



Cherie Theron Photography

# ATTENDING THE 2024 GCB AGM

by Mark Tucker, KZN Bar

**F**rom 19 to 21 July 2024, the GCB held its annual general meeting (AGM). The venue on this occasion was the magnificent city of Gqeberha.

The AGM presented an opportunity to gain insight into the workings of the GCB and why it has (without statutory support and through self-regulation) remained the dominant institution representing our profession.

What I am sure will be a matter of universal praise, thanks must go to the Bar of Gqeberha, our hosts. The conference was conveniently placed, well prepared and (most importantly) well catered.

The event was held over two days. Day one was for arrival, a cocktail function, an opportunity to meet and greet, as well as to catch up with friends from around the country.

The second day was the AGM itself. After a late start and corridor debates, the business of the Bar started with a lengthy agenda to tackle.

It was an eye-opening experience filled with impassioned pleas, slights (both perceived and actual) and political manoeuvring. That said, the intention of all concerned was unanimous – continuing to ensure that the GCB properly represents the wills of all its members and safeguarding the profession going forward against the ever-changing challenges we are faced with. In the end, decisions were taken and resolutions were passed – including the important expansion of the GCB board to give greater representation to the smaller bars.

The AGM also saw the unopposed election of our new chair, Kissoon Singh SC, a well deserved promotion for a person who has selflessly given so many years of service to the administration of the profession.

The day culminated in a gala dinner, with speeches by Justice Chetty previously of the Gqeberha bench, and Justice Cameron.

Fortuitously, the speeches complimented one another perfectly. Justice Chetty provided a stark and always needed



reminder of the past struggles of our country generally, but also with a particular focus on the legal profession (where so much possibility for change still lies). Justice Cameron’s speech focused on the current challenges to our profession, in part borne out of this legacy, and the need for the Bar to rise to meet these challenges.

After leaving the dinner with full bellies and a sense of guarded optimism (and purpose) about the future of the Bar and the profession, it was time for a last hurrah before the trips home commenced.

Durban will be hosting the GCB AGM in 2025, and Gqeberha has left large shoes to fill.



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