



LAW SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

14 August 2008: For immediate release

**NEW LAW SOCIETY CO-CHAIRPERSON, MAX BOQWANA, TO FOCUS ON
CHALLENGES FACING THE PROFESSION
AND ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES BY THE POOR**

Port Elizabeth attorney Max Boqwana has been elected Co-Chairperson of the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA). He replaces Vincent Saldanha, who took office as a Judge of the Cape Town High Court on 21 July 2008. Pretoria attorney CP Fourie remains the other Co-Chairperson.

Mr Boqwana has identified, as the main issues that he will focus on during his term as Co-Chairperson,

- finalising the Legal Services Sector Charter and scorecards for the profession;
- seeking consensus on the Legal Practice Bill with the advocates' profession, the paralegal profession and, ultimately, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development;
- asserting the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession;
- developing the capacity of attorneys, particularly previously disadvantaged practitioners;
- harmonising the professional rules relating to legal practice and ethics in the SADC region, with a view to promoting cross-border practice in the region; and
- refocusing the legal profession to encourage attorneys to take on public-interest matters as well as dealing with the challenges faced by the poor people of the country, particularly as regards access to legal services.

Mr Boqwana is a Council member of the LSSA; a member of the LSSA's Management Committee; General Secretary of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers; a Council Member of the SADC Lawyers Association; and a Council member of the Cape Law Society.

He was Chairperson of the Board of Control of the Attorneys Fidelity Fund from 2005 to 2007 and is currently a director of the Attorney Insurance Indemnity Fund.

Mr Boqwana has the BA LLB degrees from Rhodes University. He is the Senior Partner of Boqwana Loon & Connellan Inc in Port Elizabeth, where he focuses on commercial and administrative law.

Besides holding other commercial leadership positions, Mr Boqwana is a director of the Eastern Cape Cricket Board and a former director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa/Cricket South Africa.

- Photograph of Max Boqwana attached.

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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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 18 200 attorneys and 4 700 candidate attorneys.

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