



Chief Justice Raymond Zondo
Constitution Hill, 1 Hospital Street, Braamfontein, 2017
Private Bag X 1, Constitution Hill, Braamfontein, 2017

14 January 2023

Media Statement

CHIEF JUSTICE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR FRENE GINWALA, FORMER SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

The Chief Justice, Chief Justice Ray Zondo, has learnt with shock of the passing on of the former Speaker of South Africa's first democratic Parliament, Dr Frene Ginwala. The Chief Justice states that, as Speaker of Parliament, Dr Ginwala was the Head of one of the three arms of the state, namely, Parliament. The Chief Justice sends his heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of the former Speaker. The Chief Justice says the people of South Africa will forever be grateful to Dr Ginwala for her immense contribution in the fight against apartheid and in the struggle for a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

The Chief Justice also said:

“We mourn the passing on of Dr Frene Ginwala and celebrate her illustrious life and her contribution to the freedom that we all enjoy today. We thank her family for sharing her with all the people of South Africa and beyond. Dr Ginwala made many contributions in different capacities to our constitutional democracy. On the occasion of her passing on, I particularly wish to mention the fact that it was during Dr Ginwala's term of office as Speaker of Parliament that our first democratic Parliament repealed a

number of apartheid laws that discriminated against the majority of the people of South Africa on the basis of their race. It was also during Dr Ginwala's term of office as Speaker of Parliament that South Africa's first democratic Parliament passed our Supreme Law, namely, our Constitution. The Constitution that Dr Ginwala helped produce for South Africa contains the Bill of Rights, provides for an independent Judiciary and constituted South Africa as a democratic state founded on, among others, the values of human dignity, the achievement of equality, the advancement of human rights and freedom, non-racialism, non-sexism, supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law. For this, our country will forever be indebted to Dr Ginwala and many others."

The Chief Justice has also pointed out that Dr Ginwala joins many leaders of our country who fought for our freedom and have passed on and who have left us a constitutional democracy that we must protect at all times in honour of all those who sacrificed a lot, like Dr Ginwala, so that we could have democracy in our country.

May Dr Ginwala's soul rest in eternal peace.

Ends.

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

Media enquiries:

Email: mediaenquiries@judiciary.org.za