



THE LAW SOCIETY
O F N A M I B I A

Newsletter:
November / December 2016

Message from Chairperson: Ramon Maasdorp

2016 has been a fiercely challenging year for most of us in the legal profession and all of us at the Law Society. Everyone is undoubtedly chomping at the bit to lay down weapons and surrender to a few weeks, or even just a few days, of rest.

When we return regenerated in the new year, all of us at the LSN will continue our work in upholding the rule of law and promoting the interests of the public and our members to the very best of our abilities.

As priorities for 2017 we will work smarter to address the major takeaways from 2016's LSN AGM and other engagements with LSN members and other equally important role players: the need for better communication and more transparency, closer attention to accurate financial management and reporting, and a clearer explanation of the profession and the LSN's value proposition.

Like every responsible legal practitioner must do, at the LSN we will learn from 2016 and move into 2017 excited by the opportunity to increase our personal and professional contributions to creating a better Namibia for us all.

We wish every member of the LSN a peaceful festive season with love in abundance, plenty of sound sleep and just enough reflection to allow each one of you to seize every opportunity to flourish in what promises to be a most interesting 2017.

AGM 2016: Judge JP Karuaihe Trust: Legal Excellence Awards

The 17th Anniversary of the Judge JPK Trust and the 10th Annual Judge JPK Trust Legal Excellence Awards took place on Friday, 25 November 2016 at Hotel Thule, prior to the AGM of the LSN.

Since the awards are centred around legal practitioners and law students the LSN created an opportunity for its members to be present when future legal practitioners and their peers are awarded for their achievements.

It was the fourth time that the Judge JPK Trust Legal Excellence Awards ceremony took place on the same day and prior to the LSN AGM.

Vicky Erenstein ya Toivo, on behalf of the Judge JPK Trust, accepted the sponsor cheque, in the amount of N\$40,000.00, from Poenie van den Berg (Director at Dr Weder, Kauta & Hoveka Inc).





- ♦ Retha Steinmann (LSN Director) – accepted the award on behalf of Dieter Maree, winner of the Legal Excellence Award for Social Responsibility.
- ♦ Phillip Balhao (University of Namibia) – accepted all the awards on behalf the best JTC and LLB 2015 students.
- ♦ Smart Elago – accepted the Legal Excellence Award for Human Rights on behalf of the law firm Tjombe-Elago Inc.
- ♦ Vicky Erenstein ya Toivo – represented the Judge JPK Trust.
- ♦ Wouter Rossouw – LSN Chairperson (until 25 November 2016).
- ♦ Ngamane Karuaihe-Upi - represented the Judge JPK Trust.

♦ Legal Excellence Awards

The LSN received the names of the best students from the Justice Training Centre and the University of Namibia, respectively.

Many of the LSN members contribute to society but they do not always 'advertise' their good deeds. The LSN thanks them for their contributions to society and trust that the good deeds will continue in future.

The LSN invited nominations for the awards from its members. The Access to Law and Social Responsibility Committee considered:

- ♦ Nominations received;
- ♦ LSN members who appeared pro bono;
- ♦ Members who presented training and who assisted the presenters with training; and
- ♦ Members who assisted the LSN with the free legal advice days.

The Committee made recommendations to the Council with regard to the Legal Excellence Awards for Social Responsibility and Human Rights.

We thank the JPK Trust for joining hands with the LSN to honour these achievements.

♦ **Best Student Excellence Awards**

Best JTC Student for 2015

Natasha de Beer achieved a 69% average respectively in all 11 subjects. Phillip Balhao, on behalf of Natasha de Beer, accepted the award from Vicky Erenstein ya Toivo and a cheque, in the amount of N \$3,500.00, from Wouter Rossouw.

Best LLB Final Year Student for 2015

Two awards were handed out in the category: one for the old LLB Programme and one for the new LLB Programme.

Irene Shebo achieved 65% average in the old LLB programme (2015).

