



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

For Immediate Release

Media Statement

2 April 2020

Minister Lamola appoints Acting Solicitor-General

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Lamola, has appointed Mr Fhedzisani Pandelani to act as Solicitor-General for a period of 24 months. Mr Pandelani's appointment is effective immediately.

Mr Pandelani is the current chairperson of the Gauteng Liquor Board and the chairperson of an external panel on appeals in terms of section 43 (5) National Environmental Management Act in Gauteng. He has been in practice for a period of more than 20 years. He holds various qualifications from the University of the Witwatersrand including Baccalaureus Procurationis (B.Proc.) and LL.B degrees and as well as a Higher Diploma in Company Law. He was admitted as an attorney in 1996 and has practiced in diverse areas of law covering High Court, Labour Court and Magistrates Court litigation and is a skilled mediator and arbitrator. He has also lectured on various law modules through the Unisa Learning Centre and has for several years been an instructor at the Johannesburg School for Legal Practice.

Parliament passed the State Attorney Amendment Act, in 2014 . The act came into operation on 3 February 2020 and empowers the Minister to appoint any person who meets the required criteria for appointment as an acting Solicitor-General.

The Act requires that the person must be a fit and proper person, with due regard to his or her experience, conscientiousness and integrity. The person must be admitted as an attorney or advocate in the High Court of South Africa or could be any person who previously admitted as such, who has not been struck off the Roll and is eligible to be re-admitted.

The Act allows for the establishment and appointment of a Solicitor-General. The Solicitor-General will oversee all litigation on behalf of the State and is the executive officer of all offices of State Attorney and exercises control, direction and supervision over all offices of State Attorney.

The Solicitor-General is also responsible for implementing policy relating to the functions of the offices of State Attorney. This includes the coordination and management of all litigation in which the State is involved, the briefing of advocates, the outsourcing of legal work, the initiating, defending and opposing of legal matters and implementing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the resolution of litigation against the State.

The State is frequently involved in various litigious matters, often at great expense to the fiscus. The appointment of the Solicitor-General will greatly assist in transforming the State's litigation strategy. Tackling the ever-increasing state liability bill is an urgent priority as well as capacitating the Offices of the State Attorney to collect recoveries on behalf of the State from third parties; transformation of the legal profession, particularly by way of the briefing of previously disadvantaged legal practitioners, is also imperative.

Minister Lamola thanked the hundreds of legal practitioners who expressed their interest for appointment to the position.

“The establishment of this office is historic. South Africa is fortunate to have many highly respected legal practitioners who expressed their interest in the acting appointment. With over 20 years’ experience, I believe that Mr. Pandelani will provide the requisite leadership and expertise to help the Office of the State Attorney become more efficient and effective,” said Min Lamola.

Issued by the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services

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