MAGISTRATES' COURTS JUDICIARY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TO:

ALL SENIOR MAGISTRTATES IN THE JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL SUB-CLUSTER
ALL MAGISTRATES IN THE JOHANESBURG CENTRAL SUB-CLUSTER
ALL STAKEHOLDERS

GUIDELINES FOR COURT OPERATION IN LINE WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE (PEEC) ON 20 MARCH 2020 IN LIGHT OF COVID - 19

This office is aware of the rapid rise of cases of Covid-19, especially in Gauteng. Of importance are the measures to be taken to avoid the spread of this virus. Having taken cognizance of the Directives issued by the Chief Justice on 17 March 2020 and the Gauteng PEEC Resolution of 20 March 2020, the following guidelines are provided.

1. All criminal trials enrolled from Monday 23 March 2020 until 9 April 2020 are to be postponed to dates from 14 April 2020 onwards.

2. All matters involving accused persons in custody will be postponed through the AVR system and in courts where there is no AVR system, in absentia.

3. First appearances, bail applications and matters where special arrangements have been made will be dealt with as normal.

4. No awaiting trial detainees held in Correctional Facilities and Police Holding Cells are to be brought to court except those referred to in paragraph 3.

5. Civil and Family Court Senior Magistrates are to ensure that matters are dealt with in a manner that will minimise congestion in the courts. This would include postponing all matters that are not deemed urgent.

6. Legal Practitioners are encouraged to communicate with the Heads of the various sections to agree on ways to speedily deal with matters and clear the courts of congestion.

7. From 23 March 2020 no children are to be brought to court for children's court matters and no adults with children will be allowed in court.

8. These measures are implemented due to lack of health and safety materials in the Courts as required in the Directives issued by the Chief Justice on 17 March 2020.

9. Assessment of the situation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders will continue to take place.



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YP SIDLOVA
CHIEF MAGISTRATE
ACTING HEAD-ADMIN REG 5A
JOHANNESBURG