

Judicial Service Commission interviews

07 October 2015, afternoon session

Labour Courts

DISCLAIMER: These detailed unofficial transcripts were compiled to the best of the abilities of the monitor. However due to capacity constraints they have not been fully edited. We have therefore made the audio recordings available that were taken during the interviews available. Those wishing to cite or quote from the transcript are encouraged to check accuracy with reference to the audio file.

Interview of Adv C Prinsloo

Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke: Where were you born?

Adv C Prinsloo: Pretoria.

Moseneke: And you went to the University of Pretoria (UP) correct?

Prinsloo: Yes, I did.

Moseneke: I notice that the work that you did much later was in the Labour Courts.

Prinsloo: Yes, that is correct.

Moseneke: Why do you want to become a Judge of the Labour Courts?

Prinsloo: I wanted to become a Judge all my life, and this passion developed in the early part of my life and I thought let me grab this opportunity that has been opened to become a Judge of the Labour Courts and hopefully this will go well for me.

Moseneke: You look so young for someone to become a Judge. How old are you?

Prinsloo: I'm 43.

Moseneke: You did very well academically up until the tertiary level. Who paid for your university?

Prinsloo: It was a loan from the bank.

Moseneke: Why did you become a director of Rural Development?

Prinsloo: In my studies, I had to repay my study loans and therefore I worked for the Department of Rural Development for about 10 years. The main reason for me to leave government is because I dealt with disciplinary and labour matters and on some stage we had to brief councils. I thought if I wanted to grow a step further then I needed to leave government and join the Bars so I could become a council.

Moseneke: I see that you've also written a book about labour matters and this just goes to show your passion in this particular field.

Deputy Judge President Tlaetsi: You have had three terms acting in the labour courts, correct?

Prinsloo: Yes, that is correct.

Tlaetsi: I take it as you know what it entails being a Judge in the labour courts?

Prinsloo: Yes, I have an understanding of the labour courts.

Tlaetsi: Anything that you can say about the volume of work?

Prinsloo: There is a lot of work in the labour courts.

Tlaetsi: So you're aware of the volume of work that is expected to be performed, should you be appointed?

Prinsloo: Yes, I'm aware of volume of work.

Tlaetsi: There is also a lot of travelling that is involved in the labour courts. Are you up for this challenge?

Prinsloo: Yes, I'm aware of the demand for travelling and I will not have a problem with travelling.

Tlaetsi: Are you aware of different courts in the labour courts including Motion Court, Trial Court, Urgent Court and so forth?

Prinsloo: Yes, I'm quite familiar with all the courts in the labour courts.

Tlaetsi: It is quite clear that on the average you may pick up about 20-30 reserved judgements per week, especially if you're in the opposed motion court?

Prinsloo: Yes, I'm quite aware of that.

Tlaetsi: In my interaction with the permanent Judges, they do support your appointment in order to join them as the Judge.

Representative of NEDLAC Mr Thembinkosi Mkhali: The labour businesses have confirmed the support of the candidate.

Moseneke: Thank you for your input.

Singh: I have been watching a programme on sex workers and their rights and I see from the South African Law Reform Commission that there is legislation that dates to 1957 and there were few amendments that were made since then. Do you have any views on the rights of sex workers?

Prinsloo: I do not have specific views on the rights of sex workers but I think sex workers should also be regarded as workers and they should enjoy every right that are enjoyed by other employees.

Singh: Are you are aware of the piece of legislation that dates back to 1957?

Prinsloo: No, I'm not aware of such piece of legislation.

Didiza: I want to confirm that I was the Minister of Rural Development when Adv Prinsloo was working for the Department. Essentially, I wanted to disclose the familiarity with the candidate.

Moseneke: You made it clear that you're committed to the Constitution of the country and what it entails. Why is that so? Why is that so important?

Prinsloo: The Constitution of South Africa is bound by the rule of law and the Constitution is the building blocks of our democratic South Africa. The Constitution makes it very clear that there is a need to promote access to justice to everyone.

Moseneke: You talked about the need to uphold the rule of law; does that include all the other statutes of Parliament and other national importance?

Prinsloo: Indeed.

Moseneke: Some people want to hold into the Constitution and ignore all the other laws, yet the role of the Judge is quite clear, which is to take into cognisance of the Constitution and the rule of law.

Prinsloo: Indeed.

Moseneke: I have come to the end of your interview. It is clear that you're vastly experienced with a wealth of skills and excellent academic background. You will hear of the outcome in this evening already.

Prinsloo: Thank you.