



JOASA
JUDICIAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



MANIFESTO OF NAZEEM JOEMATH

I am a presiding officer stationed at East London and the current chairperson of JOASA Eastern Cape.

Upon my election I promised to take the Eastern Cape from its position of inactivity to a level of interaction and organization. My commitment to the Eastern Cape and my resolve for JOASA led to my decision to declare myself available for the position of the VICE PRESIDENT of JOASA.

I have been a member of JOASA since its formation and believe that this is the only vehicle available to presiding officers to achieve our goals.

I am a very calm but firm person with a good sense of humour.

I am a good listener but most importantly ensure that any issue gets addressed and finalized.

During the latter part of 2009 we all received invitations to attend a judicial skills training provided by ARMSA. I immediately took offence to the insinuations made in the invitation that magistrates in the district courts do not have the requisite skills to go and act in the regional court without attending this training.

In essence, ARMSA wanted to create a pool to decide which magistrate should be appointed to act.

As the leadership of JOASA was quiet I made my own enquiries only to discover that neither the chief magistrates nor the Regional Court President of the Eastern Cape was aware of the ARMSA intention.

The Magistrates commission did not endorse this training and was against the creation of a pool as envisaged by ARMSA.

I immediately drafted a memorandum to the Eastern Cape members informing them of the situation and requesting them not to participate in order to give credibility to an unethical attempt by ARMSA to pre-select entry into their domain.

This memorandum was effective to stop participation but most importantly it highlighted the objectives of ARMSA and their perception of magistrates. This view is no different to that of judges and is an aspect that has to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Currently we have many issues which are in the process of deliberation and negotiation but nothing ever seems to be finalized.

The date we became public office bearers most of us believed we achieved our goal. It was only when we discovered that we were once again marginalized, in that the IRC only managed to widen the gap between Judges and magistrates. Joasa needs new vision to take it from obscurity to a level where the association is admired for its achievements' and I believe that I can play a pivotal role in this regard

NAZEEM JOEMATH
Chairman: JOASA Eastern Cape

