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MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE INSTANCE OF CHIEF JUSTICE ZONDO AND JUSTICE MADLANGA ABOUT ALLEGED PAST TENSION

Chief Justice Zondo and Justice Madlanga have become aware that in the past few days there have been reports in the media to the effect that, ahead of the February 2022 JSC interviews for the position of Chief Justice, there was tension between them. This is said against the background that both of them were some of the candidates nominated for the position of Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice and Justice Madlanga wish to set the record straight in this regard and point out that over the past eleven years during which they have been members of the Constitutional Court, there has never been any tension between them. On the contrary, they have always worked very well together. In fact, Justice Madlanga, like all other Justices of the Constitutional Court, has given Chief Justice Zondo his absolute support and co-operation both when he was Acting Chief Justice and after he had been appointed as Chief Justice. And, since Justice Madlanga is the most senior Justice after the Chief Justice and Deputy Chief Justice, his views are sometimes sought by the Chief Justice. That has been the case from the time the Chief Justice was acting.

Furthermore, Justice Madlanga chairs a Committee that was set up by Chief Justice Zondo which deals with the relationship between the Constitutional Court and other apex courts in the world and advises the Chief Justice on such matters. Chief Justice Zondo appointed Justice Madlanga to head that Committee.

Justice Madlanga also says that any possible suggestion in the media reports that he may have been part of any “plot” that related to the candidacy for the position of Chief Justice is untrue.

Ends.

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Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

