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MEDIA STATEMENT

21 June 2021

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE IRENE MAMBILIMA OF ZAMBIA

It is with great sadness that the Acting Deputy Chief Justice Sisi Khampepe, has learned of the passing of the Hon. Chief Justice Irene Chirwa Mambilima of Zambia.

The Acting Deputy Chief Justice, on behalf of the South African Judiciary, would like to extend her sincere condolences to the Chief Justices family, the Zambian Judiciary, and the people of Zambia for their collective loss.

Chief Justice Mambilima was appointed in 2015 as the first female Chief Justice of Zambia. Chief Justice Mambilima has been heralded as a trailblazer and beacon not only for women, but for the Rule of Law in the Continent. She served as a Sessional Judge of the Supreme Court of Gambia and undertook many international missions, often serving as an election observer.

As an active member of the International Association of Women Judges, she mentored and bolstered the confidence of women to take their place in the legal profession and become active participants in nation-building.

She passed away on 20 June 2021 in Cairo, Egypt while on an official tour of that Country. Her passing comes as Zambia, and the entire Continent, continues to mourn the death of its founding leader, Kenneth Kaunda.

Ends.



Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

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