



LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 20 September 2007
For immediate release

LAW SOCIETY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHIEF JUSTICE MICHAEL CORBETT

The Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) has paid tribute to the late Chief Justice Michael Corbett for his contribution to the country's administration of justice and particularly his role as Chief Justice during the years of transition from the former dispensation to the current one. 'Judge Corbett was a great South African jurist and well respected by all,' say LSSA Co-Chairpersons David Gush and Henry Msimang.

The LSSA can but echo the words of former president Nelson Mandela at a State banquet in honour of Judge Corbett at the time of his retirement: 'His contribution is not easily encompassed. He has achieved distinction as legal scholar, as writer, as advocate and as a judicial officer. Throughout his career a passion for justice and a sensitivity to racial discrimination were combined with intellectual rigour and clarity of thought.'

Again, when awarding national orders, former President Mandela said of the recipients, one of which was Judge Corbett, that they displayed a courage born of the yearning for freedom; of hatred of oppression, injustice and inequity whether the victim be oneself or another; a fortitude that draws its strength from the conviction that no person can be free while others are unfree. In such strivings on the part of those who were New Patriots before their time, lie the roots of our Rainbow Nation.

The LSSA and the attorneys' profession pays tribute to Judge Corbett for his contribution as set out for posterity in the Law Reports and for his role in steering the early Judicial Service Commission as it began its journey to transform South Africa's judiciary, in this way making justice more accessible and acceptable to all South Africans.

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 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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