the doj & cd

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Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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FEBRUARY 2020 REF No 7/2/3

O ALL OFFICES OF THE MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

**CIRCULAR NO. 02 OF 2020: INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION, FRAUD AND MALADMINISTRATION INTO OFFICES AT THE MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT**

1. The President of the Republic of South Africa has authorised the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) to investigate allegations of corruption, fraud and maladministration in the offices of the Master of the High Court country-wide. (Proclamation No. 7 of 2020 published in the Government Gazette No. 42992 of 3 February 2020).

2. Pursuant to the publication of the above Proclamation this afternoon and with a view to enable the SIU to gather, collate and retrieve information that is relevant to the investigation, it has become necessary that the Office of the Chief Master and the Offices of the Master country-wide be shut down from 14h30 on 3 February 2020 to 16h30 on 5 February 2020. Only Deputy Masters in each of the offices are allowed to be in the offices for purposes of liaising with the SIU in relation to any information relevant to the investigation and to facilitate that the members of the public are informed accordingly. Therefore, the SIU will liaise with Deputy Masters for purposes of accessing offices and any relevant to the investigation.

3. Any matter that requires urgent attention during the period of the shutdown and which cannot be pended until Wednesday 5 February 2020 must be referred to the nearest Magistrate Office or the Regional Office of the Department for attention and further guidance.

4. In light of the above officials who are stationed at the Office of the Chief Master and Offices of the Master country-wide are given leave of absence for the period of the shutdown and are required to report back to their offices on 5 February 2020.