 attorneys and 5 000 candidate attorneys.