

## **COURT DIRECTION – SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL HEARINGS FROM 1 MAY 2022 (5 APRIL 2022 DIRECTIVE)**

The President of the Supreme Court of Appeal hereby issues the following Practice Direction in respect of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

This Directive repeals all previous directives issued since March 2020 and comes into force on 5 May 2022.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In view of the termination of the national state of disaster on 4 April 2022 at 00:00 as published in Government Gazette No. 46197 read with Government Gazette 46195, dated 4 April 2022, it has become necessary to introduce directives that take the changed circumstances into account and accordingly regulate the manner in which hearings are to be conducted in the Supreme Court of Appeal.

### **COURT'S APPROACH**

Virtual hearings are no longer the default position as the court will return to in-person hearings, in open court, from 1 May 2022.

A person who wishes to access the court building must submit to compulsory screening, wear a face mask, adhere to social distancing rules and comply with any additional safety measures prescribed by the Registrar of the court. No more than 22 persons at a time shall be allowed entrance to a courtroom, unless the Registrar directs otherwise. With a view to minimise the risk of infection, legal representatives may not visit the presiding judge's chambers to introduce themselves or raise any issues concerning the matter to be heard unless specifically invited to do so.

Parties that wish to have their matters disposed of without oral argument, in terms of s 19(a) of the Superior Courts Act 10 of 2013, shall notify the Registrar of that intention immediately after they reach agreement for the presiding judge's decision.

M.M. MAYA

PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL

BLOEMFONTEIN

Dated at Bloemfontein on 5 April 2022