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14 May 2025

Media Statement: Chief Justice Maya briefed on allegations of corruption in Mthatha

High Court

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.

The Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Chief Justice Mandisa M L Maya, on 13 May

2025, conducted an oversight visit to the Eastern Cape Division of the High Court, Mthatha,

following the publicising of allegations of corruption by OCJ officials in the Court.

The Chief Justice met with the Acting Judge President of the Division, Judge Z Nhlangulela,

as well as senior OCJ officials from its National Office and Eastern Cape Division. The Chief

Justice received a briefing on the ongoing investigation by the OCJ pertaining to the

allegations of corruption the Department first became aware of in December 2024.

In this regard, the Chief Justice was assured a case had been opened with the South African

Police Service (SAPS), and that the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks)

had launched an enquiry into the matter. This process is running concurrently with internal

investigations by the Department.

The Chief Justice has requested that the implementation of Court Online System – an end-to-

end e-filing, digital case management and evidence management system - in the Eastern

Cape Division of the High Court be expedited. The Court Online System is currently being

rolled out by the OCJ in all Superior Courts and will be implemented in the Eastern Cape

Division within the next month. The operationalisation of the System will have the effect of

protecting the integrity of court operations, enhancing access to justice, minimising manual

processes and curbing the allegations of improprieties.

The OCJ is working to review and strengthen internal controls in the Division to safeguard the

credibility of the Court through the prevention and early detection of fraud and corruption.

The OCJ affirms that integrity and ethical behaviour are at the heart of its operations, guided

by the Department's Fraud Prevention and Anti-Corruption Policy. The organisation is

committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct, acting with honesty and

being accountable to the public.

The organisation treats complaints on alleged acts of fraud and corruption with the

seriousness they deserve. The leadership of the OCJ will spare no effort, within its delegated

powers, to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate wrongdoing in the organisation.

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Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

