



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Introduction

1. The term of our current Chief Justice, Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, comes to an end on 11 October 2021
2. Section 174(3) of the Constitution empowers the President to appoint the next Chief Justice after consulting the Judicial Service Commission and the leaders of political parties represented in the National Assembly.
3. In terms of the Constitution, the Chief Justice is *“the head of the judiciary and exercises responsibility over the establishment and monitoring of norms and standards for the exercise of the judicial functions of all courts”*.
4. The Chief Justice is responsible for leading the creation of jurisprudence as he or she presides over proceedings of the Constitutional Court. He or she is also responsible for setting and overseeing the maintenance of the standards for the exercise of the judicial functions of our courts, and chairing the Judicial Services Commission.

An open process involving the public

5. To promote transparency and enable public participation, President Ramaphosa has decided that South Africans should be invited to take part in the choice of the next Chief Justice.
6. The President is therefore **calling for nominations of candidates for Chief Justice**. We believe that a Chief Justice ought to be shown to garner respect and support of the members of the profession from which they come, as well as from the general public.
7. Nominations should set out the reasons why the nominee is deemed suitable to be our next Chief Justice, their experience both as a legal practitioner, including any experience as a judge, and as a leader.
8. In addition, nominations should be accompanied by the endorsement and support of at least one professional body of legal practitioners, non-governmental organisation working in the field of human rights, or other legal field.
9. The list of nominees will be made public.

A panel to shortlist nominees

10. After receiving the nominations, a panel of eminent persons with relevant experience will short list between 3 and 5 candidates. The panel will decide how best to openly, transparently and expeditiously compile the shortlist.
11. The panel will consist of former Judge of the International Court of Justice and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay as chairperson, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola, former Minister of Justice Jeff Radebe, former Public Protector Adv Thuli Madonsela, co-chair of the South African National AIDS Council, Ms Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, and Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law, Professor Ziyad Motala.
12. The President will decide which candidates from the shortlist presented to him by the panel of eminent persons to refer to the Judicial Service Commission and the leaders of political parties represented in the National Assembly for consultation.
13. All nominations with all supporting documents must be sent to **angeline@presidency.gov.za** and **cjnominations@gcis.gov.za** by 1 October 2021. They must include:
 - 13.1. A nomination letter, including the contact details of the nominator;
 - 13.2. The nominee's acceptance of the nomination and their contact details;
 - 13.3. Letters of support for the nomination, including contact details of persons or entities that support the nomination, including at least one letter of support from a professional body of legal practitioners, non-governmental organisation working in the field of human rights, or other legal field; and
 - 13.4. Any additional documentation that the person nominating the candidate for Chief Justice deems relevant.
14. All nominations and supporting documents (save for personal information) will be made public on the Presidency website by 4 October 2021.
15. Any objections to the nominees will need to be motivated, in writing, and sent to the above email address at the latest by Friday 15 October 2021.
16. The Panel will be required to report to the President by Friday 29 October 2021. He will thereafter consult the Judicial Service Commission and the leaders of political parties represented in the National Assembly.