



The Balance Between Robust Constitutionalism and the Democratic Process

Public Lecture by Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke of the Republic of South Africa

Never Stand Still

Law

Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law

Wednesday 15 June 2016, 6.00pm
Level 21, Law Courts Building
184 Phillip Street, Sydney

As an anti-apartheid activist, the principle of 'one person one vote' was central to Dikgang Moseneke's democratic demands. Now in his role as Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Moseneke seeks to find equilibrium between the democratic will of the people and the supremacy of the Constitution. While critics of the Constitution question its legitimacy, Moseneke holds that constitutional supremacy protects against abuses of public power and creates a government that is more consistent, just and responsive. Reflecting on recent events in South Africa and internationally, Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke examines the balance between the democratic process and robust constitutionalism.

Hosted by UNSW Law, the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law and the Rule of Law Institute of Australia.

The Balance Between Robust Constitutionalism and the Democratic Process

SPEAKER

**Deputy Chief Justice
Dikgang Moseneke
of the Republic of South Africa**



Born in Pretoria in 1947, the Honourable Dikgang Moseneke was jailed at the age of 15 for participating in anti-apartheid activities. In the ten years that he was detained on Robben Island,

Moseneke befriended other activists—including Nelson Mandela—also imprisoned for their fight against the apartheid regime. While in prison he studied for degrees in Arts and B Juris from the University of South Africa, both of which were conferred while he was a prisoner. Moseneke later received an LLB from the same university.

Admitted as a solicitor in 1978, Moseneke's application to the Pretoria Bar in 1983 initiated the abolition of 'white only' Bar membership. He was appointed to Senior Counsel in 1993, and in the same year served on the committee that drafted South Africa's interim Constitution. When the first democratic elections were held in 1994, Moseneke was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission. Following a period in the corporate sector, Moseneke was appointed a judge of the Constitutional Court in 2002, becoming Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa in 2005.

He is the recipient of five honorary doctorates, a founding member of the Black Lawyers Association and of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers of South Africa. In a fitting legacy of his early friendships, he is one of the executors of Nelson Mandela's estate.

DATE

Wednesday 15 June 2016

TIME

6.00pm

A drinks reception will follow Justice Moseneke's address.

VENUE

Court No 1, Federal Court of Australia, Level 21, Law Courts Building, 184 Phillip St, Sydney

REGISTRATION

The event is free but registration by Wednesday 8 June is essential. Registration can be completed online at: <http://moseneke.eventbrite.com.au>

Registration inquiries should be addressed to Belinda McDonald, Administrator at the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law on 02 9385 2257 or gtcentre@unsw.edu.au.



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