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Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

08 MARCH 2021

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANS AT ALICE MAGISTRATES' COURT AFTER THE FIRE INCIDENT

The provincial management of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in the Eastern Cape and affected stakeholders met over the weekend in the interest of ensuring continued provision of services at Alice Magistrates' Court which was gutted by fire on Friday afternoon.

Stakeholders and the provincial management have subsequent to the meeting, arrived at a resolution that criminal court trials will be heard in the Regional Court building in the precinct of Alice Magistrates' Court. All documents required for court proceedings and services will be retrieved from the backup system at Middledrift Magistrates' Court and destroyed files will be reconstructed.

Bail payments and pay-outs will be made at the Middledrift Magistrates' Court. An office was identified at the Regional Court for handling matters relating to domestic violence. Engagements to secure interim office space for Children's Court matters at local Department of Social Development offices are at an advanced stage.

The Masters Office related services will be rendered in Bisho. All forms of connectivity at the court have been lost and members of the public as well as other stakeholders are advised to contact the Magistrates' Court on 071 267 0550 and 071 215 0528 for service related enquiries. Enquiries related to child maintenance payments can be communicated with court officials on 079 465 2956. The department reiterates its commitment to provide access to justice to the public.

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