

Mthatha Society of Advocates

Contributed by Chuma Gqetywa and Zuko Badli



NEW MEMBERS
In the year 2025 the Mthatha Society of Advocates (“MSA” or “Society”) proudly welcomed four new members in sequence from left to right: Lulamela Mhambi, Thandi Constance Hlazo-Bangani, Tiara Livi and Luvuyo James Mngunyana. The society is delighted by how they have taken on their roles and have shown excellence having completed their pupillage during 2024. We wish them prosperity and growth in their careers at the Bar and beyond.

PUPILLAGE
The intake for 2025 pupils comprised five pupil advocates namely: Ayabulela Sakabe, Andisiwe Zimela, Azola Dalikhaya Mchiza, Nomalizo Abongile Liegh-N Vika and Ziyabukwa Ndlovu. As part of their pupillage training, they attended the GCB Trial Advocacy Training at Pumula Beach Hotel. They await their results and we eagerly anticipate a positive outcome.



ACTING APPOINTMENTS

The Society welcomes the acting appointments of Ntsikelelo Mtshabe SC, Apla Bodlani SC, Zintle Ncalo, Mfundo Mhambi and Philisa Mnqandi during the 2024/2025 year. Their selection for appointment to the bench is indicative of good co-operation between the Bar and the bench.



MTHATHA SOCIETY OF ADVOCATES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025

On 27 May 2025 the Society held its annual meeting and the following members were elected to the executive committee:

- Lubabalo Sambudla (chairperson)
- Vuyani Kunju SC (deputy chairperson)
- Philisa Mnqandi (honourary Secretary)
- Anelisiwe Msindo (secretary)
- Mbongeni Rili (deputy secretary)
- Ntsikelelo Mtshabe (treasurer)
- Viwe Nqabeni (deputy treasurer)



Lubabalo Sambudla (chairperson) Vuyani Kunju SC (deputy chairperson) Philisa Mnqandi (honourary Secretary) Anelisiwe Msindo (secretary) Mbongeni Rili (deputy secretary) Ntsikelelo Mtshabe (treasurer) Viwe Nqabeni (deputy treasurer)

SC TAKES ON BERLIN MARATHON

Ntsikelelo Mtshabe SC from the MSA is the co-founder of a non-profit running club established in 2008 – the Cheetahs Athletic Club, a registered and affiliate member of Athletics Transkei, with over 130 members some of whom are members of the Mthatha Society of Advocates. Together with his twin brother, affectionately known as “NR” and “NZ”, they usually take part in major races in South Africa such as the Comrades Marathon. This year he crossed the borders and took part in the BMW Berlin Marathon, which is one of the largest marathons in the world. The MSA is proud of the strides he continues to make on and off the racetrack and bringing the medal home. We encourage him to keep them coming.



2024 BAR DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE LATE JUSTICE ALKEMA

The bar dinner, held on 6 December 2024, was not simply about the glitz and glamour, but the MSA mourned the loss of the esteemed Justice Alkema by celebrating his life. Justice Alkema passed away on 21 August 2024. The MSA executive committee, chaired by Vuyani Kunju SC, dedicated the 2024 Bar dinner to an “extra-ordinary jurist with an immense contribution to our jurisprudence”, Honourable Justice Sytze Alkema. That is how Kunju SC described Justice Alkema when he attended and gave a speech at his memorial service on behalf of the MSA, which took place on 5 October 2024.



Left to right Viwe Nqabeni, Apla Bodlani SC, Mfundo Mhambi, Justice Petse, Justice Jolwana, Justice Majiki ADJP, Justice Brooks, Justice Dawood, Mr Leon and Mrs Petla Alkema, Pateka Mfino-Mantyi, Vuyani Kunju SC, Vusi Msiwa SC, Johnathon Hobbs, Lubabalo Sambudla and Zintle Ncalo.



The commemoration dinner was co-ordinated by Viwe Nqabeni, who together with her team did a stellar job. The occasion was graced by the presence of distinguished guests including Acting Deputy Judge President Majiki, Justice Dawood, Justice Brooks, Justice Jolwana and the retired Deputy President of the Supreme Court of Appeal Justice Petse to name a few. The work and life of the Late Justice Sytze Alkema was reflected on. Apla Bodlani SC recalled golden memories of Justice Alkema; and a commissioned portrait was unveiled and presented to his brother Mr Leon Alkema as a tribute to his life. Vusi Msiwa SC represented PABASA and addressed a few words in commemoration. The MSA is honoured by the enduring legacy and contribution made by Justice Alkema. May his soul rest in peace. **A**

