



the doj&cd

Department:  
Justice and Constitutional Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA STATEMENT: MEDIA BREAKFAST TO ANNOUNCE THE MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CHARTER**

The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development, Mrs. B S Mabandla (MP) hosted a media breakfast today at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria, where she announced the members that was appointed for the steering committee for the Legal Services Charter.

The Minister announced in December 2004 the commencement of the process of developing the Legal Services Charter for the legal profession and the legal services sector. In July 2005 a Cabinet Lekgotla approved the principle for the development of the Legal Services and expected the first draft charter by mid 2006. The Minister's role is just to facilitate the development of the charter for the legal services sector and legal profession.

The department established a Reference Group with its first and second meeting held respectively on the 30<sup>th</sup> August and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2005 of which both chaired by representatives of the Office of the Director General of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD). The results of the meeting culminated in the development of the concept framework on the charter.

In January 2006, the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Development appointed a Steering Committee with a mandate to draft a legal services charter and further advise the Minister on further consultative processes with the stakeholders. The members of the Steering Committee consist of individuals from different associations and organisations of the legal profession. The Policy Chief Directorate is the Secretariat to the Steering Committee and is headed by Mr Neville Gawula (DOJ&CD). Adv Menzi Simelane, the Director-General of the Department of Justice was appointed as the Chairperson of the Steering Committee. The Deputy Chair is Adv Bonisiwe Makhene (DOJ&CD Policy Chief Directorate). Other members include Mr. Kevin Lester (Law Societies of South Africa), Adv. McCaps Motimele SC (Advocates for Transformation), Ms Brenda Madumisa (Black Women Lawyers Association), Mr Ashoek Adhikari (Law Society of South Africa), Mr Nano Matlala (Black Lawyers Association), Adv Mark Hawyers (Independent Association of Advocates), Prof Cathi Albertyn (Centre for Applied Legal Studies - Wits University), Mr Motlai Mashiloane (Association of Paralegals), Ms Thuli Madonsela (Waweth Research Agency), Prof Engela Schlemmer (The Society of Law Teachers of Southern Africa {SLTSA}), Prof Shadrack Gutto (Centre for African Renaissance Studies - UNISA). One member of the General Council of the Bar (GCB), Adv Norman Arendse resigned last month and the Minister is in the process of replacing him with another member from GCB.

Subsequent to appointment of members, the inaugural meeting of the Steering Committee took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006, where all members expressed their common interests and commitment to work towards the transformation of the legal services sector and the legal profession.

A drafting or working group which will facilitate the drafting of the charter was established during this

