



**SUPREME COURT & NATIONAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**

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Port Moresby
Papua New Guinea

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**NJSS COVID - 19 Protocols
Protocol No 3 of 2021
For Internal and Public Circulation**

As of Monday 15 March 2021, four members of staff, two judges and two officers of corporate services have tested positive to COVID 19. Also noting the surge of infections this past weeks in NCD and nationwide and therefore in consultation with the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice and Secretary NJSS a total Shut Down of the Courts operation for two weeks is now declared.

PROTOCOL NO 1.1 - Total Shut Down of the Establishment

1. As of Monday the 15th of March 2021, the Court will go into total shutdown for **2 weeks** to be reviewed on Friday 29th March 2021.

PROTOCOL NO 1.2 Urgent hearings only.

2. Judges will Continue to work in chambers or from home.
3. Judge personal staff will continue to work in chambers if requested by Judges.
4. All Courtrooms will be closed except for Courtroom 8 and 9.
5. All cases listed for the next two weeks are now adjourned to March 30 for further directions.
6. Only cases considered to be urgent will be heard by way of electronic hearing, these includes.
 - 6.1.1 Bail
 - 6.1.2 Deportation
 - 6.1.3 Life or death situations
 - 6.1.4 Evictions
 - 6.1.5 Commercial cases where considerable hardship will ensure if court does not intervene.
 - 6.1.6 For exceptional circumstances such as a ceremonial sitting.
7. Cases approved for hearing will be heard by way of video link unless approved otherwise by the presiding judge.

PROTOCOL NO 1.3 Closure of Registry.

8. The Registries will be closed for the duration of the shutdown period.
9. Registry officers may be contacted on the following email addresses.
 - 9.1 iaugrea@pngjudiciary.gov.pg
 - 9.2 sikiso@pngjudiciary.gov.pg
 - 9.3 dgonol@pngjudiciary.gov.pg
 - 9.4 mbae@pngjudiciary.gov.pg
 - 9.5 clualuu@pngjudiciary.gov.pg
 - 9.6 rtony@pngjudiciary.gov.pg
10. The following phone numbers can also be used.
 - 10.1 3245726 Deputy Registrar- Supreme Court
 - 10.2 3245801 Assistant Registrar Supreme Court
 - 10.3 3245737/ 3245754/ 3245805 Supreme Court Registry
 - 10.4 3245 818 National Court Registry
 - 10.5 3245753 Assistant Registrar
 - 10.6 3245845/ 3245756/ 3245847 Commercial Registry
 - 10.7 3245956/ 3245804 IECMS customer service
 - 10.8 3245753 Crimes registry
 - 10.9 3245778/ 3245714/ 3245719/ 3245720- National Court Registry

PROTOCOL NO 1.3 - Testing for Covid

11. All Officers must now undergo compulsory testing.
12. The COVID 19 team will organize with the NCD Health Division or the National Health Department to organize test to be conducted on site.
13. However, all staff must also take the initiative to go for testing at a suburban clinic nearest to your place of residence. Testing can be conducted at free urban clinics.

PROTOCOL NO 1.4 - Essential Staff

14. Number of essential staff is now reduced to 5 per division.
15. The divisional manager is responsible for the selection of these staff

PROTOCOL NO 1.5 - Provincial Courts and Registries

- ~~15.~~16. Where a provincial center is facing similar situation as Port Moresby, this protocol can be adopted and applied in such a province.

~~16-17.~~ The provincial judge administrator and Assistant Registrar may after seeking specific approval of the Chief Justice, shut down the court for 2 weeks or any other period as considered appropriate.

It is to be noted that this is not a holiday for Judges and Staff. It is recommended that all Judges and Staff exercise extreme caution and stay safe during this lockdown period. Judges and Staff must stay at home and not risk attending gatherings in and around the city. We owe a duty of care to ourselves, our families, and the public.

Dated 15th March 2021.

Issued by



Ian V Augerea
Registrar

Copy: Chief Justice Sir Gibs Salika