



## **SUPREME COURT OF MAURITIUS**

### **COMMUNIQUÉ (No. 5 of 2021)**

#### **COURT BUSINESS AS FROM 3 MAY 2021**

The public and members of the legal profession are informed that Court business will resume as from 3 of May 2021 subject to the arrangements set out below.

The following measures will be strictly applied in order to safeguard the health and safety of practitioners, officers of the court and all court users.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES**

- There will be a single controlled entrance to all courts and the temperature of all court users will be checked before they are allowed access to the court premises.
- Every court user shall wear a protective facemask failing which access to the court premises will be refused.
- At the entrance of every court, the name, address and contact details of all court users will be logged in a special register, which will be used in the event of contact tracing exercise.
- Physical distancing rules will have to be observed at all times in all parts of the court premises in compliance with markings in the yard and on the floor to guide court users.
- The use of lifts for access to all floors will be in priority for disabled and elderly persons and only 4 or 6 (as applicable) persons will be allowed to enter a lift at a time and all will be required to observe the distancing rules as marked inside the lift.
- Admissions to courtrooms and chambers will be limited and restricted in order to implement the enforcement of safe distancing rules.
- Every court user shall be required to apply hand sanitizer, which will be made available at the entrance point.
- In order to avoid overcrowding and ensure the health and safety of all court users, attorneys and counsel are requested to avoid as far as possible the presence of parties/litigants, pupils and attorney's clerks in court.
- Senior or leading counsel must, where required, arrange to appear in court assisted by not more than one junior counsel.
- At the New Court House, only the cash counter accessible from the courtyard along Pope Hennessy Street will be operational until further notice.

#### **COURT SITTINGS**

The courts will sit at staggered hours, thus affording greater flexibility for the hearing of cases. There will generally be two hearing sessions - morning session and afternoon session - at almost all courts.

## A. SUPREME COURT

### 1. Hearings

- Hearing of cases before the Supreme Court will resume on 3 May 2021 as per the Cause List posted on the Website of the Supreme Court.
- All cases which could not be heard before the Supreme during the confinement period will be re-scheduled for hearing and legal representatives and parties will be informed accordingly.
- Any information in connection with a case which could not be heard during the confinement period may be obtained during normal working hours on the following phone numbers or e-mails:

#### INFORMATION – SUPREME COURT

	Phone numbers	Email addresses
<b>Registry</b>	260 4166	registrysupremecourt@outlook.com
<b>Case Management Unit</b> (For the fixing and re-scheduling of trials)	260 4101 260 4148	supctcasemanagement@gmail.com
<b>Family Division</b>	260 4141	familydivision@govmu.org
<b>Commercial Division</b>	260 4239	mchotoye@govmu.org
<b>Criminal Division</b>	260 4166	registrysupremecourt@outlook.com
<b>Judges' Secretaries Office</b>	5914 9912 260 4160	isosupremecourt@gmail.com
<b>Legal Aid</b> <b>Mrs Luchmee Boojhawon</b>	210 2310 5701 0353	sectionlegalaid@gmail.com
<b>Other Divisions</b>	260 4166	smsameem14@gmail.com

### 2. Formal Matters

- The list of Formal Matters scheduled before the different divisions of the Supreme Court will be posted on the Website of the Supreme Court.
- In order to avoid overcrowding in Court during formal matters, attorneys are advised to designate, from among themselves, a pool of attorneys for the purpose of replacing their confrères in court. However, it is advisable that all prior arrangements regarding instructions, communication of documents and stand to be taken in court, are communicated in advance to the attorneys designated to appear in Court.
- Attorneys are requested to inform their clients to abstain as far as possible from attending court unless their physical presence is necessary.

## B. Master's Court

- All cases which could not be heard before the Master's Court during the confinement period will be re-scheduled and legal representatives and parties will be informed accordingly.
- The Master's Court will sit at staggered hours. The Cause List posted on the Website of the Supreme Court will set out the time slots for the cases to be heard as from 4 May 2021.

