

## Wanted: Sheriffs of the Court

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### IS YOUR CV READY? Applications are wanted in the nine provinces

The Black Lawyers' Association (BLA) has welcomed Justice Minister Jeff Radebe's call for applications for vacant sheriff positions.

Radebe said there were 130 positions to be filled and he called on those with technical competence and experience to apply.

"We call on all persons who are fit and proper to occupy the office of a sheriff... to apply for these vacant posts, to further enhance the transformation and to attain gender equality of the sheriffs profession," he said.

BLA president Pritzman Mabunda said Radebe's move positively contributed to addressing the injustices of the past.

"This bold initiative is clearly in line with the transformative agenda the minister has been and continues to embark upon in line with the constitutional imperatives," he said. He encouraged the justice department to continue with such initiatives.

This will be the second major intake of sheriffs in the past year: in August, Radebe approved the appointment of 124.

Of the 130 posts advertised, 27 are in the Eastern Cape, 21 in the Free State, 19 in Limpopo, 14 in the Western Cape, 13 in the Northern Cape, 11 in KwaZulu-Natal, 10 in North West, eight in Mpumalanga and seven in Gauteng.

### Who is the Sheriff?

In South Africa, the Sheriff is an independent Officer of the Court who acts as a third party to serve court process and to execute the warrants and orders of the Court, according to the [Sheriff-Centurion](#) website.

### Requirements for holding an office of Sheriff:

Here's what the job ad states:

- Person of integrity associated with office of a sheriff,
- Technical competence and experience required to conduct the business of sheriff,
- An understanding of the civil law
- Knowledge of the relevant aspects of the Constitution of South Africa, Magistrates' Court Act, Rules of Court, Supreme Court Act, Rules of the Supreme Court of Appeal, Criminal

Procedure Act, Basic Conditions of Employment Act, Labour Relations Act, National Credit Act, Sheriffs Act.

- The person appointed as sheriff cannot perform the functions of a sheriff unless he/she has been issued with a Fidelity Fund Certificate, issued by the South African Board for Sheriffs.

**Duties and Remuneration:**

- A sheriff is not an employee of the department and generates his/her income from the service and the execution of court documents in terms of the prescribed tariffs.
- The applicant must demonstrate the potential ability to establish and operate an office to conduct business relating to the service of summonses and other court processes; the execution of warrants of execution and ejection interdicts and garnishee orders; the making of inventories on the processing of warrants of execution; the provision of returns of service; the holding of execution auctions; and the keeping of a trust account of a sheriff.