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## **Media Statement**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASPIRANT WOMEN JUDGES PROGRAMME**

Whereas section 174 (2) of the Constitution provides that “there is a need for the Judiciary to reflect broadly the racial and gender composition of South Africa must be considered when Judicial officers are appointed”.

As part of the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI) 10<sup>th</sup> year celebration, under the leadership of Acting Chief Justice RMM Zondo has considered implementing a virtual Aspirant Women Judges Programme over a period of a year in 2022. The purpose of the training is to provide entry level education and training for aspiring female judicial officers in order to enhance suitability for appointment to Judicial office.

The SAJEI Council has constituted a Training Committee tasked with the development, monitoring and implementation of the programme. The Committee consists of nine members and is co-led by two senior members of the Judiciary, namely, Judge President M Leeuw of the North West Division of the High Court and Justice P Mojapelo, former Deputy Judge-President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court.

It is envisaged that the programme will be conducted over a period of a year in the 2022/23 financial year. The programme will consist of virtual training as well as a practical training. After the initial formal training focused on judgment writing, the participants will be placed at various courts under mentorship.



The selection of the candidates which will be done in liaison with the Judges President of the various Divisions of the High Court will be guided by, among others, the following criteria:

- a. The applicant must be a fit and proper person.
- b. The applicant must have a minimum period of 12 years' experience as an attorney, advocate, a Judicial Officer (including acting appointments) and any other relevant legal capacity.
- c. Participants must have practised law in Higher or Lower Courts.
- d. Practitioners must submit a certificate of good standing from their statutory bodies and recognized Bar Associations. Magistrates must submit letters of good standing from the Magistrates Commission as well as a recommendation from the Head of Court based on judicial performance.
- e. Academic qualifications: a law degree recognized in South Africa.

Admission into the programme is not a guarantee for appointment. An advertisement detailing the application process will be circulated in due course. Enquiries may be directed to [sajeiCEOpersonalassistant@judiciary.org.za](mailto:sajeiCEOpersonalassistant@judiciary.org.za).

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