



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: 10 August 2020**

**Minister Lamola appoints 29 new Regional Court Magistrates**

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Lamola, has appointed 29 Regional Magistrates for various regional divisions across the country. Their appointment is with effect from 1 September 2020.

The Minister appoint magistrates in respect of the lower courts after consultation with the Magistrates Commission. The appointment process is prescribed in legislation and involves a lengthy process. The Magistrates Commission plays a central role in this process, comprising the following steps -

- Vacancies are identified and confirmed against the judicial establishment and funded posts
- Advertisements follow thereafter
- Applications are processed
- Shortlisting is done
- Interviews are held
- Recommendations are made by the Magistrates Commission after the conclusion of the interviews

- The recommendations are submitted to the Minister of Justice for his consideration and appointment.

A fully transformed judiciary is a constitutional imperative. The appointments will further enhance diversity in our courts in terms of both race and gender, with 58% of the appointments being women (17 women and 12 men) and 75% African. Of the 29 appointments, 22 are African, 2 are Coloured, 1 Indian and 4 White.

The appointments are for the following courts: Soweto (GP), Brits (NW), Tlhabane (NW), Moretele (NW), Bloemhof (NW), Taung (NW), Rustenburg (NW), Kimberley (NC), Thohoyandou (LP), Mhala (MP), eMkhondo (MP), Worcester (WC), Oudtshoorn (WC), Port Elizabeth (EC) x 4, Mdantsane (EC), Mthatha (EC), Bloemfontein (FS), Heilbron (FS), Kroonstad (FS), Durban (KZN) x 2, Verulam (KZN), Port Shepstone (KZN), Pietermaritzburg (KZN), Umzimkulu (KZN), Vryheid (KZN).

The appointments are an important step in capacitating our judicial officers and our courts so as to enable them to deliver justice to all.

*“Our Magistrates Courts are where most people encounter the justice system for the first time, and thus for many the Magistrates Courts embody the justice system. If the Magistrates Courts work well, it builds trust and confidence in the justice system.*

*At a time when we are facing challenges in our courts due to the realities of Covid-19, the appointment of these regional magistrates will increase capacity and help to optimize service delivery in our courts.”* Minister Lamola said.

**Enquiries:**

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