



LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

LSSA CALLS ON ATTORNEYS TO COMMENT ON LEGAL SERVICES CHARTER

The Co-Chairpersons of the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA), David Gush and Henry Msimang, have called on all attorneys to comment on the second draft of the Legal Services Charter to the LSSA. Their comments will be collated and included with the LSSA's comments to the Charter Focus Working Group which meets in Sandton on 4 August 2007.

The first draft of the Legal Services Charter was released for discussion in August 2006 by the Charter Steering Committee under the auspices of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. Since then there have been further consultations. The first draft was discussed at the annual general meeting of the LSSA in March and the new draft will be discussed at special meetings or at the AGMs of the LSSA's six constituent members (the Black Lawyers Association, the Cape Law Society, the KwaZulu-Natal Law Society, the Law Society of the Free State, the Law Society of the Northern Provinces and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers). The LSSA and its six constituents all have representation on the Charter Focus Working Group, which includes stakeholders from the legal services sector and is tasked with refining the charter. This group met in June and the second draft Charter, which contains substantial changes, was published for comment last week.

In essence the Legal Services Charter seeks to give effect to the Constitution, the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act and the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act by

- enhancing access to justice for all the people of South Africa;
- facilitating transformation of the legal services sector to be representative of the demography of South African society; and
- empowering historically disadvantaged individuals (HDIs) to ensure equal participation of HDIs in economic opportunities.

'We urge all practitioners to study the second draft and send us their comments so that the LSSA's submissions to the Focus Working Group can be as meaningful and representative as possible,' say Mr Msimang and Mr Gush.

The second draft Legal Services Charter is accessible on the LSSA's website at www.lssa.org.za. Comments should be addressed to the Communication Manager, Barbara Whittle, at barbara@lssa.org.za or fax: (012) 362 0969 and should reach the LSSA by 31 July 2007.

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 16 600 attorneys and 4 500 candidate attorneys.

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

*ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF
THE LAW SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA*

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