

Johannesburg

Contributed by **Kutlwano Motla**

INTRODUCING THE PHINEAS MOJAPELO CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION CENTRE

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The vision of the South African judiciary is the speedy delivery of quality justice to all our people, rich and poor. This assumes that the South African judiciary administers justice with the independence required of it by the Constitution.

And that assumption extends to a comfortable grasp, by judicial officers, of constitutional and legal concepts and a commitment to uphold acceptable professional and ethical standards.

A well-developed judgment-writing skill is also an essential for the efficient and effective functioning of this justice-dispensing machinery.

These were the opening remarks made by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng¹ in the 2018 *South African Judicial Education Journal*.

Education has been at the forefront of discussion and debate across our country and there can be no better place for the judges of the Johannesburg High Court to attain such judicial edification than at the recently opened Phineas Mojapelo Continuing Judicial Education Centre.

It was our very own Tata Madiba who once said that education is the most powerful weapon to change the world. The pursuit of education, or more aptly put, judicial training, has always been a necessity to enhance the independence and accountability of the judiciary.

Herein birthed the need for satisfactory training, which the centre will once and for all institutionalise by girding the loins of aspiring, newly appointed and long-serving judges to best serve society by being fully equipped to uphold the rule of law.

Until now judges' weekly training



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sessions have been uncomfortable, with some of the challenges being judges needing to balance a notepad on their laps, while unable to audibly share concurring or diverging thoughts because of being too far apart.

However such confining circumstances have become a thing of the past as the new fully furnished centre boasts ample large desks, secure comfortable seats and an audio system second to none.

The centre will be used primarily for judicial training, but also for all plenary meetings of the judges. It will serve both the interests of the legal fraternity at large and the litigating public, allowing for judges of the Johannesburg High Court to ensure that justice is indeed dispensed with according to expectations and in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

On 19 March 2019, at the official opening of the centre, the Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court, Dunstan Mlambo, urged fellow judges not to be too keen in sending their judgments to the Supreme Court of Appeal to have them confirmed, but rather to consciously equip themselves with the capacity and the capability to develop the jurisprudence of South Africa.

Additionally, the centre's very own namesake informed the fellow judges in attendance to let judicial excellence flow from the teachings and sharing that would take place at the centre, for now and into the future. **A**

Note

¹ Comments made in the *South African Judicial Education Journal*, Volume 1, Issue 1 2018.