
Media Release

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LPC welcomes the launch of the Legal Ombud as good news for the public and the legal profession

The Legal Practice Council (LPC), a regulatory body, which regulates the legal profession has welcomed the launch of the Legal Services Ombud, following the official launch earlier today.

“This is yet another major development for the legal profession, following the groundbreaking enactment of the Legal Practice Act which came into effect in 2014 and followed by the introduction of the Legal Practice Council in 2018. While we will continue our work as a regulatory structure for the legal practitioners, members of the public will have an additional avenue to raise concerns if they are not in agreement with the outcome as given by the LPC,” says Ms. Janine Myburgh (Chairperson of the Legal Practice Council).

“The office of the Ombud, will serve as an additional safety net for the public and accountability safeguard for the profession. As the Council, we look forward to working with the Legal Ombud and will continue to support them as best as we can,” adds Myburgh.

“As the LPC, we wish the Judge Siraj Desai and the Legal Services Ombud team luck as they begin a new chapter for the legal profession, we know they will be successful. We will support and work with them for the benefit of the public and the legal profession,” concludes LPC’s chairperson Ms Janine Myburgh. The office of the Legal Services Ombud begins its services from 15 June 2022.

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr. Ronald Lamola, gave a keynote address at the launch and encouraged ethical conduct and high standards for the profession. “Legal professionals interact and represent members of the public before the legal system regularly. In their interactions with the legal practitioners, members of the public must never have a sense of powerlessness, moreover when their rights are grossly violated. People must be encouraged to speak out against maladministration with the certainty that their complaints will be taken seriously,” says Minister Lamola.

Lamola added that it was common cause that lawyers must exemplify highest form of professionalism and integrity. “They must devote themselves to defending the rights of their clients and be worthy this noble profession,” adds Lamola. He further commented that the rule of law and constitutionalism are the cornerstones of South Africa’s democracy. “Legal professionals play a pivotal role in strengthening the rule of law, let us (all) work together to deepen democracy and make South Africa a great and prosperous nation,” concluded Lamola.

About the Legal Practice Council

The Legal Practice Council is a national, statutory body established in terms of section 4 of the Legal Practice Act, No 28 of 2014. The Legal Practice Council and its Provincial Councils regulate the affairs of and exercise jurisdiction over all legal practitioners (attorneys and advocates) and candidate legal practitioners.

Media contact:

Kabelo Letebele

Senior Manager: Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

087 898 7474 / 074 156 2262

kabelol@lpc.org.za