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Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

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STATE ATTORNEY CLARIFIES FORMER MINISTER DLAMINI'S PENSION CLAIMS

The Office of the Solicitor General has investigated claims widely reported in the media that former Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, is being deprived of her pension by virtue of an alleged political instruction to the State Attorney.

We want to categorically state that such reports are unfortunate, without substance and are devoid of any truth. The information before the Solicitor-General reveals that the instruction to withhold the payment of the former Minister's pension was received from the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

Reasons for the withdrawal of the pension are well known by the former Minister and SASSA, thus far, no party has contested them nor has there been any intention to do so. The State Attorney acts upon the instruction of its client, which are the departments and state entities that it represents. This matter in particular is currently being litigated by the parties which include the former minister.

It should be further noted that the Solicitor-General is not at liberty to reveal the exact nature of the instructions to the State Attorney, as that would be the discretion of SASSA, as the client department.

However, we can confirm that all the parties in the matter are in possession of the necessary documents which flow from this instruction and are fully aware of the current legal position. This includes the erstwhile Minister of Social Development.

Politics do not play any role whatsoever in the work of the State Attorney's office and insinuations suggesting otherwise, are malicious and should be outrightly rejected.

Issued by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development

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