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LPC consults widely on JSC nomination process

The Legal Practice Council (LPC) has noted the comments by the voluntary body, Law Society of South Africa (LSSA) regarding submission of proposals on the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) nomination process.

The Constitution provides that the JSC consists inter alia of two practising advocates nominated from within the advocates' profession to represent the profession as a whole, and two practising attorneys nominated from within the attorneys' profession to represent the profession as a whole, all of which are appointed by the President.

Historically these nominees were put forward by the LSSA and the General Council of the Bar.

The Minister of Justice advised the LPC that in his view the time had come for the LPC to have discussions and engagements with its broader stakeholders with a view to adopting an agreed process on the future nomination of persons to represent the profession.

The LPC continues to engage various voluntary bodies and stakeholders in the legal profession. "The process of the JSC nomination process is an open and widely consultative process," says Ms Janine Myburgh (Chairperson of the Legal Practice Council).

While we greatly appreciate the work of voluntary organisations such as the LSSA, there is no authority or legislated mandate that positions any one voluntary body with exercising oversight for all attorneys or advocates" adds Myburgh.

"Our consultation process is open to ensuring that all legal practitioners, including those who may not be represented by a voluntary organisation such as the LSSA have an opportunity to have their voices heard," says Myburgh.

“The LPC will continue to work with voluntary associations and all stakeholders within the legal profession with a view to adopting an agreed process on the future nomination of persons to represent all attorneys and advocates, and the responsibility to transform and regulate the profession and protect the public interest shall remain the focus of the LPC” concludes Myburgh.

Issued by the Legal Practice Council