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Media Statement – Court vindicates OCJ’s opposition to impugned contract

Note: Please attribute this statement solely to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) as a Government Department and not the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa or the Judiciary.

On 27 May 2025, the High Court of South Africa Gauteng Local Division, Pretoria, heard a review application lodged by the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) in which it sought to self-review its procurement of CaseLines from Thomson Reuters UK (TR).

The OCJ lodged the self-review application after it emerged that some officials of the OCJ who were involved in various stages of the procurement process that led to the appointment of TR as the preferred supplier of CaseLines, stood to benefit from the contract as sub-contractors to TR.

The Court granted the following order:

1. The award by the OCJ of bid number OCJ2021/08 to Thomson Reuters (Professional) UK Ltd (“**TR**”) on 10 December 2021 (“**the impugned award**”) and the contract the OCJ and TR concluded on 31 March 2022 pursuant to the impugned award are declared to be inconsistent with the Constitution, unlawful, and invalid;
2. The impugned award and contract of 31 March 2022 are reviewed and set aside;
3. The interim contract between the OCJ and TR made an Order of Court on 14 August 2023 remains effective, pending the final conclusion and coming into effect of a new contract for the provision of CaseLines between OCJ and TR; and
4. The OCJ’s procurement of the CaseLines software, licenses, resources, support and maintenance from TR for the implementation of the Court Online solution is declared to be sole source service provision.

This Court order vindicates the OCJ’s longstanding opposition to the impugned contract and reaffirms the organisation’s zero tolerance of fraud and corruption. The



Department looks forward to putting in place a lawful and valid contract for CaseLines in fulfilment of its mandate to provide support to the judicial system by rendering effective and efficient court administration services.

Ends.

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Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

