President of Supreme Court lectures

Judge Lex Mpati, President of the Supreme Court of Appeal, presented a lecture at the University of Pretoria on 29 October 2008. This lecture was the second in a series of prestige lectures to celebrate the centenary of the University of Pretoria. Judge Mpati spoke on the topic *Is the judiciary in crisis?* The occasion also provided the opportunity for the University’s law students to interact with the judge (above), who shared some of his experiences with them. Judge Mpati attempted to answer the question posed in the title of his address by looking at developments in other jurisdictions in addition to South Africa’s own history. He argued that the situation in present-day South Africa has not as yet reached a stage where one could speak of a crisis in the judiciary. “It is well to remember,” he said, “that the rule of law is founded, and flourishes, on the supremacy of the law as facilitated by a system of governance that is democratic, participative and transparent and, importantly, supported by a strong and independent judiciary.”

