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MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF DR MARIO ORIANI-AMBROSINI

16 August 2014

Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng today expressed his deep sadness at the news of the passing of a member of our Parliament, the Honourable Dr Mario Oriani-Ambrosini.

Dr Ambrosini engaged with the Constitution through our courts of law and thus contributed to the development of our constitutional jurisprudence. He launched the case of Ambrosini vs The Speaker of the National Assembly which finally settled the question whether an individual member of the National Assembly has the right in terms of section 73 (2) of the Constitution to introduce a Bill in the National Assembly. This bears testimony to his constitutional activism and the enormous contribution he single-handedly made in deepening constitutionalism in South Africa.

"Dr Ambrosini will be remembered as an astute jurist and we were still looking forward to his continued contribution in the country's intellectual discourse on our Constitution – for which he was a gracious but vociferous ambassador, nationally and internationally.

"Despite his ill-health, he remained steadfast in his convictions as a human rights activist of note. Indeed, our country is all the poorer at his passing and it is my hope that his life's work will continue to inspire our youth and instil in them the kind of constitutional activism that characterised Dr Ambrosini's life.

"On behalf of the Judiciary in our country, I wish to thank his wife and children for having allowed us to share this giant of a man and I trust they will find strength in knowing that he ran a good race. And may God give them strength during this trying time."

Ends.

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