



188, 14th Road, Noordwyk, Midrand, 1685
Private Bag X10, Marshalltown, 2107
Tel: +27 10 493 2500 (Switchboard)
E-mail: enquiries@judiciary.org.za
www.judiciary.org.za

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Media Statement

MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE SITTING OF THE NATIONAL EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Yesterday, 26 May 2022, the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Chief Justice R M M Zondo, chaired his inaugural National Efficiency Enhancement Committee (NEEC) meeting.

The NEEC, established in 2012, is mandated to bring together, at the highest level, the leadership of the Judiciary and other key stakeholders in the Justice system, in order to enhance performance and outcomes in the delivery of quality justice.

Shortly after his appointment as the Chief Justice of the Republic, Chief Justice Zondo outlined key priorities for his tenure. One of the important areas the Chief Justice committed to focusing on is improving the efficiency of the court system by enhancing access to quality justice for all, affirming the dignity of all users of the court system and to ensuring the effective, efficient and expeditious adjudication and resolution of all disputes through the Courts, where applicable. The work of the NEEC is critical to attaining this aim. In this regard Chief Justice Zondo had stated in his interview that the NEEC and PEECs (Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees) which had been established during Chief Justice Mogoeng's time, were some of the structures that were already in place which Chief Justice Zondo intended using to improve the efficient working of the Courts.

Present at yesterday's meeting were Heads of the Superior Courts, as well as representatives of Magistrates' Courts and representatives of the following stakeholders: the National Prosecuting Authority, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Correctional Services, Legal Aid South Africa, the Road Accident Fund, the Legal Practice Council, the Law Society of South Africa, the General Council of the Bar, the South African Board of Sheriffs, Community Advice Offices of South Africa and officials from the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ).



The meeting of the NEEC was a great success. The discussions revolved around various matters which affect the efficient functioning of the Courts including addressing challenges in respect of delays in finalising cases, matters affecting infrastructure at the courts, monitoring the backlogs at the SAPS forensic laboratories, and reporting by structures within the NEEC. The Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees (PEECs), chaired by the Judges President in their respective provinces, and challenges and progress made on previous resolutions taken by the NEEC were also discussed. As the NEEC had not sat for some time as a result of the lockdown, it was decided that there should be three meetings of the NEEC this year, instead of the usual two meetings in a year.

The NEEC will meet again in August 2022 to track the progress made in relation to resolutions taken at the meeting.

Ends.

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

Media enquiries:

Mr. Nathi Mncube

Spokesperson of the RSA Judiciary

C: 0848148364 **E:** NMncube@judiciary.org

