

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: LIFE ESIDIMENI UPDATE

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola has acceded to the NPA's request that a joint hearing be conducted into the Life Esidimeni deaths and has requested the Judge President on 28 January 2020 to designate a judge to preside over the Life Esidimeni inquest in the high court of Pretoria.

On 3 September 2019, the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Gauteng Division, Pretoria, Advocate George Baloyi took a decision to refer all Esidimeni matters to a joint inquest hearing. Subsequent to his decision and as per dictates of section 6(d) of the Inquest Act 58 of 1959, the National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Shamila Batohi submitted a request to Minister Lamola to approach the JP's office to appoint a presiding officer to preside over the inquest.

The NPA will await further guidance from JP's office in relation to the period, duration and presiding officer appointed to conduct the joint inquest hearing.

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