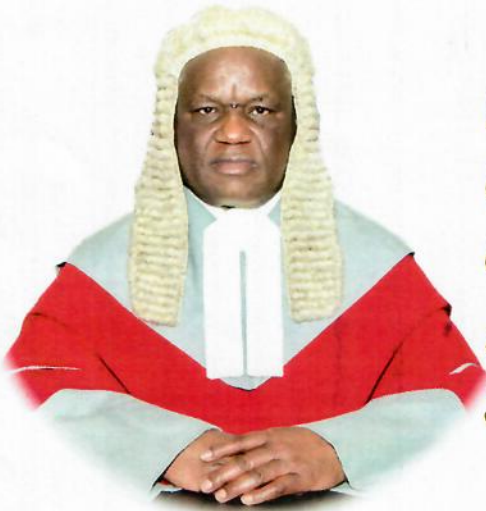


JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION



OFFICE OF CHIEF JUSTICE
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE

By now you may have received the directive I issued on Monday, 23 March 2020 on scaling down work in our courts. This directive applies to all Courts and I hope it is being applied.

You may have also seen the Circular by the Acting Secretary to the Judicial Service Commission on a cocktail of measures where the bulk of our staff using public transport will be working from home in the meantime and only skeletal staff will be manning our courts.

All this has been caused by Covid-19 which has affected not only our country but the entire global village of humankind.

I urge you to keep safe and to strictly follow the recommendations and instructions that are given by the country's leadership including the Ministry of Health. It is only in keeping safe that we will be able to sail through the challenges Covid-19 has presented to mankind.

My message is to give you hope that this disease, pandemic as it is, cannot annihilate the existence of humanity. These unique challenges will pass in due time. I remain optimistic for the future of our organisation, our country, the region and the world over.

I am aware experts all over the world are working round the clock to find ways in which to overcome it, but the impact of this disease to humankind should never be allowed to leave us in a state of despair, neither should it leave us in a state of exasperation.

Our passion for work, careers and professions should never be extinguished by this unfortunate tragedy, as I am certain that amid this tragedy, something else will bloom. We should keep this in our minds and be hopeful that we will overcome.

I want to urge all members of the Judicial Service Commission to take advantage of the scaling down of operations in our offices and in our Courts; and the self-quarantine not only to spend more time with our families but also to reflect on our profession and our work.

Let's take this time as an opportunity to deal with all the work that we could not do in our offices; to attend to all our reserved judgments and outstanding reviews; and to sharpen our skills in the respective disciplines that we serve the organisation in.

Let us not be overwhelmed by fear, but let us be positive and never lose hope. I urge you to rise with expectation and resilience. We should respond to this unfortunate incident by doing that which we could not do during the time we have been busy with the work on our desks, chambers and courtrooms so that when the situation normalises, which I am confident it will, we will have a clear

strategy and ideas which we wish to communicate and contribute to the positive being of the organisation.

It is my hope that by that time, we will be so refreshed and rejuvenated so much that there is efficiency and effectiveness in the manner we deliver justice to the people of this country; and we will be raring to go and play our part as critical team players in the Judicial Service Commission.

Yes, Covid 19 has cast a dark cloud not only on Zimbabwe, but the world over; but, no matter how dark the time we are going through is, the sun will definitely shine again. We shall overcome. It is my fervent hope that when this storm is over, you and your families will be in good health. I wish you well.

HON. L. MALABA
CHIEF JUSTICE OF ZIMBABWE
25 MARCH 2020