Johannes P. Uusiku achieved 69% average in the new LLB programme (2015).

Phillip Balhao, on behalf of Irene Shebo and Johannes Uusiku, accepted the awards from Vicky Erenstein ya Toivo and cheques, in the amount of

N\$2,000.00 each, from Wouter Rossouw.



♦ Legal Excellence Award for Social Responsibility

Retha Steinmann (LSN Director), on behalf of the winner Dieter Maree, accepted the award from Vicky Erenstein ya Toivo.



♦ Legal Excellence Award for Human Rights

Smart Elago, on behalf of Tjombe-Elago Inc, received the award from Vicky Erenstein ya Toivo.



AGM – 25 November 2016: Presentation by Dr Gustav Gous

Gustav Gous, a Namibian born international speaker and trainer, with expertise in the fields of leadership, motivation, emotional intelligence and stress management, presented made a presentation on:

“In your right mind – the mental health of legal practitioners”.















AGM 2016: LSN Council November 2016 – November 2017

If the number of candidates duly nominated is equal to the number of vacancies in the Council and includes the minimum number of members who are engaged in private practice, as prescribed by Section 45 (1) of the Act, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be duly elected at the conclusion of the annual general meeting. As one of 5 candidates withdrew from the election process it was no longer necessary to hold elections.



Front: Saima Nambinga, Johann du Plessis (Vice-Chairperson), Ramon Maasdorp (Chairperson), Doris Hans-Kaumbi

Back: Melki Uupindi, Gaenor Michaels, Smart Elago, Meyer van den Berg

Change Project: Engagement with Key Stakeholders

On Saturday, 3 December 2016, a briefing session with key stakeholders took place at Lemon Tree.

The following key stakeholders were represented:

- ♦ The Namibia Consumers Trust
- ♦ The Office of the Judiciary
- ♦ The Office of the Attorney General
- ♦ The LSN Council
- ♦ The Namibia Lawyers Association
- ♦ The Society of Advocates of Namibia
- ♦ The Corporate Council and Company Secretaries Association of Namibia

Ramon Maasdorp is the Chairperson of the Steering Committee and the committee members are Saima Nambinga, Doris Hans-Kaumbi and Toni Hancox.

The Director of the LSN has also attended almost all the meetings on invitation.

Eben de Klerk is the dedicated Project Manager.

The purpose of the Change Project is to create a platform for transformational change in the legal profession, based on well researched evidence.

The purpose of the meeting, on Saturday, 3 December 2016, was to give an outline of the design process to be undertaken, to share the preliminary research themes as identified, to seek input on design considerations to be addressed or research themes that may have been missed.

The members of the Change Project Research Methodology Design Team, are:

- ♦ **Dr Rachel Shanyanana:** PhD, UNAM
- ♦ **Dr Christie Keulder:** PhD, MD of Survey Warehouse
- ♦ **Mr Anthony Muganza:** BA Hons, Fame! Consultancy
- ♦ **Ms Christa Schier:** MPhil, Data Processing and Analysis Consultant
- ♦ **Dr Dunia Prince Zongwe:** Doctorate in Science of Law, Senior Lecturer, UNAM
- ♦ **Mr John Hoyles,** recently retired CEO of the Canadian Bar Association

The researchers / team of experts attended the session to observe the proceedings and the inputs.







Attending the Design Workshop from 2 – 6 December 2016:

- Anthony Muganza: BA Hons, Fame! Consultancy
- Rachel Shanyanana: PhD, UNAM
- Ramon Maasdorp, Chairperson LSN and Steering Committee
- Christa Schier: MPhil, Data Processing and Analysis Consultant
- Dunia Prince Zongwe: Doctorate in Science of Law, Senior Lecturer, UNAM
- Eben de Klerk: Project Manager
- Elizabeth Coetzee: Stenographer / Secretarial services
- Christie Keulder: PhD, MD of Survey Warehouse
- John Hoyles, recently retired CEO of the Canadian Bar Association