



9 May 2008: For immediate release

LAW SOCIETY CALLS FOR HOLISTIC SOLUTION TO THE SCOURGE OF CRIME

The scourge of crime in our country urgently needs a more holistic and serious solution which includes the proper training and deployment of police, as well as a proper overhaul of the criminal justice system in South Africa, say Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) Co-Chairpersons Vincent Saldanha and CP Fourie.

They add: 'Government is urged to give its undivided attention to finding such a solution, since the unacceptable levels of crime – particularly violent crime – are, among other things, a serious threat to our young democracy. The LSSA is committed to assisting the State in whatever way it can in that process, and so contribute meaningfully to making our country safer and more secure for all who live in it,' say Mr Fourie and Mr Saldanha.

While acknowledging the unacceptable levels of crime in our country, the LSSA, however, expresses its concern at the statements which have been made by the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, Ms Susan Shabangu, in encouraging both members of the public and of the South African Police Service (SAPS) to use deadly force against suspected criminals.

'Owners of licensed firearms, be they members of the public or the SAPS, must in terms of legislation be fully cognizant of their rights and responsibilities as contained in legislation governing the use of firearms,' say the LSSA Co-Chairpersons.

'There should be no confusion in the minds of the public or the SAPS, and statements that may simplistically respond to populist views and confuse members of the public into acting unlawfully and taking the law into their own hands, are irresponsible,' they state.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS 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 17 800 attorneys and 4 300 candidate attorneys.

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