



OFFICE OF
MADAM JUDGE PRESIDENT M M LEEUW
NORTH WEST DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

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High Court Ref: NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

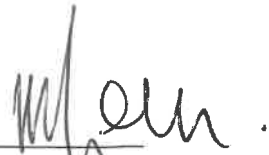
Date: 26 MARCH 2020

DIRECTIVES ISSUED BY THE JUDGE PRESIDENT
REGARDING NATIONAL “LOCKDOWN” 27 MARCH 2020
TO 16 APRIL 2020

- [1] On Monday, **23 March 2020**, the State President declared a “lockdown” for the whole country from 27 MARCH 2020 to 16 APRIL 2020. The effect thereof is that people are to be confined to their homes or dwellings.
- [2] Pursuant thereto the Chief Justice delegated his authority in terms of Section 8(3) of the Superior Courts Act, 2013 to the Heads of Courts to issue Directives so as to enable access to court in relation to any urgent matter, bail applications, maintenance and Domestic Violence related matters and cases involving Children issues.
- [3] As the Judge President of the North West Division, I issue the following Directives applicable with effect from **midnight on 26 MARCH 2020 to 20 APRIL 2020** at **08h00:**
- 3.1 The High Court is on recess with effect from **28 MARCH 2020** until **12 April 2020**. The “lockdown” period continues during term for 3 days, to *wit*: **14, 15 and 16 APRIL 2020**.
- 3.2 For the period **27 MARCH 2020 to 16 APRIL 2020** this Division will be operating with “Skeleton staff”. There will be a Judge on duty together with

- 3.3 The duty Judge will attend to all Urgent applications in court. Where possible the urgent applications maybe decided on the papers filed electronically.
- 3.4 The unopposed applications including *rule nisi* applications already enrolled for hearing on the following dates: **2, 9 and 16 APRIL 2020**, will be postponed to the week of the **20 April 2020** on the normal motion court date by the duty Judge, and in the absence of the litigants and/ or their legal representative. This is to minimise any contact in response to the preventative measures against the spread of the Covid-19.
- 3.5 Practitioners and litigants are advised to communicate as per 3.6 below, with the office of the Registrar on receipt of this directive or soon thereafter, for the purpose of arranging removals and/or re-enrolment or postponement of their matters.
- 3.6 All Opposed Applications including Civil Trials, Reviews, Pre-trial management conferences etc. enrolled from **30 March 2020** up to **17 APRIL 2020**, shall be postponed to a suitable date and will be granted preferential dates of hearing. The removal or postponement of the matters shall be done electronically (e.g. through the e-mail directed to the Registrar's office.
ISelebogo@judiciary.org.za and LMokete@judiciary.org.za
- 3.7 Practitioners and litigants are advised to communicate as per 3.4 above, with the office of the Registrar on receipt of this directive or soon thereafter, for the purpose of arranging removals and/or re-enrolment or postponement of their matters.
- 3.8 In order to avoid prescription of any action, processes may be filed electronically.
- 3.9 All Criminal trials enrolled for the week starting **30 March 2020 to 03 April 2020** including the week starting **14 April 2020 to 17 APRIL 2020**, will be postponed with the arrangement of the Director of Public Prosecutions and where possible, the cases of accused persons who are in custody will be postponed through Audio Virtual Remand System, utilized at the Magistrate Court where the Circuit Court is held.
- 3.10 All appeals and reviews enrolled before the "lockdown" period from the 17 APRIL 2020 will proceed in the normal cause.

3.11 Cases will proceed in terms of the roll from 20 APRIL 2020 until further notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM Leeuw', written over a horizontal line.

MM Leeuw
Judge President
North West Division