



DEPUTY MINISTER
JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: 3/25/1/14 DM
Enq: Blendynn Williams
Email: blwilliams@justice.gov.za

Ms Charmaine Mabuza
Chairperson: South African Board for Sheriffs
88 Loop Street
Cape Town
8001

Dear Ms Mabuza

- 1. RE- DESCRIPTION: AREAS OF JURISDICTION OF OFFICES OF SHERIFFS OF THE LOWER AND SUPERIOR COURTS**
- 2. FILLING OF VACANT OFFICES OF SHERIFFS**

As you are aware, I have published the re-description of areas of jurisdiction of certain offices of sheriffs in Government Gazette No 40489 of 12 December 2016 and for it to take effect on **1 June 2017**. The re- description will take effect as gazetted and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD) is in the process of finalizing the point to point description for the affected areas. The DOJCD will communicate with the sheriffs **acting** in vacant offices affected by the re-description to ascertain whether they are willing to continue to act in the vacant and re- described area until such time as the vacancy is filled. Mrs M Van der Merwe, the acting sheriff for Johannesburg South, already indicated that she is **not** willing to continue to act after 1 June 2017, and it will therefore be necessary to appoint an acting sheriff in her place until such time that the vacancy is filled. Sheriffs whose service areas have been affected by the re-description in the above Government Gazette, will also be issued with letters of appointment in order to provide certainty as some of the names of the magistrates districts have changed.



As you are also aware, it was the intention of the DOJCD to fill the vacant offices of sheriff that were advertised in December last year, with effect from 1 June 2017 to coincide with the re-description referred to above.

It is unfortunately clear that it will no longer be possible to fill the vacant offices with effect from 1 June 2017. I have expressed my reservations to the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for Gauteng regarding the process followed for the shortlisting and also the composition of the Advisory Committee and have indicated that the shortlisting and interview process must be redone and that the Report of the Advisory Committee be submitted to me on or before 15 June 2017. I am still awaiting the Report of the Advisory Committee for KZN which I expect to receive within the next day or two.

Some of the offices have been vacant for a number of years and I am committed to fill the vacancies as soon as possible. It is, however, important to ensure that due process is followed and that sufficient notice be given to the SABFS, as well as the incoming and outgoing sheriffs to ensure a smooth transition and handover.

Given the above, it is now my intention to fill the vacancies with effect from 1 September 2017. This will also enable the SABFS to commence with the training of the newly appointed sheriffs during August 2017.

In conclusion, it would appear that, for the future, we may have to consider strengthening the Regulations Relating to Sheriffs, 1990, as well as the advertisement to provide more clarity to the applicants and the Advisory Committees.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Jeffery', written over a faint circular stamp.

MR J. JEFFERY, MP

DEPUTY MINISTER: JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 8/5/17

CC: Chairperson: SANAPS

President: SASS