



**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COURT PRESIDENT  
LIMPOPO DIVISION**

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**To:-**

- 1. All Judicial Officers in the Magistrates Courts in Limpopo**
- 2. All Stakeholders of the Limpopo Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee**
- 4. All Stakeholders in the Limpopo Justice Cluster**

**RESOLUTION OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE IN LIGHT OF THE 21 DAY LOCK DOWN ANNOUNCED DUE TO COVID-19**

The Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee (PEEC) is conscious of the gravity of the risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on access to justice in the Regional and Magistrates Courts. Mindful of the 21 day lock down announced by the President of the Republic of South Africa the following resolutions were adopted by the Limpopo Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee at its meeting held on 24 March 2020 in respect of the Lower Courts in Limpopo as directed by the Judge President during the meeting (subject to further directives issued by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services after consultation with the Chief Justice):

1. There will be only be skeleton staff at courts, subject to basic measures for safety being available at courts for all involved (running water, sanitizers etc)
2. The courts will only be sitting from 9h00 – 11h00 to minimise risks
3. The skeleton staff at courts must include court orderlies at criminal courts and security at entrances to control access to the building

**In respect of Regional Courts:**

1. No trials will be conducted during the lock down period. All witnesses must be stopped and informed about changes as soon as possible.
2. Cases on the roll from Friday, 27 March until 16 April 2020 must be brought forward as far as possible between Wednesday and Thursday (25 and 26 March) to be postponed to new dates after 16 April 2020.
3. Civil cases – new dates to be arranged urgently through assistant registrars with judicial officers and practitioners for all cases on the roll from Friday until 16 April 2020.
4. Matters to be issued that might prescribe as well as filing of pleadings and notices due to time limits to be done electronically as far as possible or time limits to be extended by agreement between parties (assistant registrars to be notified as soon as possible electronically)
5. For matters that cannot be brought forward – only skeleton staff required to deal with postponement on the day (provided that basic measures available)

6. All to submit lists of dates courts will sit for postponements and the staff and officials that will be at court that day; submitted to all stakeholders by Thursday, 26 March 2020 at 12h00.
7. Lists to be put up at court including contact details for staff and regional magistrates for urgent matters.
8. Any urgent matters: The regional magistrate at that court or the RCP can be contacted, applications can be submitted electronically and dealt with electronically/telephonically

**In respect of district courts**

1. Only skeleton staff to be at court: List to be drawn up for those who will be at court on each of the days (provided that basic measures available) which must be made available to all stakeholders and put up at court.
2. No trials to be conducted during lock down – all witnesses to be stopped and informed about changes as soon as possible.
3. New matters to appear, bail applications to be dealt with by skeleton staff.
4. In respect of offences in terms of Disaster Management Act regulations – admission of guilt fines determined for each of the offences listed in Regulation 11 (GG 43107 dated 18 March 2020) as R1000 on summons to appear after 16 April.
5. Only criminal court to remain open for limited hours (09h00 – 11h00) and protection orders to be dealt with as well as urgent children court matters.
6. Prosecutors and police to apply their minds as to bail to be determined and conditions in matters that are not serious crimes and not necessary to be detained.
7. List to be provided of Magistrates who will deal with any urgent applications for protection orders and urgent children's court magistrates (list to be provided by heads of court/sub-cluster head by Thursday morning).
8. All postponements at Thohoyandou Magistrates Court during lock down should be done through AVR.
9. All list of magistrates on duty during lock down at each court to be forwarded to Chief Magistrate no later than 12h00 on Thursday.
10. Civil court and maintenance court to be closed – new dates to be arranged with parties concerned
11. Any urgent applications in civil courts must be dealt with through the head of court, sub-cluster heads and chief magistrate electronically/telephonically

**General:**

1. Practitioners can arrange dates for postponements telephonically with prosecutor and magistrate involved but must appear for bail applications.
2. All stakeholders to submit lists of skeleton staff to all stakeholders involved through email no later than 12h00 on Thursday

These Resolutions are to be implemented with immediate effect from 13h00 on 24 March 2020, subject to further directives to be published by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services after consultation with the Chief Justice

  
 JH Wessels  
 Regional Court President

  
 CD Ringane  
 Chief Magistrate

<b>LIMPOPO REGIONAL DIVISION</b>
2020 -03- 24
MRS J. H. WESSELS
<b>REGIONAL COURT PRESIDENT</b>