

Cindy-Joy Balie - Comments on the Legal Aid SA Bill

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To: <cbalie@parliament.gov.za>
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Subject: Comments on the Legal Aid SA Bill

Hi Cindy

Herewith my inputs.

1. The Act does not seem to be talking to the New Legal practice Bill. An example is that attorneys and advocates will be regulated by a new structure and the definition of practitioner will change in terms of the New Legal Practice Bill.
2. The tenure of the Chief Executive Officer is not sufficiently defined as per Clause 15
The Clause provides that the CEO is appointed for a term of five years which may be renewed, by implication **indefinitely** [open ended term] as Legal Aid SA has currently has a CEO for the past **eleven years** uninterrupted which situation is not good at all.
3. The CEO as fit and proper person; applicable knowledge and experience is not sufficient at all and requires a proper requirement of a legally qualified and experienced person. Currently the CEO is a town planner.
4. Clause 17 [Agent], the agent is not an employee of Legal Aid SA and can only be appointed in consultation with the Director general of justice or nominee seen that the definition of agent defines it as an employee of the Department of Justice and not Legal Aid SA.
5. Clause 4 (1) (a) must include candidate attorneys read with clause 17 (2) (a)

Thanks!

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