



15 June 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUCCESSFUL MEDIATION BY LEGAL AID SOUTH AFRICA LEADS TO WITHDRAWN CHARGES AGAINST UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE WORKERS

Legal Aid South Africa welcomes the decision by the National Prosecuting Authority in the Free State to withdraw the charges against all 39 workers from the University of the Free State (UFS) who were arrested on 22 February 2016.

The striking UFS workers were protesting against outsourcing and also claimed that they were not being paid the wages promised to them following last year's 'Fees Must Fall' protests. These workers were then arrested for illegally gathering but were later released on bail in order to allow for further investigations.

Legal Aid South Africa's Bloemfontein Justice Centre Executive Mr Machini Motloung, Principal Attorney Moeketsi Moeketsi and Candidate Attorney Odwa Ngombane were on record as legal representatives of the 39 workers.

Their case was on the roll at the Bloemfontein District Court yesterday, 14 June. However, Legal Aid South Africa's defense team managed to ensure that the charges against the workers were withdrawn. This was subsequent to engagement meetings held between Legal Aid South Africa lawyers and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the Free State.

The workers are very appreciative of the legal representation provided by Legal Aid South Africa.

Such matters represent our ongoing commitment to fulfilling our mandate as set out in the Legal Aid South Africa Act (39 of 2014) and Section 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

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Issued by the Communications Department of Legal Aid South Africa. For more information, please contact the National Spokesperson Lesleigh Timothy on 011 877 2204 or FSNW Regional Communication Practitioner Thabo Koole on 051 412 8050

Visit our website at www.legal-aid.co.za or call the Legal Aid Advice Line on 0800 110 110

Please be reminded that the name of our organisation **Legal Aid South Africa** is correctly abbreviated as **Legal Aid SA** and not as LASA. We respectfully request that you use the correct abbreviation **Legal Aid SA** which is representative of our mission to deliver quality **legal aid** services to the poor and vulnerable in South Africa.