



The South African Medico-Legal Association

Ms Lindelwa Jabavu,
Acting Chief Executive Officer,
Road Accident Fund.

5 August 2019

cc Mr Denzil Jacobs,
Senior Manager: Panel Management,
Road Accident Fund.

Dear Ms Jabavu,

- 1) We write to you on behalf of the South African Medico-Legal Association (SAMLA), to offer a “no strings attached” collaboration with the RAF, for the benefit of the RAF as well as the public good. This offer is extended in the spirit of President Ramaphosa’s Thuma Mine call for civil society to assist the State.
- 2) [SAMLA](#) is an independent public benefit organisation, which seeks to promote mutual understanding, as well as a high standard of ethical and competent practice by professionals in the large number of disciplines involved in medico-legal practice. SAMLA members, and medicolegal practitioners in general, include legal practitioners, medical practitioners, allied healthcare practitioners and others such as actuaries, mediators, architects and case managers.
- 3) On a number of occasions in the past SAMLA has extended a hand of friendship and cooperation to the RAF. SAMLA’s intention has been, and remains, to offer constructive assistance and think-tank support, in the best interests of the RAF and the public it serves. SAMLA is fully supportive of the statutory mandate of the RAF and has advanced understanding of difficulties in carrying out this mandate.

Non-Profit Company. Registration Number: 2005/013822/08

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Directors : Claassen, Judge CJ - Neels (National Chairperson); Athmaram, Reshma (KZN Branch Chairperson); Becker, Prof Jan (Gauteng Branch Chairperson); Claassen, Dr Brand; Dutton, Adv Ian (Coalition Task team Convenor); Edeling, Dr Hanneljie (Administration- and Communications); Edeling, Dr Herman (Clinical Negligence and Mediation; Faculty Leader); Enslin, Dr Hans (RAF); Fredericks, Dr Gavin; Jordaan, Mr Johan (National Treasurer; FS Chairperson); Khan, Adv Jenine (Membership); Lamey, Adv Albert; Lerm, Dr Henry (National Deputy Chairperson - Legal; EC Chairperson); Munyaka, Dr Sharon; Ncongwane SC, Adv Thami (Transformation); Pienaar, Dr Hennie; Reynolds, Mr Trevor (National Deputy Chairperson - Health Sciences); Saayman, Prof Gert; Satyapal, Prof Kapil; Singh, Ms Irana; Sutherland, Ms Romany (WC Chairperson); Van Den Bout, Dr & Adv Anton; Wasserman, Dr Marlene.



- 4) In the pursuit of its public benefit goals, SAMLMA has engaged constructively with a number of other stakeholder organisations, and has built strong and mutually respectful relationships with such organisations.
- 5) In pursuit of its goals, SAMLMA has also developed and presented postgraduate training courses in medicolegal practice, aimed at practitioners in all relevant disciplines. Feedback from participants in these courses has been most positive, particularly in the sense of empowering practitioners to better understand their role and to improve their levels of ethical/competent practice, as well as their own self-confidence.
- 6) SAMLMA is currently in conversation with Prof Ranavaya of ABIME, who has proposed ABIME/SAMLMA collaboration and cross accreditation in the presentation of medicolegal training courses in South Africa. The pursuit of such collaboration and cross accreditation has been approved by the Board of SAMLMA. We have had preliminary discussions and have agreed in principle on the manner in which the expertise of ABIME and the expertise of SAMLMA will complement one another. (See attached copy of Prof Ranavaya's letter addressed to Mr Denzil Jacobs).
- 7) We propose engagement with the management of the RAF, in relation to the implementation of specific measures intended to result in cost savings, improved service delivery and an improved public image of the RAF. These proposals, which we are willing to discuss in depth, will relate particularly to the following : -
 - a) Inculcation of a social security mindset in all RAF staff and agents, in line with the RAF Corporate Social Responsibility policy and Constitutional values.



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- b) Professional training of legal-, medical- and other medico-legal practitioners.
- c) Mediation of disputed claims.
- d) Establishment of a register of competent, ethical and accredited medico-legal practitioners.
- e) Joint appointment of single independent experts, with instructions to write factual and logically sound reports, rather than partisan or adversarial reports.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Mr Justice C.J. Claassen
SAMLMA National Chairperson

Dr Herman J. Edeling
SAMLMA Faculty Leader, Clinical Negligence &
Mediation Director

Annexures :

[SAMLMA Memorandum of Incorporation.](#)

[SAMLMA Code of Conduct.](#)

[SARS Tax Exemption Letter.](#)

[ABIME \(American Board of Independent Medical Examiners\) Letter of
Prof Ranavaya addressed to Mr Denzil Jacobs.](#)