



The South African Medico-Legal Association

Mr. Joe Samuels,
Chief Executive Officer
SAQA
Dear Mr Samuels,

5 August 2019

Re: Recognizing a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation
for the Purposes of the National Qualifications Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008
(as amended, March 2018)

1. This letter serves as an application from the South African Medico-Legal Association (SAMLMA), to attend a SAQA compulsory workshop for prospective professional bodies.
2. SAMLMA 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. The South African Medico-Legal Society (SAMLMS) was formed in the year 2000. At its AGM in November 2015 the name of the South African Medico-Legal Society was changed to the South African Medico-Legal Association. SAMLMA now has branches in Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Eastern Cape. SAMLMA members, and medico-legal practitioners in general, include legal practitioners, medical practitioners, allied healthcare practitioners and others such as actuaries, mediators, architects and case managers. (See attached SAMLMA Memorandum of Incorporation - SAMLMA Transformation Policy - SAMLMA Code of Conduct - SAMLMA Chairpersons Report 2018 - SARS Tax Exemption Letter – link to SAMLMA website.)

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

Web: www.medicolegal.org.za | **E-mail:** info@samla.org.za

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.



3. In the pursuit of its public benefit goals, SAMLA has engaged constructively with a large number of other stakeholder organisations, and has built mutually respectful relationships with such organisations. These include medical-, legal- and other professional organisations, universities, mediation training organisations and various organs of state. (See attached Agenda of Department of Health / Hogan Lovells / Constantia Medical Malpractice Workshop - Opening Address of Judge Claassen at First Medico-Legal Coalition Meeting - Invitation to ANC Legal Research Group Workshop - Agenda and Attendance Register of the Medico-legal Crisis Presentation to the President.)

4. In the pursuit of its educational goals since 2000, SAMLS/SAMLA has presented regular medico-legal seminars, workshops and mock trials. More recently SAMLA, in partnership with UCT Law@work, has developed and presented more formal and structured postgraduate training courses in medico-legal practice, aimed at practitioners in all relevant disciplines. Feedback from participants in these courses has been most positive, in the sense of empowering practitioners to better understand their role and to improve their levels of ethical/competent practice and self-confidence. This program, which utilises multiple site education with electronic simulcast in order to reach participants across the country, is now in the second year of a three-year programme. (See attached SAMLA Postgraduate Course In Medico-legal Practice Outcome Statement & Curriculum - SAMLA-UCT Foundations of Medico-legal Practice Course 2018 Lecture Timetable - SAMLA-UCT Series of Practical Training Workshops 2019-2020 Curriculum.)



5. SAMLA is also in conversation with Prof Ranavaya of ABIME (American Board of Independent Medical Examiners), who has proposed ABIME/SAMLA collaboration and cross accreditation in the presentation of medico-legal training courses in South Africa. We have had preliminary discussions and have agreed in principle on the manner in which the expertise of ABIME and the expertise of SAMLA will complement one another, and further discussions are scheduled for September 2019. (See attached ABIME Letter to the RAF re ABIME-SAMLA Collaboration - SAMLA Letter to the RAF re SAMLA-RAF Collaboration).

6. We are aware that time, effort, study and money by practitioners will not convert into qualifications on their own. The goal of the above progression is to develop an accredited structured curriculum that will meet the required standards of SAQA, HEQC, NQF, etc. so that study time and effort by practitioners will be converted into qualifications.

7. Over the years there have been numerous requests by stakeholders for SAMLA to establish a register of accredited medico-legal practitioners. SAMLA has explored relevant practicalities and criteria in this regard, but although it has the expertise, it does not yet have the authority to establish such a register. As a service to the emerging professional field of medical mediation, SAMLA has developed a Guidelines and Protocol for Medical Mediation, planned and commenced Pilot Projects in Medical Mediation, and developed a Register of SAMLA Verified Medical Mediators. (See attached SAMLA Guidelines and Protocol for Medical Mediation V11 - Gauteng Medical Mediation Pilot Project Letter of Appointment - Mpumalanga Medical Mediation Pilot Project Plan - Mpumalanga Medical Mediation Pilot Project Letter of Appointment - link to the Verified Medical Mediators Register on the SAMLA website.)



8. We are of the sincere belief that SAQA recognition of SAMLA as a professional body, as well as approval for registering professional designations, will be of great national benefit in attracting larger numbers of practitioners to relevant educational programs; in elevating the standard of medico-legal practice; and in bringing order to this troubled field. (See attached Medico-legal Crisis / Introductory Letter to President / DRAFT – Independent Multidisciplinary Medico-legal Regulatory Authority / Letter to President / DRAFT.)
9. For these reasons we respectfully urge you to consider our application favourably and to invite SAMLA to the requisite workshop.

Sincerely,

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

Annexures :

- a) SAMLA Memorandum of Incorporation.
- b) SAMLA Transformation Policy.
- c) SAMLA Code of Conduct.
- d) SAMLA Chairpersons Report 2018.
- e) SARS Tax Exemption Letter.
- f) Agenda of Department of Health / Hogan Lovells / Constantia Medical Malpractice Workshop.



- g) Opening Address of Judge Claassen at First Medico-Legal Coalition Meeting.
- h) Invitation to ANC Legal Research Group Workshop on RABS.
- i) Agenda and Attendance Register of the Medico-legal Crisis Presentation to the President.
- j) SAMLA Postgraduate Course In Medico-legal Practice Outcome Statement & Curriculum.
- k) SAMLA-UCT Foundations of Medico-legal Practice Course 2018 Lecture Timetable.
- l) SAMLA-UCT Series of Practical Training Workshops 2019-2020 Curriculum.
- m) ABIME Letter to the RAF re ABIME-SAMLA Collaboration.
- n) SAMLA Letter to the RAF re SAMLA-RAF Collaboration.
- o) SAMLA Guidelines and Protocol for Medical Mediation – V11.
- p) Gauteng Medical Mediation Pilot Project Letter of Appointment.
- q) Mpumalanga Medical Mediation Pilot Project Plan.
- r) Mpumalanga Medical Mediation Pilot Project Letter of Appointment.
- s) Medico-legal Crisis - Introductory Letter to President - DRAFT.
- t) Independent Multidisciplinary Medico-legal Regulatory Authority - Letter to President - DRAFT.
- u) <https://medico-legal.org.za/index.php>
- v) <https://medico-legal.org.za/verified-mediators.php>