



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](http://www.judiciary.org.za)

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## **Media Advisory**

### **OPENING OF NEW VICTIM SUPPORT ROOM AT THE WESTERN CAPE HIGH COURT**

The Acting Judge President of the Western Cape Division of the High Court, Judge Patricia Goliath, will on 31 March 2023 officially open a new Victim Support Room at the Western Cape Town High Court.

The Victim Support Room will provide a safe space within the court system for victims of violent crimes. Victims of crime who are required to testify in criminal matters will receive the necessary support and guidance relating to court processes. Court Preparation Officers and Intermediaries will be available to accompany witnesses and facilitate a victim-centred approach to ensure that their well-being remains central in the criminal justice system.

The Victim Support Room will be implemented in collaboration with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) and other stakeholders. It is envisaged that the Victim Support Room will provide witnesses with practical information and ongoing support from the start to the end of the court process, and after sentencing.

With this kind of support, witnesses will be empowered and able to provide testimony as required, whilst the Court will benefit by receiving the necessary testimony to assist it in adjudicating matters before it. The Victim Support Room will therefore make a positive contribution towards enhancing the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

The Victim Support Room opening will take place as follows:

**Date:** 31 March 2023

**Time:** 10h00

**Place:** Old Barrister Tea Room, Cape Town High Court



**Ends.**

**Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice**

**Media enquiries:**

Email: [mediaenquiries@judiciary.org.za](mailto:mediaenquiries@judiciary.org.za)

