



“Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all”.

Reg. No. IT000121/2020(MN)

INTRODUCTION

The South African Women Lawyers Association Development Fund is a trust which was established in 2020. It is the brainchild of President Nomaswazi Shabangu-Mndawe. The development fund was registered on 06 November 2020 with the Master of the High Court under registration number IT000121/2020(MN).

GOVERNANCE

The Trustees are:

Nomaswazi Shabangu-Mndawe	FOUNDER
Nomahlubi Khwinana	CHAIRPERSON
Tsakani Maluleke	SECRETARY (Resigned)
Nomvula Mokhatla	
Ncumisa Dyantyi-Njokwana	

STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees are meeting as required and continue to provide oversight and guidance on the activities of the fund.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

To create, maintain and administer a fund out of which interest free loans to deserving SAWLA members will be given.

To support any other similar undertaking and to engage in any other related activities which, in the opinion of the Trustees, are likely to further the interest of SAWLA members.

To provide start-up loans for newly established practices, in a form of electronic equipment, software and office furniture.

To uphold, protect and foster the rights and interests of SAWLA members.

To provide guidance and mentorship to SAWLA members.

To conduct trainings, workshops, and seminars to SAWLA member which will enable them to diversify their practice into areas they previously did not enter due to lack of exposure or skill.

To co-operate with any other national or international bodies committed to the achievement of similar objectives as those of the Trust.

To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above aims and objectives, provided that the funds of the Trust shall only be utilized to assist members of SAWLA.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

The board is looking at new ways of securing funding for the organisation. We have been in communication with a company that assist in fundraising for NPOs. We are still looking at their terms and conditions before we can commit.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The board agreed that the trust would be unveiled at Sun City on the 10th September 2021 wherein it held its first fundraising project.

The board resolved that a golf day tournament be held on the 15th day of September 2023 at Mpumalanga however due to unforeseen circumstances the event was postponed. Further date thereof will be shared with the members of SAWLA and the golfers.

GOLF DAY & PLEDGES

The project was sponsored by AfriRent and all those that were participating paid a fee of R850 per golfer to attend and partake. The gifts were sponsored by Afrirent and Standard Bank. Afrirent publicly announced that a sum of R100 000.00 will be donated to SAWLA DF. The funds have not been received to date despite constant reminders to the CEO of Afrirent. There are individuals who also made pledges at Sun City but not all have paid their pledges. Members of SAWLA and friends of SAWLA are among some of those that made pledges. A list of all those that have paid is attached hereto.

DONATIONS FOR 2021 AGM AND GOLF DAY

We embarked on a fundraising drive to launch the development fund during the AGM. In addition to Afrirent that took care of the golf tournament, the following companies also donated:

Masimanyane donated R201 879.21

Women Legal Centre donated R50 000.00.

These monies were used for the event in Sun City.

Chief Justice Zondo donated R10 000 towards the development fund and R2000 towards the Victoria Mxenge School Shoes Program. This donation was however paid into our account in July 2022.

PLEDGES

In Kimberley at the Gala dinner members and guests made pledges but it is sad that some of our members removed their names from the list.

In Cape Town at the AGM members of SAWLA pledged particularly those that were acting Judges. The members that have paid their pledges thus far are Nomahlubi Khwinana, Khensani Moila, Nthabiseng Serabele, and Lilly Malatsi-Tefo.

AfriRent made a pledge of R100 000.00 in 2021 however to-date that money has not been paid into SAWLA DF. We have noted that people tend to play to the gallery and do not own up. A list of all those that have donated is attached hereto.

PLEDGES ON THE 05TH JUNE 2022

In Northern Cape at the General Meeting, the Premier of Northern Cape Dr. Zamani Saul pledged a sum of R250 000.00 (two hundred and fifty thousand rands) to the SAWLA DF. The said funds will be paid in three parts, the first amount of R100 000.00 having been paid now on the 13th September 2022.

We await further payment of another R100 000.00 from the Premier then the last payment of R50 000.00 in the year of 2024.

