**MAGISTRATES COMMISSION
FOR THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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TO ALL THE MEDIA HOUSES: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

04 August 2026

THIRD MEDIA STATEMENT REGARDING THE COMPLAINT AGAINST CHIEF MAGISTRATE T TONJENI IN THE MATTER OF STATE v SIBANYONI AND OTHERS

1. This statement serves to update the media and the public on the developments relating to the complaint lodged with the Magistrates Commission ("the Commission") by the National Prosecuting Authority against the former Chief Magistrate Tonjeni in the matter of S v Sibanyoni and Others.

2. On 15 June 2026, the Ethics Committee considered the complaint and recommended to the Executive Committee of the Commission ("EXCO") to appoint an investigator in terms of regulation 26 of the Regulations for Judicial Officers in the Lower Courts, 1994. EXCO considered and approved the recommendation of the Ethics Committee.

3. On 06 July 2026 an investigator was appointed and commenced with the investigation. Witnesses have been subpoenaed and will be interviewed by the investigator as part of the investigation. The investigator will thereafter compile a report for submission to the Commission later in August 2026.

4. The Ethics Committee will consider the report and make its recommendations to the Commission.

5. The Commission once again appeals to the media and the public to allow due process to unfold without interference, in order to preserve the integrity and fairness of the investigation, as well as the privacy and dignity of the witnesses who will be giving evidence.

6. For any further information, please contact the Secretary of the Commission, Mr Maritshane Justice Finger via email at JuFinger@justice.gov.za.

ADV N MANAKA
SPOKESPERSON: MAGISTRATES COMMISSION
CHAIRPERSON: ETHICS COMMITTEE
04/08/2026