



OFFICE OF THE JUDGE PRESIDENT

GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
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AMENDED DIRECTIVE – COVID 19

1. The Directives issued by this office on 16 and 17 March 2020 and the Directive issued by the Chief Justice on 17 March 2020 refer. Information at hand is that the protective material and precautions mentioned in the Directive issued by the Chief Justice have now been provided to the two seats of the Gauteng Division. It is therefore necessary to ensure that any apparent or perceived contradiction between the Directives issued by this office and the Directive issued by the Chief Justice is eliminated. This has rendered it necessary to further review the Directives issued by this office.
2. The Directive issued by the Chief Justice is the primary and overriding authority for regulating access to and use of the Courts during this period.
3. In line with that Directive, any Court user insisting on conducting his/her/it's business as usual, will not be prevented from doing so.
4. In this regard, Court users are reminded that the threat of COVID 19 is real, deadly and continues to spread in our country.
5. Both seats of the Gauteng Division contend with large numbers of Court users i.e. more than a thousand (1000) daily, comprising Judges, Court staff, members of the profession and prosecution, legal fraternity employees, parties to cases and their relatives, witnesses, SAPS members, Correctional Services employees, accused persons and their relatives, members of the media and last but not least members of the public. These multitudes, save for Judges, awaiting trial detainees



and Correctional services employees, access the Courts through common areas with unavoidable congestion. This reality renders the environment in both Court seats fertile for the spread of the virus, if no concerted efforts are employed to foster containment.

6. For this reason, Court users are encouraged to join the effort to minimize attendance at the Court seats and thus minimizing congestion. Court users should keep in mind the absolute necessity to contain the virus and to ensure safe and healthy Court houses for Court users in general as well as a safe working environment for Court staff and Judges.
7. With this in mind the directives in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Directive issued by this office on 17 March 2020, remain obligatory. The directives in paragraphs 8 and 10 are retracted in their entirety in view of DPSA Circular 7 of 2020 issued on 17 March 2020. All other directives in that Directive should be treated as OPTIONAL.
8. Court users are encouraged (although not obliged) to make use of the digital Caselines system to institute new process, and to file additional pleadings and documents in proceedings that have already been instituted. In addition, legal practitioners are encouraged (although not obliged) to consider arranging for telephonic case management meetings in individual Commercial Court and other matters referred to a particular Judge for ongoing case management. Judges will also use the electronic medium where feasible for instance for the handing down of Judgements etc.



D MLAMBO
JUDGE PRESIDENT OF THE GAUTENG DIVISION OF THE
HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

