

**PRESS STATEMENT: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF
JUDGES OF THE INDUSTRIAL COURT**

1. We meet here today to conduct the swearing-in ceremony of two Judges of the Industrial Court, Dumsile Faith Dlamini and Manene Musa Thwala. The two Judges were appointed by His Majesty and Ingwenyama King Mswati III on the 12th August, 2021. In view of the serious backlog of cases which the Judiciary is facing, the Judge President will allocate them cases today and they will commence Court proceedings immediately. Again, we salute His Majesty for the appointments. *BAYETHE WENA WAPHAKATHI!!!!*

2. We meet here today at a time when the Judiciary in particular and the country in general is facing a serious upsurge in the rate of infection of the COVID-19 pandemic. All our Court divisions have been inundated and adversely affected by the upsurge of the pandemic. We have had to adjourn Court proceedings and fumigate our Courts on various occasions with a view to ameliorate the spread of the virus. Some of our support staff are currently being hospitalized as a result of the COVID infection.

3. In view of the precarious position of the spread of the pandemic in our Courts, I hereby invoke Practice Directives 1/2020, 2/2020, 3/2020, 4/2020 as well as 5/2020 in terms of Sections

139(5) and 142 of the Constitution with a view to curtail the rate of COVID-19 infection in all our Courts.

4. Accordingly, :

- (1) All remand hearings will be conducted at the Correctional Services Centres effective 23rd August, 2021 until further notice;**
- (2) Principal Magistrates will designate Magistrates to preside over remand hearings at the Correctional Services Centres;**
- (3) Inmates will not be transported to the Magistrates Courts for the purpose of remand hearings pending further advice;**
- (4) All civil, criminal and labour matters will continue being heard in all Courts in the country;**
- (5) Only persons with a direct and substantial interest in a matter inclusive of Legal Practitioners. Litigants, close relatives, accused persons, witnesses, Court Support Staff and Media Practitioners will be permitted to attend Court hearing to the extent that they do not exceed twenty (20) people at a session;**

- (6) All people entering Court premises and the office of the Master of the High Court will be required to sanitise their hands. Sanitary material will be made available in all entry points;**
- (7) Court premises and the office of the Master of the High Court have installed running water, soap and disinfectants in toilets with a view to curb the spread of COVID-19;**
- (8) Judicial officers and Court orderlies will ensure that people entering Court-rooms maintain a distance of at least one (1) metre from one another during the Court proceedings;**
- (9) Meetings of next of kin will continue being held at the Master's office subject to the maximum of twenty (20) people at a session and the maintenance of a distance of at least one (1) metre from one another;**
- (10) Judicial officers, Court staff and officers from the Master's office are encouraged to seek urgent medical assistance if they display symptoms of COVID-19;**
- (11) Floors and work-surfaces of Court-rooms and the Master's office will be disinfected periodically;**

- (12) The Judiciary acting in terms of Section 141 of the Constitution will submit the list of items required in the fight against COVID-19 to the Ministry of Finance and the National emergency Agency or such other agency established by the Executive for the purpose of procurement;**
- (13) Fresh matters whether civil, criminal or labour-related will be enrolled in Court. Accused persons in respect of fresh cases will be remanded in Court with the exception of subsequent remands as reflected in Practice Directive 1/2020;**
- (14) Judicial officers and officers from the Master's office coming into contact with members of the public will be issued with latex gloves and masks;**
- (15) The preventative measures being undertaken by the Judiciary will be reviewed from time to time as the situation unfold;**
- (16) All persons entering Court premises in all Courts of the Kingdom of Eswatini as well as the offices of the Master of the High Court will be subjected to a COVID-19 scanner at the entry points with a view to control the**

scourge of Coronavirus – COVID-19. This notice is with immediate effect;

(17) All Courts inclusive of specialized Courts, Swazi National Courts, Subordinate Courts as well as the Master's offices countrywide will undergo extensive fumigation periodically for the duration of the exercise. Consequently, Court hearings and services will be affected during the period of fumigation;

(18) Notwithstanding the provisions of previous Practice Directives, the number of people attending a Court hearing or meeting of the next of kin called by the Master of the High Court shall not exceed 20 (twenty).

5. The Judicial Service Commission (JSC), myself, the Judge President (JP) of the Industrial Court of Appeal, the Registrar of the Industrial Court, the Registrar of the Supreme Court who is also the Controlling Officer of the Judiciary and Secretary to the JSC wish to congratulate the Judges for their appointment and wish them well in the execution of their duties. I wish to remind them to work hard and deliver judgments timeously. Judgments in all Courts are delivered within ninety days of the date of hearing of every case.


