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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAWLA UNIVERSITY OF VENDA STUDENT CHAPTER LAUNCH

Legal Aid South Africa's Limpopo and Mpumalanga Regional Operations Executive, Ms Mpho Kgabi was part of the proud delegation attending the launch of the South African Women Lawyers Association Student Chapter (SAWLA Sc) at the University of Venda on Friday, 12 May 2017. This is the Student Chapter under the main SAWLA body, formed mainly by female student lawyers at Universities.

The main purpose of the SAWLA Student Chapter does not differ from the main SAWLA body as they both aim to address issues affecting female lawyers. The Student Chapter addresses issues affecting female student lawyers but the association also aims to be active within the community, addressing issues affecting the girl child. "Women are a vulnerable group and it is through structures like these that our dialogue, planning and strategies form a basis that will help us when we go out and make a contribution that will change our communities, especially for women," said University of Venda Dean of the School of Law, Annette Lansink.

During her keynote address Kgabi applauded the efforts already made by the Student Chapter Executive to get the association off the ground, but also warned them of the work that is to come. She also spoke about the change that still needs to happen within the legal profession and the steps that should be taken to change the gender discrimination that still exists. "The top positions in the legal profession, including the positions of the judiciary, senior counsels at the bar and senior partners in law firms are still male-dominated. Although we have female representation, this is still mostly at the junior level," said Kgabi.

Also in attendance was SAWLA University of Venda Patron and Law lecturer Ms Puleng Letuka, who was very excited about the launch and vowed to support the female students to ensure that the playing field is levelled and no gender-based discrimination occurs: "We are looking forward to good reports coming from the work of these ladies as they continue to change not only their lives but also the lives of their communities".

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Issued by the Communication Department of Legal Aid South Africa. For more information, please contact the Limpopo/Mpumalanga Regional Communication Practitioner Raymond Nenjelele on 015 296 0117/082 978 0630 or Media and Marketing Manager Godfrey Matsobe on 011 877 2382/ 082 602 7199

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