



MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFFS

3 July 2017

Justice Deputy Minister appoints new persons as sheriffs to fill vacant offices countrywide

Sheriffs play an extremely important role in the civil justice system as they serve court processes and execute warrants and orders of court. They are officers of the court and appointed in terms of the Sheriffs Act.

The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr John Jeffery, has appointed 33 new sheriffs to fill vacant offices countrywide.

The appointments followed an open process whereby the posts were advertised and successful applicants were shortlisted and interviewed by an Advisory Committee which was established in each of the nine provinces. Advisory Committees are chaired by Chief Magistrates or Regional Court Presidents and make recommendations to the Deputy Minister regarding fit and proper persons to be considered for appointment.

The Deputy Minister would therefore like to extend his appreciation to the members of the Provincial Advisory Committees for the work done.

The need to make the Sheriffs profession more representative in terms of race and gender was one of the factors that the Deputy Minister took into account in making his decision.

Of the 33 appointed sheriffs, 18 are African (54%), 8 are White (24%), 4 are Coloured (13%) and 3 are Indian (9%). The 16 women appointed represent 48% of the new appointees and the 17 men 52%.

Twelve of the 33 appointed sheriffs were already holding office as sheriff in other smaller areas and will therefore not affect the demographics in terms of race and gender.

The new appointments will now bring the **total** number of permanent sheriffs countrywide to 289. Of these 289 sheriffs, 122 are African (43%), 108 are White (37%), 34 are Coloured (12%) and 25 are Indian (8%). There are 90 female sheriffs (thus 31% of the total sheriffs) and 199 male sheriffs (69%).

The majority of the new appointments will take effect from 1 September 2017 so as to enable the incumbent sheriffs to set up office, to employ personnel, to attend the compulsory prescribed training courses and to ensure a smooth handover of court documents.

Unfortunately some of the vacant offices could not be filled as either no applications were received or the Advisory Committees were not able to recommend fit and proper applicants, as the case may be. This often occurs in small offices which are not economically viable and the Advisory Committees would therefore either recommend that the vacant offices be re-advertised, be allocated to an adjacent sheriff or that the sheriff's office for the high and lower court be merged.

The Judicial Matters Amendment Bill that was approved by Parliament last week will in future enable the Deputy Minister to appoint sheriffs to these offices after the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the South African Board for Sheriffs have been considered.

It was decided not to fill the vacant office of Pretoria West, which is one of the larger sheriff's service areas, so that a more equitable division of the sheriffs' areas in the Pretoria Magisterial District can be done. It is the intention of the Department to recommend to the Deputy Minister to re-describe and allocate this service area to adjacent sheriffs to try and bridge the income disparities in Tshwane Central.

It is important that sheriffs perform their duties in a professional manner and continue to provide a reliable and effective serve to the public, the legal profession and other role players in the justice system. The Department will continue to support and strengthen the sheriffs' profession in order to ensure that justice is accessible to all.

The names of the newly appointed sheriffs and the areas that each is responsible for are attached.

Issued by the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Development

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LIST OF SHERIFFS APPOINTED ON 30 JUNE 2017

NO	PROVINCE	OFFICES	CANDIDATE APPOINTED
1	Eastern Cape	Bathurst (Port Alfred) HL	Mr L Makwetu
2	Eastern Cape	Cathcart, Queenstown And Tarkastad HL	Ms JL Coetzer
3	Eastern Cape	Humansdorp HL	*Mr C Erasmus
4	Eastern Cape	Port Elizabeth South HL	Ms NL Nyabanza
5	Gauteng	Centurion East HL	Ms SE Dhlamini
6	Gauteng	Sandton South HL	* Ms FR Moeletsi
7	Gauteng	Randburg West HL	Ms SI Seboka
8	Gauteng	Palm Ridge HL	Mr IR Burton
9	Gauteng	Pretoria North HL	*Mr PT Sedile
10	Gauteng	Krugersdorp HL	Ms AM Erasmus
11	Gauteng	Johannesburg South HL	* Ms JA Thomas
12	KwaZulu-Natal	Inanda 1 HL	Mr TA Tembe (With effect from 15 August 2017)
13	KwaZulu-Natal	Newcastle HL	Mr ACBR Tsotetsi
14	KwaZulu-Natal	Msinga HL	Mr TA Mtsweni
15	KwaZulu-Natal	Kokstad HL & Matatiele HL	Ms MAB Mahlangu
16	KwaZulu-Natal	Camperdown HL	Ms H Erasmus

NO	PROVINCE	OFFICES	CANDIDATE APPOINTED
17	Limpopo	Lepelle- Nkumpi HL	*Mr DJ Herman
18	Mpumalanga	Hendrina HL	Mr TB Ramaala
19	Mpumalanga	Middelburg H	Mr H Hoosen
20	Mpumalanga	Barberton HL	Ms LK Makhundu
21	Mpumalanga	Chief Albert Luthuli HL	Ms EB Mahamba
22	Mpumalanga	Dr Pixley Ka Seme HL	*Mr LE Chuene (With effect from 27 September 2017)
23	Northern Cape	Calvinia HL	Mr HP Burger
24	Northern Cape	De Aar, Hanover, Britstown And Phillipstown HL	Mr TP Mokwena
25	Northern Cape	Groblerstroom HL	Ms AJ Daniëls
26	Northern Cape	Hay (Griekwastad); Hopetown; & Herbert (Douglas) HL	*Mrs MJ Brooks
27	Northern Cape	Postmasburg (Including The Service Area of Olifantshoek) H	*Mr MH Makwane
28	Northern Cape	Kimberley & Galeshewe HL	*Ms KMM Mpe
29	North West	Stilfontein HL	Ms ME Ramasita (With effect from 5 October 2017)

NO	PROVINCE	OFFICES	CANDIDATE APPOINTED
30	Western Cape	Bredasdorp HL	*Mr A Witbooi
31	Western Cape	Murraysburg HL	*Mr JR Nieuwenhuizen
32	Western Cape	Clanwilliam HL	Mr PR Hull
33	Western Cape	Wynberg East HL	*Ms G Naidoo

Note: * The person is already holding office as a sheriff.