



2023 JUDGES' CONFERENCE

#JudgesConference2023

29 November 2023

EDITORS' / PRODUCERS' BRIEF

Judges' Conference, 4 – 7 December 2023

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this brief is to inform editors and producers of the upcoming Judges' Conference scheduled to take place from 4 to 7 December 2023 at the Sun City Resort, North West Province.

2. ABOUT THE JUDGES' CONFERENCE

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, provides that the Judiciary is independent and subject only to the Constitution and the law.
- The Chief Justice is the Head of the Judiciary and exercises responsibility over the establishment and monitoring of the Norms and Standards for the exercise of judicial functions of all Courts. The Chief Justice, with the support of the Heads of Court, has decided to convene a Judges' Conference to discuss



matters of interests to the Judiciary in relation to its constitutional role and mandate.

- From time to time, the Judiciary, as an independent arm of State, meets to discuss important matters related to the efficient functioning of the courts and in enhancing access to justice. The last time the Judiciary met for this purpose was in 2012.
- The Judges' Conference is attended by Judges from across the country and by representatives of Magistrates.
- The Conference will be held under the theme: "Towards a single, effective and fully independent Judiciary".
- In line with this theme, one of the purposes of the 2023 Judges' Conference is to provide Judges and Magistrates with a platform to, amongst others, reflect on Judicial independence including institutional independence which will ensure that the Chief Justice receives adequate support in order to fulfil his functions and other matters concerning the functioning of the Courts in order to ensure that Courts serve the people better.
- The Judges' Conference will also discuss issues pertaining to efficiencies in the court system, resourcing and capacitation of the Judiciary, as well as judicial accountability, integrity and ethical conduct of Judicial Officers (Magistrates and Judges).
- The Conference will be open only to invited Judges and Judicial Officers from the Lower Judiciary. However, the session between 09h00 and 11h00 on Tuesday 5 December will be open to the public and the media.

3. MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS

- Chief Justice R M M Zondo will host two media briefings during the Conference – one on the opening day of the Conference, 5 December 2023, and another



on the closing day of the Conference, 7 December 2023. The specific times for the media briefings will be communicated in due course.

- To facilitate easy access, the media briefings will take place on a hybrid basis, offering members of the media an opportunity to attend in person or join through a virtual platform. Both media briefings will also be live streamed on YouTube.
- Members of the media attending in person will require accreditation. In this regard, members of the media are requested to apply for accreditation by submitting their details using the Excel template embedded at the end of this document. The template is also attached for ease of access.
- Requests should be sent to Ms Zininzi Makgoale at ZMakgoale@judiciary.org.za and CC LNtuli@judiciary.org.za by no later than **12h00 on Friday, 1 December 2023**. Accreditation applications not submitted using the provided template will not be considered. Personal information will be processed in line with the Protection of Personal Information Act (Act No. 4 of 2013).
- Media houses with editorial requests or requests for interviews regarding the Judges' Conference may submit these requests in writing at mediaenquiries@judiciary.org.za
- Media logistics queries may be directed to Ms Lusanda Ntuli (OCJ Communications) on 010 493 2520 or at LNtuli@judiciary.org.za
- Continuous updates leading up to the Judges' Conference will be emailed to media and posted on the OCJ's social media platforms:
 - Facebook - South African Judiciary
 - X - @OCJ_RSA
 - Instagram - @OCJ_RSA
 - LinkedIn - Office of the Chief Justice



4. ACCREDITATION TEMPLATE



Screening and
Accreditation Templat

Ends.

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

