

# Grahamstown Bar

Contributed by Izak Smuts SC and Thomas Miller



## STALWART OF THE EASTERN CAPE BAR, NTSIKELELO SANDI, PASSES AWAY

by Izak Smuts SC and Thomas Miller

As has been the case with the rest of our society, the Grahamstown contingent of the Eastern Cape Society of Advocates has been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

While fortunes may be rebuilt, and health may hopefully be restored, the tragic loss of life that has occurred will leave a permanent scar on South African society. The Eastern Cape Society of Advocates is no different in this regard.

In July 2020, Ntsikelelo (Ntsiki) Sandi, a stalwart of our Bar, was unexpectedly and suddenly taken from us after having appeared to have been on the road to recovery from the effects of the virus.

Ntsiki was a son of Grahamstown, having been born here in 1959. After finishing school, he initially attended

the University of Fort Hare where he was hounded off of campus by Ciskei security forces.

In 1983, he enrolled at Rhodes University to read Journalism and Law. In the mid-1980's, his anti-apartheid activism led to his being detained for several months.

In spite of those setbacks and difficulties that his activism brought about, Ntsiki graduated from Rhodes with the BA LLB degree. He received the Helen Suzman Leadership Award.

He then read for an LLM degree in International Law

at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom. Upon his return, Ntsiki served as a member of the Amnesty Committee of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, from its establishment, in 1995, until 2001.

Thereupon, in 2001, he completed pupillage at the Grahamstown Bar and, until his passing, remained a valued member of our Society.

Ntsiki will be greatly missed by all our members. He was a complete gentleman and contributed enormously not only to the Bar (he served on the Bar Council), but also to the broader public through his thought-provoking analytical columns published in the Daily Dispatch and his activism in the community.

Our condolences and best wishes go to the Sandi family and to all those who were fortunate enough to have had Ntsiki in their lives.

*(With credit to John Knott, Adrienne Carlisle and the Daily Dispatch newspaper.)*

## Two new members join

At the beginning of 2020, Grahamstown welcomed two new members, Aviwe Teko and Chuma Novukela, who successfully completed pupillage in 2019.

We also welcomed two new pupils in 2020. Akhona Sidlai and Chris Mzamo completed the Bar exams in challenging circumstances and are expected to commence practice in March 2021.

We wish all these new members every success at the Bar.

## Gavin Dugmore SC displays his staying power

We are delighted to welcome Gavin Dugmore SC back after an extended fight with Covid-19 in a Cape Town hospital. Gavin, who is known for his staying power in court, has shown that same quality in his battle with the virus. His tenacity and willpower is an example to us all. [A](#)