



**JUDGES' CHAMBERS
OFFICE OF HONOURABLE ACTING JUDGE VAN
ONSELEN IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
(GAUTENG DIVISION, PRETORIA)**

Gauteng Division, High Court Building, C/o
Madiba & Paul Kruger Streets,
2nd floor, office 2.7

Telephone: (012) 492 6786

Email: VMahasha@judiciary.org.za

31 March 2026

TO: ALL LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

**DIRECTIVE FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENTS & SIC ROLL COMMENCING THE
WEEK**

**OF THE 7th April 2026 TO 10th April 2026
BEFORE HONOURABLE JUDGE VAN ONSELEN**

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1. Introductions will be heard in open court as and when counsel call their matters.
2. Matters will be heard **in open court** commencing at 10:00am.
3. Postponements/settlements/removals will be called first. Thereafter, matters will be called in which no argument is required, and draft orders can be made. The remaining matters in which argument is required will be called according to seniority.
4. Failure to comply with this mandatory directive may result in the matter being removed from the roll.
5. With regards to Heads of Argument, the following is applicable:

- 5.1 Counsel must be as short and succinct as possible, except for actuarial calculations. Counsel must refrain from copying and pasting lengthy portions from the expert reports.
- 5.2 Counsel must refrain from repeating expert opinions. For example, when dealing with the report of the industrial psychologist, it is not necessary to repeat the opinions of the other experts referred to by the industrial psychologist.
- 5.3 Counsel must apply their minds to the application of contingency deductions. If the illustrative contingency deductions applied to the calculations must be altered, counsel must do so in the Heads.
- 5.4 Heads must be uploaded **2(two)** days prior to the hearing by no later than 1pm. This includes the Easter weekend.
6. Counsel will not be allowed to stand matters down for colleagues engaged in other courts.
7. If matters are not proceeding for whatever reason, the Plaintiff's representatives must immediately post a note on CaseLines to this effect to avoid papers being unnecessarily read.
8. Parties must bring one hard copy of the draft order sought to hand up. The draft order should contain the date, court and name of the Judge, as well as the name and contact details of the party's counsel and instructing attorney.
9. Draft orders must be uploaded to CaseLines clearly indicating the date of hearing.
10. Settlements and removals, or if anything needs the attention of the Judge, such can be communicated to the Judge's registrar (VMahasha@judiciary.org.za) at any time and preferably as soon as it is confirmed that a matter would not be proceeding.

Kind regards

Vuyokazi Kagiso Mahasha

Secretary to the Honourable

Acting Judge Van Onselen