MINISTER
AGRICULTURE
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Media Statement

MINISTER STEENHUISEN ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF ADVOCATE KARRISHA PILLAY SC TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETIES FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (NSPCA) BOARD

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, is pleased to announce the appointment of Advocate Karrisha Pillay SC to be the Ministerial Nominee to the Board of the National Council of the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA).

"This is an appointment of the highest significance because since the last Ministerial Nominee left the department in 2017, there has not been a representative from the Minister of Agriculture in this critical post," Minister Steenhuisen said. This is done in terms of Section 2(3)(b) of the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1993 (Act No. 169 of 1993), and it necessitates the appointment of a representative by the Minister of Agriculture. Advocate Pillay's presence is considered vital for the NSPCA board to function effectively in advancing animal welfare within the country.

A distinguished legal mind for a crucial role

Advocate Pillay SC brings immense experience, expertise and commitment to the board. She is a seasoned member of the Cape Bar with almost 24 years practice in law. Her leadership and brilliance were formally recognised in 2019 when Senior Counsel (SC) status was conferred on her. "I find the rich experience of Advocate Pillay to be a most precious asset and anticipate that she shall contribute significantly to achieving much-needed transformation as my nominee," Minister Steenhuisen said.

Credentials of Advocate Pillay are:

Landmark litigation: She has served as counsel in some of the landmark constitutional and administrative law cases before the High Courts, Supreme Court of Appeal and Constitutional Court, with significant impact on South Africa's jurisprudence under its constitutional dispensation.

Judicial experience: She has on occasion worked as a Judicial Commissioner in the Western Cape High Court.

Academic and social justice contributions: Advocate Pillay co-edited the book *Socio-Economic Rights in South Africa*. She has published articles on constitutional and human rights law and holds BA (Law), LLB and LLM qualifications. Beyond the courtroom, she has led in social justice, having served on the boards of various non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and a philanthropic foundation dedicated to human rights, gender equity and violence against women.

Leadership in the legal profession: Her leadership is also transferable to the legal profession itself, having served on the Legal Practice Council for the Western Cape (2019–2022) and occasionally on the Cape Bar Council, including as vice chairperson.

Through her years of service in the courts, in academia and within civil society, Advocate Pillay's experience reflects a profound commitment to advancing constitutional democracy, social justice and the rule of law. Minister Steenhuisen has great faith in her sound expertise which will ensure the NSPCA board is led with the highest standards of governance and legal compliance.

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