



Established in 1977

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BLA STATEMENT ON THE PUBLIC ARREST OF Adv. TEFFO

The Black Lawyers Association (BLA) is gravely concerned about the public Hollywood-style arrest of Mr Daniel Malesela Teffo in the Pretoria High Court in the afternoon of 28 April 2022.

The manner in which Mr Teffo's arrest was effected is not only humiliating but has the potential to bring our legal system into disrepute. Our constitutional democracy rests on three arms of government i.e. Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. The Constitution of this country envisages that there be interdependence, co-operation and mutual respect amongst these arms of government.

The heavy-handed arrest of a legal practitioner- an officer of the court- in the hallowed grounds of a courtroom is not only out of the ordinary but it is a spectacle that can only feed into a grotesque media frenzy.

The BLA condemns the police conduct in the strongest possible terms and calls on the South African Police Services (SAPS) to institute disciplinary measures against all the officers involved in the spectacle.

The BLA sounds a warning to the Government and all South Africans that any conduct that is not consistent with the Constitution should not be tolerated. If the police can be allowed to do as they please in the sanctuary of our courts then nothing will stop them from arresting judicial officers in the middle of court proceedings.

Most unfortunately however is the continued hurt borne by the family of the late Senzo Meyiwa. The BLA therefore calls on all the parties, the Judge, Prosecution, defense team and police officers to be alive to the ongoing feeling of loss that weighs heavily not only on the family but on the entire nation and to ensure that the trial is finalized without any delay and unnecessary distractions.

Bayethe Maswazi – The President
Black Lawyers Association

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