

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Use

16 August 2019

Update on Dr Neil Aggett and Dr Hoosen Haffeejee Inquests

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola has formally requested Judge Presidents of the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal Divisions of the High Court to each designate a judge to re-open the inquests in relation to the deaths in detention of anti-apartheid activists, Drs Neil Aggett and Hoosen Haffeejee.

The Minister's decision is in terms of Section 17 A of the Inquest Act No. 58 of 1959 and follows an application by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for the reopening of the inquests.

On the 26 April 2019, the former Minister Advocate Michael Masutha, announced that the Ministry has authorized the NPA's request in relation to the death in detention of the two activists. The Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services can confirm that this decision is still in effect. In light of the findings of Judge Billy Mothle in the inquest of Ahmed Timol, the sixth administration is committed to ensuring that the justice system addresses TRC matters expeditiously.

"It is of paramount importance to society that justice is not seen as a mythical concept, but it must be seen to be done. Conceivably this principle becomes more pronounced where the families of apartheid era victims are concerned. As the Ministry we will be looking into TRC Cases which fall under this category, to ensure that justice fully manifests itself."- said Minister Lamola.

Ends

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