



**REGIONAL COURT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

REGIONAL COURT: KWAZULU-NATAL

Private Bag X54308, DURBAN, 4000 C/O Stanger & Somsue Streets, DURBAN . Tel (031) 3024111, Fax (031) 3683054 . www.doj.gov.za

Date: 25 March 2020

**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COURT PRESIDENT KWAZULU-NATAL
DIVISION**

TO: ALL JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN THE REGIONAL COURT KWAZULU-NATAL

**THESE DIRECTIVES ARE ISSUED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OTHER
STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN THE JUSTICE CLUSTER KZN INCLUDING THE JUDGE
PRESIDENT, AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE
CHIEF JUSTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 8[3] OF THE SUPERIOR COURT ACT 2013.**

This office being conscious of the gravity of the risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on access to justice in the Regional Court and being mindful of the 21 days lock down period announced by the President of the Republic of South Africa, issues the following Directives ;

1. The Regional Courts being Essential Services will remain open and accessible in terms of the Constitution.
2. All Regional Magistrates being part of essential services are to report for duty. Those who do not report will be expected to apply for Vacation leave or sick leave whichever is applicable.
3. After the Judicial Officer has dealt with the court roll in respect of his or her court, they may go home to comply with the Presidents order of lockdown.

CRIMINAL COURTS

1. No trials unless determined as urgent by the ARCP and or her delegate will be conducted during the lockdown period. All Witnesses shall be stopped and informed about these changes as soon as possible by the litigants concerned [NPA/ Legal Aid South Africa/ Legal representatives
2. Cases on the roll from Friday, 27 March 2020 until 16 April 2020 are to be provisionally postponed to a date after 16 April 2020.
3. A warrant of arrest may be authorised to stay to a date after 16 April 2020 in respect of an accused person not in custody and who fails to attend court.
4. All accused in custody shall be dealt with via the AVR system where it is available.
5. Those centres which do not have the AVR system, the Presiding Officer may remand such cases and the accused in absentia and order the requisition of the accused to a date not longer than 7 days after 16 April 2020. [Lockdown Period], thereafter for a period of only 14 days at a time until the lapse of the state of lockdown as declared by the President.

CIVIL COURTS

1. No Civil trials to proceed until a date after the 16 April 2020. New dates to be scheduled by the Judicial Officer for all cases already enrolled from Friday 27 March 2020 until 16 April 2020 until further notice.

2. No proceedings will be conducted during the lockdown period unless determined as urgent by the Acting Regional Court President and or her delegate. A roster of Regional Magistrates on duty for urgent applications will be kept with the Registrar, Office of the Regional Court President or the Coordinator at the civil seat.

These Directives are to be implemented with immediate effect from 27 March 2020 to 16 April 2020 subject to further directives published by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services after consultation with the Chief Justice.



**S. MARKS
ACTING REGIONAL COURT PRESIDENT
KWAZULU NATAL**