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MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF JUSTICE SURETTA SNYDERS

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THE Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa Mogoeng Mogoeng has learnt with deep sadness at the passing of Justice Suretta Snyders of the Supreme Court of Appeal. The Chief Justice said the untimely passing of Madam Justice Snyders has dealt the Judiciary a heavy blow – particularly the efforts of retaining women Judicial Officers on the Bench.

Born 18 August 1959 in Priseka, she obtained her LLB degree at the University of Stellenbosch in 1982. Two years later she was then admitted into the Johannesburg Bar in 1984, and took silk in 1996. She was appointed as a Judge of the High Court, in Johannesburg in 1997, until 2008 when she was appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

In a tribute to Justice Snyders, the Chief Justice said: “We are extremely saddened at this great loss. Justice Snyders was a highly respected jurist among her peers on the SCA Bench. She rose through the ranks and displayed fortitude in the face of myriad challenges that women Judicial Officers face as mothers, wives and jurists.

“In her honour, we will continue to double up our efforts to ensure that more women get elevated to the Bench to ensure that our constitutional mandate to transform the Bench is fulfilled.

“The Judiciary is all the poorer at her passing and our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to her life partner, her son and her entire family.”

Ends.

Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

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