

Media Release

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Embargo: None

The Legal Practice Council encourages Advocates of enrol

The Legal Practice Council (“LPC”) is, in terms of section 4 of the Legal Practice Act (“LPA”) 28 of 2014, as amended (the Act), a body corporate with full legal capacity and exercises regulatory jurisdiction over all legal practitioners and candidate legal practitioners in South Africa.

In terms of sections 24 and 30 of the Act legal practitioners (advocates and attorneys) are people admitted by the High Court and enrolled by the LPC as either an advocate or an attorney. Admission by the High Court alone does not entitle a person to be a practising Legal Practitioner. All persons admitted pre or post the Act must be enrolled with the LPC by applying to the LPC in a manner determined in the rules. Section 114 (2) of the Act obligates the registrars of every Division of the High Courts, the Director General of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the erstwhile law societies to provide the LPC with the necessary information to enrol all legal practitioners who were admitted before 1 November 2018.

The LPC did not receive all the information in terms of section 114. In the circumstances the LPC is not in a position to enroll any Legal Practitioner whose records were not transmitted to it under section 114. Legal Practitioners who are mainly affected are advocates as previously they were not statutorily regulated, and their majority was not affiliated to any of the existing bars.

“We have noticed that in some cases Advocates who are appearing before the High Court are not enrolled with the Council and have indicated that they were not aware that they need to be enrolled. We are therefore calling on all Advocates that are not enrolled to get in touch with our provincial offices and enroll to avoid instances where they are prevented from appearing in court. The Council must enroll all legal practitioners and anyone who is not enrolled is therefore not complying with the provisions of the LPA.” said Hlaleleni Kathleen Matolo -Dlepu, Chairperson of the Legal Practice Council.

Council will be engaging with the offices of the Judge Presidents in all provinces to provide them with a list of enrolled Advocates.

Legal Practitioners who fail to produce a satisfactory proof that they are enrolled with the LPC may not be allowed to practice as Legal Practitioners and courts of law may refuse them audience on behalf of their clients.

Advocates can visit <https://lpc.org.za/> for more information and to find out where their nearest LPC is located.

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Issued by the Legal Practice Council

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About us

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.