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Media Statement

Note: Please attribute the statement below to the Judge President of the Labour and Labour Appeal Court, Judge E Molahlehi.

INCIDENT AT THE DURBAN LABOUR COURT

On 3 June 2026, an incident occurred at the Labour Court in Durban, during which a member of the public engaged in disruptive and unacceptable behaviour in the courtroom. The individual used abusive and inappropriate language directed at court staff and the presiding judge, and also physically manhandled a court interpreter.

In addition, it has come to our attention that the individual has circulated a video on social media that undermines the dignity and reputation of a member of staff. Such conduct is equally deplorable and constitutes a serious breach of the standards of respect expected of court officials.

Any form of violence, intimidation, abuse, or disorderly conduct on court premises is strongly condemned, as it undermines the integrity and dignity of the judiciary, court officials, and all court users. Courts are institutions established to uphold the rule of law and administer justice in a fair, impartial, and dignified manner.

While any person appearing before the court is entitled to express their views and to pursue their legal rights through appropriate legal processes, such rights must be exercised with due regard for the decorum, dignity, and authority of the courts. Respectful conduct within courtrooms is fundamental to maintaining public confidence in the administration of justice.

The matter is receiving the necessary attention from the relevant authorities, and appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the law.

Ends.

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice



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