



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT

(HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA, GAUTENG DIVISION, JOHANNESBURG)
OFFICE 1210

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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 : 23 October 2024

OUR REF : DJP/21/2012/lt

RE : **NOTE ON CIVIL TRIALS WHERE ON THE DAY IT IS CALLED THE PARTIES ANNOUNCE A DESIRE TO SETTLE – JOHANNESBURG HIGH COURT**

1. Judges and Acting Judges serving in the civil trial court must be circumspect when confronted by parties who seek a stand-down to settle.
2. Valuable judicial time is squandered whilst waiting on an agreement to be produced, if at all.
3. The standard procedure is that if a trial is not ready to run at 10h00 on the set down date it should be removed with no costs order. The judge is then available to take the next case.
4. In a case where the parties do settle in that week, an agreement can be brought to the judge who was presiding for it to be made an order. If settled later, the

opportunity to re-enrol it on the settlement roll on one weeks' notice remains available

5. The cases awaiting a judge's attention must not be left to linger and risk being crowded out.

6. The abuse by parties is particularly prevalent in Road Accident Fund cases.

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

**ROLAND SUTHERLAND
DEPUTY JUDGE PRESIDENT**