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JUDGE PRESIDENT'S CHAMBERS

HIGH COURT, PRIVATE BAG X1011

GRAHAMSTOWN

6140

24 March 2020

MEMORANDUM

RE: DISASTER MANAGEMENT: EASTERN CAPE COURTS

1. Much as it is good practise to postpone cases (criminal and civil) for finalisation during recess, colleagues are urged not to set down any matters for hearing during the lockdown period.
2. The Registrars' Offices are urged not to set down any motions during the lockdown period. The recess duty roster remains extant, but judges should be on standby lest there are emergency cases arising from or out of activities associated with disaster management.
3. Criminal cases already set down for hearing during the lockdown period should be brought forward, by arrangement with all relevant parties, and postponed to a date beyond the lockdown period. This is especially so in matters involving awaiting trial inmates.
4. Applications with rules *nisi* returnable during the lockdown period should be identified and arrangements made to have the rules *nisi* anticipated and extended to dates beyond this period. Otherwise, rules *nisi* already issued may remain in place until confirmed or discharged.
5. The beginning of the second term judges' meeting is hereby postponed to a date to be arranged.

6. Court Managers and Registrars shall develop and circulate a duty roster of officials that will be on standby during this period.
7. All appeals and civil cases enrolled for hearing during the first week of the second term shall be removed from the roll and set down for hearing on dates beyond the lockdown period. Notice to that effect shall be issued by the Registrar.
8. This communication shall be interpreted and given effect to within the spirit and purport of any directive issued by the Chief Justice for the management of courts and the administration of justice during the lockdown period.
9. This communication shall be circulated to all Institutions, Entities and Legal Practitioners served by the courts in the Eastern Cape.

S M MBENENGE