



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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For Immediate Release:

MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE GAZETTING OF COURT DIRECTIONS TO DEAL WITH UNREST CASES

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Lamola, MP has gazetted new Court Directions. The gazetted Directions provide for special measures for the processing of cases and accused persons through the Magistrates Courts during the adjusted alert level 4 regulations

This Directions provide for, amongst others, the postponement of cases through audiovisual links and the compilation of a priority roll at each court which will enable the courts to prioritise the hearing of priority cases which include gender-based violence and sexual offences, corruption cases, cases involving children and contravention of COVID-19 regulations.

It is important to highlight that the Directions also include special measures that will apply in respect of cases that arise from public violence, public disorder and massive looting which were witnessed in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng and have spread to other parts of the country.

These measures include the compilation of a separate roll and designation of court to ensure speedy trial of these cases, where it is expedient and necessary.

Where necessary, additional dedicated staff including from a pool of experienced retired magistrates and prosecutors, will be called upon in order to fast track these cases where hundreds of arrests have already been effected.

The Directions allows for cases to be transferred should it be necessary for safety and practical reasons.

“These Directions will enable our courts and the justice system to respond effectively and appropriately to deal with cases flowing from the recent unrest and public violence. We are ensuring that nothing disrupts the processing of these matters and that the public can have trust and confidence in our criminal justice system,” said Minister Lamola.

The Department is facilitating several interventions to ensure that the judiciary and our courts are adequately supported.

The Department will also coordinate support measures across the criminal justice value chain, through its Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS).

Media Enquiries :

Chrispin Phiri: Spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services

Cell: 081 781 2261

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