

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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REGIONAL COURT CIRCULAR 02/2020

TO: ALL REGIONAL MAGISTRATES, WESTERN CAPE REGIONAL DIVISION

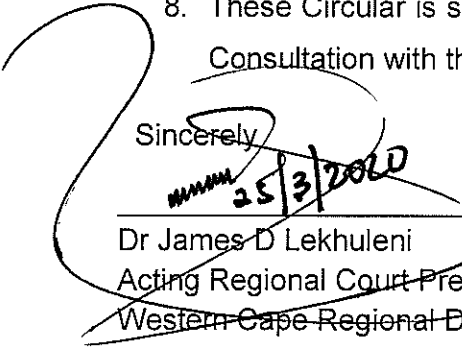
SUBJECT: COMBATING THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS IN THE COURTS.

Date: 25 March 2020

1. Pursuant to the declaration of a 21 days lockdown announced by the President of the Republic of South Africa yesterday and Regional Court circular 01/2020, the following circular is issued for the attention of all Regional Court Magistrates in the Western Cape Regional Division:
2. During the Lockdown Period the Regional courts will remain open subject to the basic safety measures provided in terms of the directive of the Chief Justice of the 17 March 2020. No trials will be conducted during the lockdown period and witnesses must not be subpoenaed for court and those subpoenaed must be stopped until further notice.
3. All criminal and civil trials, including applications already enrolled for the period 27 March to 16 April 2020 must be postponed to new dates, preferably after the 01 May 2020.
4. The Registrar of the Regional Court is directed to liaise with all the parties involved in consultation with the Presiding Judicial Officer in the civil court to arrange new dates for all the civil applications and trials. For urgent matters the parties shall liaise with the Registrar in the normal course.

5. Criminal trials must be postponed in consultation with the State and the defence. Where possible and available all postponements of accused in custody must be dealt with through the AVR or other electronic communication in consultation with DCS and the NPA.
6. The Regional Court Coordinators in the respective courts will, in consultation with the respective Regional Magistrates and Regional Court President, prepare rosters for the respective courts with a clear indication of the Presiding Officer on duty on any specific day or week, as the case may be. The Presiding Officer on duty will attend to the postponement of all cases and deal with all other urgent matters on the roll for that day or week, as the case may be.
7. The duty roster reflecting the Magistrates on duty and his/her contact details will be distributed to all Magistrates, the NPA and LASA. All Magistrates who are not on duty during a specific day or period will work from home and not come to court. All court support staff must be provided by the respective Court Managers.
8. These Circular is subject to the Directives issued by the Minister of Justice in Consultation with the Chief Justice and may be amended.

Sincerely,


25/3/2020

Dr James D Lekhuleni
Acting Regional Court President
~~Western Cape Regional Division~~

CC:

National Prosecuting Authority;
Legal Aid South Africa;
Western Cape Bar Association;
Legal Practice Council;
Family Advocate;
State Attorney;
NADEL;
BLA;

South African Police Services;
Office of the Chief Justice;
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development;
Department of Correctional Services;
Department of Social Development;
Department of Health and
Any other Court Official not mentioned above.