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THE OFFICE OF THE PENSION FUNDS ADJUDICATOR SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

During the interviews for the Public Protector position, members of the Adhoc Committee on the Nomination of a Person for the position of Public Protector requested an explanation from Ms Muvhango Lukhaimane, the Pension Funds Adjudicator, on the allegations that she has a criminal record that she failed to declare. The allegation against Ms Lukhaimane was made in a letter submitted by the State Security Agency to the Committee. The letter alleged that Ms Lukhaimane had a criminal record, having been found not guilty of assault and guilty of dealing in liquor without a license.

During the interviews, Ms Lukhaimane took strong exception to the allegations and indicated that she has never been charged nor stood trial for any criminal matter and that both matters related to third parties.

Ms Lukhaimane has since sought clarity on the alleged criminal record from the South African Police Services. On 18 August 2016, the SAPS issued Ms Lukhaimane with a clearance certificate confirming that she has no criminal record.

Ms Lukhaimane was appointed South Africa's fifth Pension Funds Adjudicator in July 2013 by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan after serving as deputy Pension Funds Adjudicator for a year. Over the years, we have worked with Ms Lukhaimane without any concerns relating to her good standing both in her personal and professional capacity. The appointment of an Adjudicator is regulated in terms of section 30C of the Pension Funds Act.

The Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator was established in terms of Section 30B of the Pension Funds Act, 24 of 1956. The service offered is free to members of the public.

Centralised Complaints Helpline for All Financial Ombud Schemes 0860 OMBUDS (086 066 2837)

On behalf of the Board of the Financial Services Board (FSB) that also serves as Accounting Authority for the Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator (OPFA), we wish to reassure all stakeholders of the OPFA and the pension funds industry that the allegations provided to the Committee were due to an error that has since been corrected. The damage that this might have caused to the OPFA's reputation that we have nurtured over the past few years is regrettable, just as much the damage to Ms Lukhaimane's own personal reputation.

End

This statement is issued by the OPFA on behalf of the Chairperson of the Board of the FSB in his capacity as the Accounting Authority of the OPFA

For any further enquiries, please contact the OPFA's Communications and Outreach Manager, Mr Tebogo Seate on Tel – 012 748 4002 or email him at tebogo.seate@pfa.org.za

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