



LPC MEDIA RELEASE – 10 May 2025

1. The South African Legal Practice Council (“**the LPC**”) is the regulatory body established under the Legal Practice Act (“**LPA**”) to set and maintain professional and ethical standards within the legal profession.
2. The LPC is composed of a National Council and nine Provincial Councils, each made up of elected and appointed councilors. Each council has its own employees and may engage legal practitioners on an *ad hoc* basis to serve on Investigation Committees and Disciplinary Committees of the LPC. These committees operate at provincial level and perform their statutory functions on behalf of the LPC. However, the LPC does not interfere in the performance of their functions.
3. The LPC is responsible for addressing allegations of unprofessional conduct that come to its attention, regardless of how the Council becomes aware of them. Anyone who believes that a legal practitioner has acted unprofessionally has the right to file a complaint, which will be investigated. It is not necessary for the individual to have been a client of the legal practitioner or to have been personally affected by the alleged conduct. Additionally, the LPC can initiate investigations into conduct that is in the public domain, such as incidents that occur during televised proceedings.
4. When a complaint indicates possible unprofessional behaviour or misconduct, the legal practitioner named in the complaint has the opportunity to respond. The case may then be referred to an Investigating Committee, which is an independent *ad hoc* committee created specifically for this purpose.
5. Investigation Committees and Disciplinary Committees do not include office bearers or employees of the LPC. Instead, these committees consist of three legal practitioners, with, at least, one member selected from a list maintained by the Legal Services Ombud.
6. As regards witnesses who may be called to testify in disciplinary proceedings of the LPC, it is necessary to comment on the incorrect statement made in the Sunday World



article, in which it is alleged that the former ANC MP Richard Dyantyi and four Senior Judges have refused to testify against Mpofu SC.

- 6.1. Firstly, the article incorrectly uses the following names for three of the four Judges mentioned therein: Tshifhiwa Raulinga, Willem Opperman and Leicester Twala. There are no Judges by these names. The correct names for the three Judges are Judge Joseph Raulinga, Judge Mpostoli Twala and Judge Ingrid Opperman.
- 6.2. Secondly, the National Council has been informed by the Gauteng provincial office of the LPC that whilst it is not their practice to approach Judges in regard to disciplinary matters against legal practitioners, the said Judges, including Judge President Mlambo, have not indicated that they will be unwilling to testify in the disciplinary proceedings against Mpofu SC. It is, therefore, incorrect to report that the four Judges have refused to testify.
7. The LPC generally does not require Judges, due to their position as judicial officers, to testify in disciplinary proceedings. Reliance is normally placed on their written judgments and any transcripts of the relevant proceedings.
8. The alleged unethical conduct of Mpofu SC is a matter of public record that has generated significant public debate, both in support of and against the reported actions. Therefore, it is appropriate for an independent disciplinary body to evaluate the conduct and determine its acceptability. Ultimately, the role of the LPC is to provide a framework for the conduct to be assessed in terms of the Code of Conduct for Legal Practitioners.

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