South African Law Reform Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION PUBLISHES TWO DISCUSSION PAPERS ON THE REVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ACT, 1977 FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) invites comments on the following two discussion papers on the Review of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 (CPA):

a) Discussion Paper 182 - Detention of Witnesses and Payment of Witness Fees
b) Discussion Paper 183 - Reforming the South African Criminal Procedure Act to Uphold Language Rights

The discussion papers, considered together with the papers that were published on 20 February 2025, February and March 2026 respectively seek to contribute to a new criminal procedure law that is modernised and conforms to the country's democratic Constitution and its underlying values and principles. These papers seek to, among others:

- Review sections 184 , 185, 189 (arrest and detention of witnesses) and sections 181 and 190 (witnesses fee) of the CPA and the constitutionality of these provisions; and
- Reviews South Africa's obligations to respect, protect, ensure and promote language rights as it pertains to the constitutional guarantee of the right to a fair trial.

These two papers are the last discussion papers to be published by the SALRC marking the conclusion of the research phase of the investigation. Written submissions on the discussion papers must be submitted to the SALRC by no later than 31 October 2026. E-mail addresses have been provided for each discussion paper with the CPAreform@justice.gov.za being the central e-mail address for all submissions.

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Enquiries in respect of the press statement should be addressed to the Secretary to the SALRC, Mr Nelson Matibe (012) 622 6306 or E-mail: NMatibe@justice.gov.za

ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY: SA LAW REFORM COMMISSION, PRETORIA
25 SEPTEMBER 2026