

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE TAX OMBUD**

**DATE: 4 SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MINISTER OF FINANCE EXTENDS THE TERM OF TAX OMBUD JUDGE NGOEPE**

Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni has extended the term of office of the Tax Ombud Judge Bernard Makgabo Ngoepe for three years, commencing 1 October 2019. Judge Ngoepe became the country's first Tax Ombud when he was appointed by the then Minister of Finance, in October 2013. Minister Mboweni congratulated Judge Ngoepe on the extension of his term of office. The Minister assured Judge Ngoepe of his highest consideration and wished him success. "I look forward to continue working with you in contributing to the delivery of the Office of the Tax Ombud mandate. I am confident that through your strong leadership you will continue to guide the Office to greater heights," Minister Mboweni said. The appointment is on a part-time basis.

Judge Ngoepe welcomed the extension and said that he would continue to pursue independence of the Office from the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Judge Ngoepe further stated that "The next three years will provide us with more time to pursue the objective of turning the OTO into an independent institution that will ensure the balance between SARS' powers on the one hand, and taxpayer rights and obligations on the other." This, he hopes, would inculcate a culture of tax compliance.

Issued on behalf of the Tax Ombud

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Notes: The Office of the Tax Ombud (OTO) is an independent and impartial state institution that provides a simple, free and fair channel for the resolution of a service, procedural or administrative dispute taxpayers might have already unsuccessfully tried to resolve through SARS' internal complaints resolution channels. The OTO seeks to ensure a balance between SARS' powers on one hand, and taxpayer rights and obligations on the other.

### **About Judge Ngoepe**

**Judge Ngoepe is the former Judge President of the North and South Gauteng High Courts; he also served as Judge and Vice President of the AU-African Courts on Human and Peoples' Rights based in Arusha, Tanzania. He served for 16 years as Chancellor of the University of South Africa.**