



16 August 2019

**MEDIA STATEMENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LEGAL AID SA EMPLOYEES TO EMBARK ON STRIKE ACTION**

A group of Legal Aid South Africa employees have given notice of strike action from Monday, 19 August 2019. This follows a demonstration that took place at our National Office in May 2019 where a memorandum was handed over, which was timeously responded to by management. The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration had previously issued a certificate of non-resolution on 6 December 2018, based on which employees now intend to strike.

The primary issues of dispute revolve around the reduction of a limited number of employee benefits as a result of the severe budget shortfalls that Legal Aid SA has experienced over the last few years. The reduction in these benefits, such as the rightsizing of our Group Life Scheme, was done as a last resort in order to avoid retrenchment of staff.

We wish to inform the public that due to the extent that this strike will be supported by our lawyers, we will regrettably not be able to cover all the courts as per our normal coverage plan. The disruption of many court matters will be an inevitable consequence of this strike action. Our local management teams will liaise with relevant officials at each court to determine how best we can continue to provide services to priority matters, noting our constrained resources. Walk-in clients are still welcome at Legal Aid SA offices, and will be able to access legal advice.

Legal Aid SA is committed to engaging with its employees in forging a way forward, whilst minimising service disruption to our clients.

-Ends-

**Issued by the Communication Department of Legal Aid South Africa. For more information, please contact Legal Aid South Africa Communications Executive and National Spokesperson Mr Mfanafuthi Shabangu on 066 301 6935 or Media Content Development Specialist Ms Janeske Botes on 060 980 5452**

Visit our website at [www.legal-aid.co.za](http://www.legal-aid.co.za)

Please be reminded that the name of our organisation **Legal Aid South Africa** is correctly abbreviated as **Legal Aid SA** and not as LASA. We respectfully request that you use the correct abbreviation **Legal Aid SA** which is representative of our mission to deliver quality **legal aid** services to the poor and vulnerable in South Africa.