



07 April 2020

**COURT DIRECTIVE ON THE OBSERVANCE OF TIME FRAMES  
FOR THE FILING OF COURT PAPERS DURING THE LOCKDOWN  
PERIOD: EASTERN CAPE DIVISION OF THE HIGH COURT**

By virtue of the powers delegated to me by the Chief Justice, I hereby issue the following directive:

1. The time limits stipulated in the Uniform Rules of Court shall continue to apply to all civil proceedings launched before the lockdown period.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 above, the parties to all civil proceedings launched before the lockdown period shall endeavour to reach an agreement on the extension of time periods for doing any act or taking any step in connection with the proceedings to avoid any prejudice that may be suffered by either party as a consequence of the lockdown.

3. No application for the extension of any time limit or for the upliftment of a bar from filing a plea, arising from the lockdown, may be enrolled for hearing, unless the party applying for such relief has, in writing, requested the other party to consent in writing for such extension, and the consent has been refused.

4. This directive shall be interpreted and given effect to within the spirit and purport of the Uniform Rules of Court.

**S M MBENGE**

**JUDGE PRESIDENT: EASTERN CAPE DIVISION**