



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT

(HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG DIVISION, JOHANNESBURG)
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NOTICE

TO:

1. Judges of the Gauteng Division, Johannesburg
2. Chief Registrar, Gauteng Division, Johannesburg
3. Secretariat – Judicial Case Flow Management, Office of the Chief Justice
4. Registrars – Gauteng Division of the High Court, Johannesburg
5. Legal Practice Council – Gauteng
6. Law Society of South Africa
7. Gauteng Family Law Forum
8. Gauteng Attorneys Association
9. Pretoria Attorneys Association
10. Johannesburg Attorneys Association
11. West Rand Attorneys Association
12. South African Black Women in Law
13. National Association of Democratic Lawyers
14. Black Lawyers Association
15. South African Women Lawyers Association
16. South African Medical Malpractice Lawyers Association
17. Personal Injury Plaintiff Lawyers Association
18. South African Medico-Legal Association
19. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Pretoria and Johannesburg
20. Office of the State Attorneys, Pretoria and Johannesburg
21. Solicitor General
22. Office of the Family Advocate, Pretoria and Johannesburg

23. Legal Aid South Africa
24. Johannesburg Society of Advocates
25. Pretoria Society of Advocates
26. Gauteng Society of Advocates
27. Tshwane Society of Advocates
28. Pan African Bar Association of South Africa
29. General Council of the Bar of South Africa
30. National Bar Council of South Africa
31. South African Bar Association
32. National Forum of Advocates
33. North Gauteng Association of Advocates
34. Church Square Association of Advocates
35. Advocates for Transformation
36. Legal Division of the Department of Health: Gauteng
37. Legal Division of the Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation
38. Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
39. Legal Services - Gauteng Provincial Department of Education
40. South African Board of Sheriffs
41. South African Sheriff Society
42. Road Accident Fund

DATE : 06 February 2024

OUR REF: DJP/36/2012/lt

RE : **NOTICE TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HIGH COURT, JOHANNESBURG – LEAD TIMES AND CIVIL ROLL CONGESTION**

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1. Attached hereto is a bulletin of the lead times for cases to be allocated dates. In the future such a bulletin shall be published monthly.
 2. The basic policy premise in this court is to provide the litigating public with an effective litigation service. The bulletin deals with one aspect of that aspiration.

3. The lead times for most rolls are within reasonable times. The lead times for the civil trials are not. At some three years lead time for a trial date is being treated as a crisis. Regrettably no obvious solution presents itself as a quick remedy. The reason for the long delays is straightforward – the volume of cases set down cannot be heard sooner by the number of judges or acting judges that can realistically be mustered.
4. A meeting with the leadership of the profession will soon be called for to address the issues implicated in such long delays.
5. There are a few obvious chronic circumstances which contribute materially to the length of the queue for a set down date. I mention them:
 - 5.1. First, matters that are not genuinely ripe to be set down are given slots where the realistic use of court time is not envisaged. Such matters steal slots from deserving cases and push out the dates of availability.
 - 5.2. Second, appropriate genuine efforts to settle early are not made. Appropriate efforts include mediation but are not confined only to that methodology. This habit is blot on the profession and among the reasons often cited to accuse practitioners of running up fees.
 - 5.3. Third, exaggerated estimates of the duration of a case are made which then unfairly eats up available slots. A variant of this is the failure to cut down the case to what is truly in dispute, saving valuable court time for other litigants.

6. Plainly, court time is a scarce and valuable resource which we must ration fairly. Adaptations shall be made from time to time to the system of rostering matters to secure the most efficient method of hearings and locate the case on the most appropriate roll to achieve that outcome.

7. Please be circumspect in the manner in which you seek court time.

Yours faithfully

*Dictated by the Deputy Judge President
Electronically transmitted, therefore no signature*

**ROLAND SUTHERLAND
DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT**

GAUTENG DIVISION JOHANNESBURG, CASEFLOW TURNAROUND TIMES 22 January 2024
CURRENT

TYPE OF CASE	VOLUME SET DOWN	<i>LEAD TIME</i>	<i>EXACT DATE</i>
	PER WEEK	<i>TO SET DOWN DATE</i>	
FULL COURT CIVIL APPEALS	2-3	from moment applying for date - 1 -2 terms subject to available date slot on roll	
MAGISTRATES COURT CIVIL APPEALS	4	from moment applying for a date - 1 term	
OPPOSED MOTIONS ROLL	50	3 Months	29 April 2024
SPECIAL MOTIONS ROLL	1 - 2 MATTERS	1 - 2 TERMS	
URGENT MOTIONS ROLL	45-50 average	NOT APPLICABLE	
UNOPPOSED MOTIONS ROLL	600	3 months	14 March 2024 18 March 2024 16 April 2024 22 April 2024 24 April 2024
SPECIAL INTERLOCUTORY ROLL	no cap: 200+_	10 days' notice (2 WEEKS)	26 February 2024
UNOPPOSED DIVORCES FRIDAYS ONLY	60	4 WEEKS	
CASE MANAGEMENT ROLL OF "Y" TRIALS		ABOLISHED WEF FROM TERM 1 2023	
SETTLEMENT COURT ROLL	12+- ave	1 WEEK CYCLE	29 February 2024
GENERAL CIVIL TRIALS ROLL			

" Y " CASES TRIAL ROLL (-RAF)	31 cases	3 years	10 November 2026
RAF DEFAULT JUDGMENT TRIAL ROLL	200	2 MONTHS	16 April 2024
NON"Y "CASES	11 cases	1 year 8 months	25 August 2026 (Minister of Police) 14 October 2024 (Divorce matters) 25 August 2025 (Other matters)
COMMERCIAL TRIALS ROLL	1-2 cases	AD HOC SET DOWN I TERM NOTICE	
LONG DURATION TRIALS ROLL	2 cases	AD HOC SET DOWN 1-2 TERM NOTICE	
FAMILY COURT ROLL	50 to 60 cases	4 week cycle + urgent applications	26 February 2024 – 04 March 2024 (Unopposed Family Court Roll) 11 March 2024 (Opposed Family Court Roll)
CRIMINAL TRIALS ROLL	19	2 MONTHS	
FULL COURT CRIMINAL APPEALS	1 case	5 - 6 MONTHS	
MAGISTRATES COURT CRIMINAL APPEALS	4-6 cases	4 MONTHS	
SPECIAL TAX COURT	1-3 cases	I TERM NOTICE	