

**MEDIA RELEASE OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR OF SOUTH AFRICA ON RESIGNATION OF JUDGE MABEL JANSEN AMID CHARGE OF RACISM**

The General Council of the Bar (“GCB”) notes the resignation of High Court Judge Mabel Jansen, as announced by the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services on Thursday 04 May 2017.

The complaints against Judge Mabel Jansen, led by Advocates For Transformation (Johannesburg), arose from a number of social media posts by Judge Mabel Jansen (which the Judge has never denied) which the complainants say would have been understood by ordinary right thinking members of our society to mean, among other things, that rape is inherent to Black Culture.

Given our fraught race relations in South Africa still, the GCB holds steadfast the principle that no form of racism in our society, and particularly within the judiciary, can ever be tolerable in a constitutional democracy where the Judiciary is the last wall of defence against the very conduct of which Judge Mabel Jansen stands accused.

The GCB is confident that the Judicial Service Commission will do all it can to root out acts of racial prejudice in our courts. Its decision that Judge Mabel Jansen had a case to answer on racism charges and, to that end, established the Judicial Conduct Tribunal to investigate the charges, instils a great sense of comfort that the maintenance of the Rule of Law and Judicial integrity in South Africa is in good hands indeed.

**VUYANI NGALWANA SC**  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
**GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE RESIGNATION OF GCB REPRESENTATIVE FROM JSC**

A representative\* of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa (“the GCB”) on the Judicial Service Commission (“the JSC”) resigned voluntarily from the JSC on Friday, 7 April 2017, following a decision by the JSC not to recommend any candidate for the position of Judge President of the Eastern Cape High Court after interviewing 4 candidates for that position on Thursday 6 April 2017.

The GCB has thanked the representative for his service in the past 3 years at the JSC.

The GCB will nominate a replacement at its Annual General Meeting in July 2017 for appointment by the President.

**GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR OF SOUTH AFRICA**  
 \* Michael Hellens SC

**MEDIA RELEASE OF THE ADVOCATES FOR TRANSFORMATION ON RESIGNATION OF JUDGE MABEL JANSEN**

The Advocates for Transformation (Johannesburg) (“AFT-JHB”) notes the resignation of High Court Judge Mabel Jansen on 4 May 2017.

AFT-JHB led the complaints against Judge Mabel Jansen with the Judicial Service Commission after a number of social media comments were posted by the former Judge. These social media comments were understood by us to be racist in nature.

Racism, whether actual or perceived, cannot lie within the judiciary. The steps taken by the Judicial Service Commission to uproot this affliction are welcomed. AFT-JHB will be investigating the implications of the resignation before commenting any further.

**ANTHEA PLATT SC**  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
**ADVOCATES FOR TRANSFORMATION**



Judge Mabel Jansen

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**ADVOCATE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW MEMBER**

In July the editorial committee of *Advocate* welcomed a new member to its team, Thandisa Tyuthuza from the Northern Cape Society of Advocates. Tyuthuza obtained her LLB from the University of Stellenbosch and was called to the bar in 2015. She is a member of the Northern Cape Bar’s Transformation Committee and has a general civil litigation practice with a particular interest in administrative law, mining, construction, employment and constitutional law. Welcome Thandi!