- Arrangements should be made by attorneys for a pool of designated attorneys to be present in court during formal matters and division in kind sessions. The designated attorneys should obtain all the necessary instructions in advance from their *confrères* as it would not be possible to admit Attorneys' Clerks in Court.
- Attorneys are requested to inform their clients to abstain as far as possible from attending court unless their physical presence is necessary.
- Attorneys are encouraged to proceed with exchange of pleadings/documents prior to the date scheduled for formal matters and to file the originals of all such pleadings/documents at the Registry of the Court and to inform the Court accordingly through a joint email.
- In matters where attorneys have agreed on the course of action to be followed following an exchange of pleadings and filing of the original documents at the registry, they may send a joint email prior to the date fixed for formal matters and will then be informed by email of the date on which the matter has been fixed anew by Court.
- Any information in connection with a case which could not be heard during the confinement period may be obtained on the following phone numbers or e-mails:

**Information- Cases before the Master and Registrar**

<b>Formal Matters</b>	212 9829	formalmnr@gmail.com
<b>Sale by levy/ Division in kind</b>	212 9764 213 2616	masteroffice09@gmail.com

**C. INTERMEDIATE, INDUSTRIAL AND DISTRICT COURTS AND BAIL AND REMAND COURT**

- All the cases which could not be called or heard before the courts during the national confinement period will be re-scheduled and legal representatives and parties will be informed accordingly. The courts will, upon resumption, give priority to old standing and continuation cases, cases where accused parties are on remand and cases which do not involve a large number of witnesses.
- The Courts will sit at staggered hours to avoid overcrowding in Court and the Cause List will set out the time slots for the scheduled cases.
- Arrangements should be made by attorneys for a pool of designated attorneys to be present in court during formal matters. The designated attorneys should obtain all the necessary instructions in advance from their *confrères*.
- Attorneys are encouraged to proceed with exchange of pleadings/documents prior to the date scheduled for formal matters and to file the originals of all such pleadings/documents at the Registry of the Court and to inform the Court accordingly through a joint email.
- In matters where attorneys have agreed on the course of action to be followed following an exchange of pleadings and filing of the original documents at the registry, they may send a joint email prior to the date fixed for formal matters and will then be informed by email of the date on which the matter has been fixed anew by Court.
- Attorneys are requested to inform their clients to abstain as far as possible from attending court unless their physical presence is necessary.
- Accused parties and/or parties on bail will be warned by the police of the new scheduled date for their appearance in Court.

- Parties who have been warned personally to attend Court will undertake to put up an appearance on the scheduled date by signing the police memo.
- Any information about any case due which could not be heard during the confinement period may be obtained on the following phone numbers and e-mails:

Intermediate Court (Criminal Division)	210 9874	intercriminal2@gmail.com
Intermediate Court (Civil Division)	210 2310	registrycivil.ic@gmail.com
Intermediate Court (Financial Crimes Division)	210 1597	interfinancialcrime@gmail.com
Industrial Court	211 3253	trial.industrial@gmail.com formal.industrial@gmail.com
District Court of Port Louis (Division I)	210 2310	portlouisfirstdivision@gmail.com
District Court of Port Louis (Division II)	208 2019	portlouisdivision2@gmail.com
District Court of Port Louis (Division III)	212 1432	portlouissouthdistrictcourt@gmail.com
District Court of Rivière du Rempart	243 3521	mapoudistrictcourt@hotmail.com
District Court of Pamplemousses	243 3521	pamplemoussesdc@gmail.com
District Court of Flacq	413 0434	districtcourtflacq@gmail.com
District Court of Grand Port	631 5762	grandportdcr@gmail.com
District Court of Savanne	625 5519 625 5025	savannedistrictcourt@gmail.com
District Court of Black River	4521635 452 0171	blackriverdistrictcourt@gmail.com
District Court of Moka	433 5763	courtmanagemokadc@gmail.com
District Court of Upper Plaines Wilhems (Curepipe)	670 4105	districtcourtofupwcurepipe@gmail.com
District Court of Lower Plaines Wilhems (Rose Hill)	4673380	rosehilldcr@gmail.com
Bail and Remand Court	210 2310	brcregistry1@gmail.com

#### D. VIRTUAL HEARINGS

The Court, Judge or Magistrate, as the case may be, may, where appropriate, arrange for the virtual hearing of any application, subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the Court, Judge or Magistrate.

**The Ag. Master and Registrar**  
**29 April 2021**