



Established in 1977

# BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

## FREE STATE

PO Box 9899, Bloemfontein, 9300

Chairperson: Sekonyelamoeketsi31@gmail.com

Secretary: pbtsautse@gmail.com

Tel: 051 534 1045 | Cell: 082 845 0390

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### **Black Lawyers Association- Free State expresses heartfelt condolences on the passing of the Regional Court Magistrate and Acting Judge Ms Mamello Thamae.**

On Friday, the 22 September 2023, The BLA learned with shock and sadness about the passing of its member who was the Regional Court Magistrate and the Acting Judge of the Free State High Court at the time of her passing. It is rather saddening to learn that her passing was allegedly caused by the hand of the person who was supposed to protect her. It is actions like these that continue to undermine the interventions of our law to stop Gender Based Violence.

We do however wish to applaud the South African Police working together with the Lesotho Police in acting swiftly on the matter to ensure that the culprit is arrested. We are confident that once all the legal processes have been concluded to bring the culprit to South Africa, our courts will ensure that the wheels of justice turn faster to enable the bereft family to have peace and justice.

The BLA takes this opportunity to convey its message of heartfelt condolences to Thamae AJ's family, her child, and friends. We also wish to express our message of condolences to the members of the BLA to whom she belonged, the Judiciary and all fraternal structures which she was part of. It is sad that whilst the BLA-Judicial Service committee was finalizing its pool of those who are ready when required to act as Judges, a day before her passing we were already concerned about the shortage of women in the pool. It is even more saddening that she was part of the few women we had in that list. This barbaric act of her killing has robbed us of all the efforts of transformation.

Ms Mamello Thamae had devoted her life in the transformation of the legal fraternity as well as the development of the legal system, this can be seen through her role in the provision of trainings she conducted both on behalf of the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEi) as well as the BLA-FS Legal Education and Research. Her role in responding to the call by the BLA-FS Judicial Services Committee to avail herself for acting positions did not only come valuable because she was young and a woman, but also reasserted the role women, throughout history have been playing in the development of our legal system.

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#### **BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

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In tribute to Ms Mamello Thamae AJ, the BLA through the Judicial Service committee and Legal Education and Research will ensure that we continue to monitor and maximize the number of women in the Judiciary as well as in the Legal fraternity.

May the spirit of Mamello Thamae rest in peace and rise in glory.

***“Robala ka kgotso wena Mokoena e Motsheadi, Koena!! bata sa Madiba”***

**ISSUED BY THE BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION FREE STATE.**

**Contact:**

Sekonyela Moeketsi - Chairperson BLA- Free State  
Mobile no: 082 845 0390

Puseletso Tsautse - Secretary BLA- Free State  
Mobile no: 071 895 9116

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