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Auditor-general appoints South Africa's first female deputy auditor-general

PRETORIA – The auditor-general (AG), Kimi Makwetu, today announced the appointment of Tsakani Ratsela as the new deputy auditor-general (DAG), the first South African woman to be appointed to this executive leadership position in the organisation's 103-year history.

The appointment comes into effect on 1 April 2014.

Ratsela takes over from Makwetu who served as DAG for six years before being appointed by President Jacob Zuma as the new AG last December.

Born in Soshanguve, Pretoria, the 38-year-old Ratsela, a chartered accountant (CA), is currently the national leader: Audit Services, a strategic position that directs all audit work at the AGSA. As the new DAG, she will now assume the chief executive role at the country's supreme audit institution.

She studied at the University of Cape Town and graduated with a BCom (Accounting) in 1996 and a post-graduate diploma in Accountancy (1997). She completed articles with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. She also has extensive leadership experience in both the public and private sectors, having worked at, among other companies, the Eastern Cape Development Corporation and Izingwe Holdings.

A passionate and active supporter of education and advancement, Ratsela is currently the chairperson of the CA Charter Council, whose primary objective is to grow the number of

black people in the accounting profession and is also at the forefront of the AGSA's ongoing drive to train young and talented auditors, mainly from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Says Makwetu, 'We are pleased to have a leader of Ratsela's calibre in our midst. Since joining our office, she has ably led our office's efforts in building our national audit capabilities. This has provided her with a solid foundation to assume the overall executive leadership of our organisation – a task that will entail working with the Auditor-General and a team of executives to ensure that audits are done and that all matters of accountability are elevated for leadership action. We are certain that this new task will further strengthen her contribution to transparent and credible financial management and reporting in government.

'I am confident that her visionary leadership will take this important institution to even greater heights, and in the process benefit all South Africans and our peers internationally. She has built a solid team that will capably back the common vision of delivering efficient service to all the AGSA's stakeholders.'

Ratsela is married with two children.

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About the AGSA: The AGSA is the country's supreme audit institution. It is the only institution that, by law, has to audit and report on how government is spending taxpayers' money. This has been the focus of the AGSA since its inception in 1911 – the organisation celebrated 100 years of public sector auditing in 2011.

End.