



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**OFFICE OF THE ACTING JUDGE PRESIDENT
LAND CLAIMS COURT**

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**TO : ALL JUDGES, COURT STAFF, PRACTITIONERS AND
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

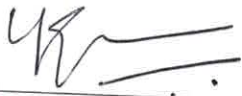
**URGENT DIRECTIVE IN RESPECT OF RESTRICTING ACCESS TO THE
LAND CLAIMS COURT IN LIGHT OF COVID 19**

18 March 2020

1. The following directions will apply with immediate effect until the commencement of term 2 (14 April 2020).
2. Save for urgent Court matters, judges and staff will deal only with matters that are already set-down/enrolled for hearing.
3. To avoid the dangers associated with domestic air travel, where possible, and by agreement with parties applications not set down in Randburg may be conducted by way of skype or as directed by the presiding judge.
4. No practitioner/messenger/member of the public may enter the Court building for purposes of issuing new process.

5. In respect of matters that have already been initiated by way of a paper file all further pleadings shall be filed by email to the Registrar's office to pmudau@judiciary.org.za. In exceptional circumstances where it is not possible to file by email, and, pleadings may be dropped off at the security desk at the entrance of the Court building.
6. No member of the public is permitted to enter the Court building, or attend any hearing as a spectator. Only practitioners, in-person litigants and witnesses shall be permitted to attend. In matters of public interest the media may attend with prior arrangement with the Court Manager, TMashologu@judiciary.org.za.
7. Counsel are advised not to attend judges' chambers for purposes of introductions or consultations unless expressly requested to do so. All personal introductions are suspended. Judges will not shake hands with any practitioners.
8. Judges who are not scheduled for sittings in Court are encouraged to work from home. When a Judge is working from home, he/she should make a determination, based on the nature of the work to be done, whether his/her secretary may also work from home. In that event the Acting Judge President and Court Manager must be advised accordingly, and Judges' secretaries must remain available and accessible to carry out whatever duties may be required from home, including monitoring and responding to e-mails, maintaining contact with practitioners etc.
9. Judgments may also be delivered *via* e-mail.
10. The upliftment of files from the Registrar's office will be suspended other than for urgent applications and enrolled matters.
11. As regards general Court staff, all Section Heads must determine the minimum number of staff who must continue to report for work to ensure that the general work of the Court is not compromised.
12. In accordance with the Directive issued by the Chief Justice on 17 March 2020 the following measures shall be put in place to avoid exposing judicial officers, Court staff and members of the public to risk:

- a. Decontamination of reception and admission areas, court rooms, offices, lifts, vehicles, biometrics and ablution facilities; and all other objects that are generally touched by persons utilising the facilities including handles and taps.
- b. Floor and work surfaces of court rooms, shall be disinfected periodically, at least twice a day during working hours;
- c. Assignment of officials who will sanitise hands at all entry and exit points;
- d. Installation of secured alcohol (ethyl alcohol 70%) based sanitizer dispensers at all points of entry, exit, work stations and in the passages/corridors;
- e. All officials at reception, admission and operational areas shall be issued with appropriate protective equipment i.e. heavy duty gloves, N95 masks, protective eye shields etc (as per the Department of Health Standard Operating Procedures);
- f. Gloves shall be sanitised between searches;
- g. Handheld infrared thermometers (scanners) shall be made available to conduct the temperature screening of Judicial officers, staff and members of the public; and
- h. Provision of bins for the disposal of biohazard material.



Y S MEER

Acting Judge President

Land Claims Court

Randburg