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MEDIA STATEMENT

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TRIBUTE TO JUDGE PATRICK JAJI

On behalf of the South African Judiciary, Judge President Selby Mbenenge, Judge President of the Eastern Cape Division of the High Court, has passed his condolences to the family and friends of the late Judge Patrick Jaji, who passed away on 12 July 2020.

The Judges and staff of the Eastern Cape Division were shocked to learn of the sudden and untimely death of Judge Jaji. He had tested positive for COVID-19 and had been subsequently hospitalized.

Commenting on his passing, Judge President Mbenenge said “The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have now reached the doorstep of the Judiciary in a very real and saddening way. Judge Jaji was a dedicated bastion of the Constitution and rule of law. His untimely death robs us of the opportunity to experience his future contribution to the Judiciary.”

Judge Jaji was permanently appointed to the High Court on 1 November 2017. Prior to his elevation to the Bench he served as an attorney from 1996-2010.

He graduated from of the University of Durban Westville (Now University of KwaZulu-Natal), where he obtained his B. Proc and LL B degrees. In 2003 he obtained an MSc in Transport and Maritime Management, from Antwerp University in Brussels.

In 2015 he was appointed as a Magistrate in Cape Town until his permanent appointment as a Judge in 2017. He was previously appointed as an Acting Magistrate (2010-



2015), then as an Acting Judge in the Free State Division of the High Court, Bloemfontein (2014); and the Eastern Cape Division High Court, Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth (2017).

Judge Jaji's loss will be deeply felt by his colleagues and the staff in the Eastern Cape Division of the High Court.

The Judiciary extends its heartfelt condolences to his wife, his children, family and friends.

May his soul rest in peace.

Ends.

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

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