

LEGAL PRACTICE ACT ADVISORY



Third meeting of the National Forum on the Legal Profession 19 September 2015

Parts 1 and 2 of Chapter 10 of the Legal Practice Act 28 of 2014 came into effect on 1 February 2015.

This brought into being the National Forum on the Legal Profession.

Dear Colleagues

The [National Forum](#) on the Legal Profession (NF) held its third meeting for the year in Centurion on 19 September 2015. Kgomotso Moroka SC and Max Boqwana – the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson respectively – had drafted a report on the NF's activities and submitted the report to Justice Minister Michael Masutha. They were due to meet with the Minister on 21 September 2015 to report to the Minister on developments and on the work undertaken by the NF in terms of the Legal Practice Act, 2014 to pave the way for 'the effective and efficient implementation of the Act' by the Legal Practice Council once it comes into effect.

At the NF meeting, the General Council of the Bar recorded the replacement of one of its members, Ismail Jamie SC, with Durban advocate Anna Annandale SC from the KwaZulu-Natal Bar. Also, the four working committees set up at its meeting in July reported on their activities to date, which included drafting terms of reference, work plans and initial discussions on critical issues.

The [four committees](#) are

- Admin and Human Resources Committee
- Governance Committee
- Rules and Code of Conduct Committee
- Education, Standards and Accreditation Committee

The Admin and Human Resources Committee shortlisted and interviewed candidates for the position of Executive Officer of the NF. An announcement will follow soon. The committee will then focus on developing a strategy and plan for the transfer of the staff and assets of the statutory provincial law societies to the Legal Practice Council. Welkom attorney Martha Mbhele has been appointed chairperson of this committee. The transfer will also include all records, databases and work in progress relating to both the attorneys' and advocates' professions.

Polokwane attorney Jan Stemmett has been appointed chairperson of both the Governance and Rules and Code of Conduct committees. The first committee is dealing with the structure and functions of the Legal Practice Council and the provincial councils, as well as their areas of jurisdiction and delegation of powers from national to provincial level. The second committee is tackling the rules and code of conduct that will regulate all legal practitioners under the new dispensation

Read more on

► [the composition](#) of the National Forum

► [the tasks](#) of the National Forum

► [Download the Legal Practice Act](#)

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The Education, Standards and Accreditation Committee is chaired by Bloemfontein attorney Jan Maree and needs to deal with a range of issues relating to vocational training, examinations and legal education service providers.

At this stage the work of the committees is being carried by the committee members – who are all legal practitioners – as the NF has yet to appoint staff and researchers.

The NF will meet again on 23 January 2016, but the above working committees have meetings scheduled throughout October and November to ensure progress is made within the tight timeframes prescribed in the Act.

Once firm position papers emerge from the working committees, these will be communicated to practitioners and input will be invited at the appropriate stages. Also, at the most appropriate time, the LSSA will undertake road shows across the country to inform practitioners of developments.

We invite you to communicate with us if you have questions or require information. You are welcome to e-mail us at LSSA@LSSA.org.za.

MAX BOQWANA and JAN STEMMETT

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the LSSA National Forum Committee

21 September 2015