

NATIONAL OFFICE

Building 10
Riverview Office Park
100 River View Park Street
Halfway Gardens
Midrand 1686

Tel: 010 001 8500



11 August 2026

Dear Stakeholder,

The Legal Practice Council (LPC) hereby invites you to provide comments on the attached Draft SADC Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Legal Services.

The draft MRA has been developed through engagements amongst legal regulators and professional bodies within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as part of the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services. Following these regional engagements, the LPC resolved that it is essential to undertake comprehensive consultations with the South African legal profession and other relevant stakeholders before further negotiations take place at regional level.

To assist stakeholders in considering the draft MRA, we attach a Briefing Note prepared by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). The briefing note provides important background on the SADC Protocol on Trade in Services, South Africa's obligations and commitments, the rationale for the proposed MRA, and the potential opportunities and policy considerations arising from its implementation.

Stakeholders are kindly requested to review the attached documents and provide any written comments, proposals or concerns regarding the draft MRA.

Written submissions should be submitted to mracomment@lpc.org.za on or before close of business on **Friday, 11 September 2026**.

Following receipt and consideration of the written submissions, the LPC, together with representatives of the DTIC, intends to convene a virtual stakeholder consultation session to discuss the comments received, answer questions and receive any further input. The date and details of this virtual engagement will be communicated to stakeholders in due course.

The LPC values your participation in this important consultation process. Your input will assist in ensuring that South Africa's position on the proposed SADC Mutual Recognition Agreement for Legal Services is informed, balanced and reflective of the views of the legal profession and other interested stakeholders.

We thank you for your time and look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully,

LEGAL PRACTICE COUNCIL