



LEGAL SECTOR CHARTER COUNCIL MONITORING COMPLIANCE OF BBBEE IN THE LEGAL SECTOR

JOHANNESBURG, 14 April 2026 – The Legal Sector Charter Council (LSCC) said on Tuesday it was committed to promote Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) so that practitioners get a fair share of the procurement of legal services, particularly from government departments, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and the private sector to reshape access and redress historical inequalities.

The LSCC is monitoring the sector’s compliance with the code to ensure companies, state-owned enterprises and organisations comply. Relevant public sector clients and procurers of legal services are expected achieve targeted procurement as set out in the code.

“The Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Legal Sector Code (LSC) was gazetted on 20 September 2024 by Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr. Mpho Parks Tau. The Legal Sector Charter Council was established and as begun its work to monitor compliance of transformation in the sector six months later.

“The legal profession still reflects the structural inequality that is a legacy of our past. The Legal Sector Code gives effect to the constitutional right to equality for black legal practitioners through practical and measurable sector specific interventions,” said Christine Qunta, chairperson of the LSCC.

“Some the major challenges faced by legal practitioners, include lack of access to a sustainable flow of quality legal work from the private sector; inconsistent access to legal work from the state, lack of skills in specialised areas of the law due to the above and unequal access to senior management roles in racially mixed law firm,” said Qunta,

“This demonstrates the nature of effects of the systemic discrimination suffered by black legal practitioners. The lack of access to a regular flow of quality work has resulted in the stunting of black law firms,” she said.

“For example, statistics from the Legal Practice Council (LPC) show the biggest majority White owned law firm has 396 partners while the largest black owned law firm has only 18 partners or directors,

“More statistics by the LPC revealed that in the top six large law firms, on average 72% of partners or directors are white and 25% black. The advocates profession shows a similar pattern of marginalisation. Black advocates experience a lack of briefing by majority White owned law firms and inconsistent briefing by organs of state and state-owned enterprises.

“This result in many leaving the Bar after the first few years. The Johannesburg Society of Advocates’ (JSA) statistics are sobering. It is the largest bar in the country. It shows that over the last 5 years; 406 advocates left the Bar of whom 66% were Black. Of junior advocates who left the Bar in their first 4 years, 85% were Black.

The JSA further shows that of its 238 Senior counsel, 171 are White (71.8%) and 67 are black (28,2%). There are only eight African women Senior counsel, constituting just 3,36% of the total Senior Counsel population.

“The marginalisation of Black legal practitioners is not sustainable. The measures contained in the LSC are necessary to ensure that they too enjoy the promise of equality set out in the Constitution. It is good for the growth of the legal profession and the economy,” said Qunta,

Issued by the Legal Sector Charter Council

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