

Debate on Justice and Correctional Services

Thank you very much, Honourable Chair.

Honourable Chair, I serve on forums consisting of members of Parliament from over 40 countries, and I'm very proud to say that they are very proud to speak well of our Chief Justice and all the special courts that he's responsible for, the Supreme Court and the People Courts.

This is an example for the rest of Africa. However, the Chief Justice needs to be capacitated, and I don't think that the Minister and the Deputy Minister fought hard enough to get as much money as possible that the Office of the Chief Justice needs. The Office of the Chief Justice is nowhere ready to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution. I haven't seen any orderlies who are robots in our courts, and we need to move in that direction. Honourable House Chair, we notice that the court system has been improved because of pro-bono courts, especially in the Labour Court. And so, the courts are not clogged with unnecessary cases.

We'd like to thank the legal profession for their assistance in the pro-bono courts of the labour Court. I have a small role to play as a member of SAS Law in establishing these pro-bono courts. However, these pro-bono courts should also be in all our other courts, especially the so-called lower courts, so that people can have access to the best legal firms in the country, so that the poor can have access. When it comes to legal aid, Honourable Chair, they're doing a good job.

But a lawyer that belongs to a firm has quite a lot of resources. He has got the counsel of his colleagues. They've got the resources. So pro-bono courts are something that we need to look at. The Justice of the constitutional court needs to be supported by the Department of Justice themselves.

They don't implement the Justice of the constitutional court. We saw that they've done nothing about the amendments to the Divorce Act 12 months down the line and 12 months to go. So, we feel that the department must do more to support the Chief Justice.

Lastly, Honourable House Chair, we would like to ask that the Chief Justice takes the lead to establish a real court. Now that the constitutional court has said that a Nikah marriage is a valid South African marriage.

Thank you very much.