



NATIONAL OFFICE  
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03 May 2019

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS**  
**PRO BONO SERVICES**  
**MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Dear Legal Practitioners,

Kindly note that the Legal Practice Council has taken a policy decision that free legal services (referred to as *pro bono* services) provided to indigent members of the public by legal practitioners will be regulated. This is to ensure that as a legal profession we continue to make a meaningful contribution of providing access to justice to members of the public who cannot afford legal services. In such a manner, we are giving effect to one of the purposes of the Legal Practice Act (28 of 2014) as stated in the preamble. The Council is of a view that the provision of free legal service or *pro bono* services should remain a norm in the profession as it can be said that such services express and reflect the social conscience of the profession and legal practitioners. Therefore, practitioners are encouraged to continue to attend to free legal services to provide and promote access to justice to the indigent members of the public who cannot afford same. The *pro bono* offices of the Legal Practice Council remain operational in order to give effect to the above. All activities, operations and initiatives by these offices are to be given support by all practitioners, and more importantly practitioners are encouraged to attend to all matters referred by these offices to yourselves in order to advance *pro bono* work.

The Council is currently in the process of formalising the regulation of *pro bono* services to give effect to the above. Measures will be taken to include *pro bono* operations in all the Provincial Offices. This communication is to inform practitioners and also confirm the position of the Legal Practice Council regarding the provision of free legal services by yourselves. Please note that any further developments on this matter will be communicated to all practitioners.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Kind regards,

**MRS K DLEPU**  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE LEGAL PRACTICE COUNCIL