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Media Statement

Embargo: None

30 November 2020

The Legal Practice Council condemns attack on Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi SC and the State Capture Commission

The Legal Practice Council (LPC) is concerned by media reports in which it is alleged that Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi SC is being subjected to unlawful surveillance and online harassment following reports that he acts for the Commission.

If correct, this is condemned in the strongest terms. The legal profession plays a pivotal role in the administration of justice in our country. Advocates are obliged by their **traditional rules of ethics, and by the LPC's Code of Conduct**, to follow the "cab rank" rule, which means that they cannot refuse to accept a brief in an area of law in which they practise. Advocates, and other legal practitioners, must therefore be allowed to provide their legal expertise to all persons who require it, no matter who, and any attack or harassment of them because of who they act for is unwarranted, infringes on the rights of legal practitioners and their clients and is inimical to the Rule of Law.

The LPC urges members of the public and the profession to exercise restraint when criticising legal practitioners in whatever forum and/or platform especially on the basis of the identity of their clients.

The Council fully supports the work of the Commission chaired by Honourable Deputy Chief Justice Zondo and all the legal practitioners engaged in this important work, whether they act for the Commission or for persons appearing before it.

Ends/

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.

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