

## ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE: JUSTICE SISI KHAMPEPE

The President has appointed Justice Sisi Khampepe of the Constitutional Court as Acting Deputy Chief Justice with effect from 1 May 2021. Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng is on long leave. Because of his involvement with the Commission of Inquiry on State Capture, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo is not available to perform his usual duties. In terms of the Superior Courts Act, as Acting Deputy Chief Justice, Justice Khampepe will exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Chief Justice as Acting Chief Justice.

Justice Khampepe's illustrious legal career spans over 40 years. After graduating with an LLM degree from Harvard University in the United States of America, she served articles at Bowman Gilfillan. She later started her own practice under the name SV Khampepe Attorneys. Her main area of practice and for which she was renowned was the defence of workers against unjust laws and unfair employment practices.

Justice Khampepe served in a number of positions of note. In 1995 she was appointed by President Nelson Mandela as a Commissioner in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In 2004 President Mbeki appointed her to oversee the Zimbabwean elections. In February 2006 the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Hon Donald C McKinnon, seconded her as a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Uganda. In 2005 to 2006 she chaired a Commission of Enquiry that came to be known as the Khampepe Commission. The Commission looked into the mandate and location of the Directorate of Special Operations, commonly known as the Scorpions.

Justice Khampepe's judicial career commenced with her appointment to the Gauteng Division of the High Court in December 2000. She later served as Acting Deputy Judge

President of the Labour Courts. Her well-deserved elevation to the apex court of the Republic, the Constitutional Court, took effect in October 2009.