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## **Media Statement: Constitutional Court operations hampered by water supply challenges**

***Note:** Please attribute this statement solely to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) as a Government Department and not the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa or the Judiciary.*

The Constitutional Court has, since the beginning of the current Court term on 1 November 2024, been unable to conduct physical or in-court case hearings because of unreliable water supply in the Court building.

The exact cause of the ongoing irregular water supply challenge is not known, although it appears to be generalised in the Hillbrow area where the Court is located. Water leaks in the Court's water system were also detected, which further impacted water supply in the Court. A professional plumber deployed by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, together with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development has since addressed the water leaks.

Whilst the Court has a water tank installed for ablution facilities, this back up water supply lasts for only one working day, and the City of Johannesburg is unable to refill it promptly on a daily basis to allow Court operations to continue uninterrupted. In the result, the Court has been unable to conduct physical or in-court case hearings.

Constitutional Court management is in regular contact with the City of Johannesburg and Rand Water regarding the ongoing water supply challenges in the Hillbrow area. The Court will provide an update to Court users when more information comes to light.

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**Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice.**

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