



OFFICE OF THE JUDGE PRESIDENT

GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

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20 March 2020

To:-

1. All Judges in the Gauteng Division of the High Court (Pretoria and Johannesburg) and all Judicial Officers in the Magistrates Courts in Gauteng
2. All Judiciary Heads of the Regional and District Courts, Gauteng Division
3. All Stakeholders of the Gauteng Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee
4. All Stakeholders in the Gauteng Justice Cluster

RESOLUTION OF THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee (PEEC) is conscious of the the gravity of the risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on access to justice in the High Courts of the Gauteng Division, Regional and Magistrates Courts.

The PEEC is committed and determined to adopt and provide durable solutions aimed at restricting and preventing the spread and devastating effects that this pandemic can cause.

Mindful of the inadequate availability of products and processes as outlined in the Directive issued by the Chief Justice on 17 March 2020, which are to ensure health and safety precautions in the Courts, the following resolution was adopted by the Gauteng Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee at its special meeting held on 20 March 2020:

1. In both seats of the High Court, all criminal trials enrolled from Monday, 23 March 2020 until 09 April 2020, including matters on the recess roll, are to be brought forward and postponed,



using the AVR system, for hearing/continuation of those matters from 14 April 2020 onwards, save for matters where special arrangements have been made for their hearing/continuation during this period.

2. All criminal trials held in the Regional and District Courts in Gauteng, which are enrolled between the period 23 March 2020 and 09 April 2020 are to be postponed for hearing/continuation from 14 April 2020 onwards, save for matters relating to first appearances and bail applications, which are to be dealt with in the normal course. This shall include matters where special arrangements have been made. The AVR system will be used for purposes of this paragraph.
3. No awaiting trial detainee held in Correctional Services facilities and Police holding cells, are to be brought to any Court house in Gauteng, unless for first appearances, bail applications and matters where special arrangements have been made with the Judicial Officers involved in the matters.
4. In respect of matters on the Civil roll of the Courts, the PEEC encouraged Heads of the Gauteng Regional and District Courts to adopt and/or implement measures that will alleviate congestion in their Court houses. This shall include but is not limited to teleconferencing and other available means. In respect of the High Courts of the Division, the PEEC encouraged the representatives of the legal fraternity to embrace the Directive issued by the Office of the Judge President on 18 March 2020.
5. These measures are implemented in view of the partial and in some instances lack of adequate provisioning of health and safety materials in the Court houses as mentioned in the Directive issued by the Chief Justice on 17 March 2020.
6. The Gauteng Division Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee will reconvene on Friday, 27 March 2020 to review the situation mentioned in paragraph 5 above and take further measures if necessary.

Sincerely



D MLAMBO

CHAIRPERSON: GAUTENG PROVINCIAL EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