During the gala dinner, those that attended the event being members and friends of SAWLA made pledges. A list of all members that have to-date paid will be availed. The money was being fundraised to assist in taking the National Executive of the Student Chapter to Cape Town.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

There are projects that have been earmarked by Programs Committee which entails: GBVF and Mental Wellness. It is a fact that our members are not immune from GBV and Mental Wellness hence these programs.

The other focus area is to fund PMT as we have taken stock and noted that young practitioners are unable to pay for the course which compromises their fidelity fund certificate. SAWLADF through SAWLA has signed an MOU with SASSETA and what is left is to see candidate program being rolled out where our members will have candidate attorneys being paid a stipend through SASSETA. It is the duty of the committee to ensure that all candidate attorneys that will serve under members of SAWLA are properly trained.

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The committee has developde one policy that is with the Legal and Research Committee for comments.

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee is headed by Nomaswazi Shabangu-Mndawe. The trustees took a resolution that two beneficiaries be identified to be awarded a bursary. The trustees developed the criteria, and an advert was sent out. It was resolved that R10 000.00 will be awarded to each successful candidate which funds were to be paid directly to the institution.

The Trustees proceeded to set-up a bursary selection committee which included Mapula Keetse and Petunia Thulare. The said committee assessed the applications and the following candidates were successful:

Beneficiaries

1. Khethukuthula Mthombeni - UWC
2. Nthabeleng Mokoena - UNISA

The trustees with the bursary committee deliberated on how the committee should be proceeded with. It was resolved that the Bursary Committee no longer be regarded as a committee but be independent body as the funders requiring an independent bank account. The bursary committee was then registered as a Bursary Fund Non-Profit Company (NPC) in September 2022 the directors thereof being Mapula Keetse (Chairperson), Petunia Thulare (Secretary) and Nomaswazi Shabangu-Mndawe (Treasurer).

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The auditor has been appointed and we resolved to use the same Auditor used by Sawla. The audited financials will be made available at the AGM.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee entails our communication to members of SAWLA, stakeholders, friends of SAWLA and Marketing of the Fund. There are brochures that have been developed that explain what the fund provides. Banners of the organisation have been developed and are always being used at events of SAWLA in order to ensure visibility and that people are in the know as to what SAWLA Development Fund

entails. Our Marketing initiatives are minimal and have historically been with a bias towards marketing material for events and mainly our AGM.

The Chairperson of the committee resigned in order to further her studies. The provinces that are not represented in the fund have been approached to provide a person that will be part of the fund and we have since received names and are in the necessary process with the Master of the High Court.

WHO GETS FUNDED?

Any SAWLA member is eligible for funding provided that member is in good standing for more than twelve (12) months with her annual subscriptions and participates in SAWLA activities including attending meetings.

RESOURCES

The trustees are engaging different organisations that provide legal practice material. This will include amongst others: learning material and any other resources that will be beneficial to the development of a legal practitioner.

CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR SAWLADF FUNDING

The legal practitioner must be:

1. An Active Sawla Member in good standing for more than 12 months
2. An Attorney or an Advocate.
3. Lack funds to join a firm, start a firm or join a bar association.
4. In need of resources to run a law office.
5. A Member in good standing with the statutory body.
6. Be willing to be mentored and trained further.

7. Be willing to be monitored continuously
8. Accept her responsibility to repay the full amount.
9. Be within acceptable margins as a business risk.

NB.

1. SAWLADF is not a bank.
2. No cash will be paid directly to an applicant.
3. SAWLADF reserves the right to request further information on information provided.

CONCLUSION

We will continue to engage with stakeholders as represented on the Board and ensure that we heed all advice and comments as we recognize we do not exist in a vacuum and are to remain relevant to those that we serve and our valued clients. It is our saying that we want women legal practitioners to be able to start with all the resources they need in order to level the plain field.

We will continue to source funding so that when we start rolling out the financial assistance, we do not stop due to lack of funds.

FORWARD WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT!!!!!!