

## Addendum to Judiciary Covid-19 Protocol

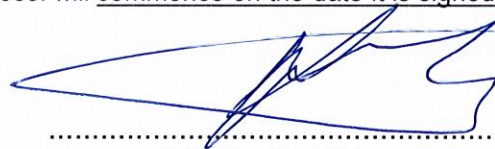
1. In the event of a shortage of Courts support staff as it is the case presently due to being tested positive to covid-19 or in the event of a short period of 24-hour curfew being imposed, further steps are necessitated, as follows:

- Level Three Plus: Puce Community Transmission, with a shortage of Courts support staff as it is the case presently or with a 24-hour lockdown

The measures to be taken in response to this level, including those for Levels One, Two and Three, are:

- Only matters will be dealt with remotely, by AVL or telephone – nothing in person. We envisage the following matters as possibly being urgent:
  - Magistrate's Court: first or subsequent remands, bail hearings, domestic violence applications; and
  - Supreme Court: bail hearings, some Magistrate's Courts appeals where liberty is at stake, matrimonial disputes such as custody and/or access, and urgent restraining orders.
- Judicial Officers will work from home;
- Electronic filings will be accepted, by e-mail to: [vanuatucourts@gmail.com](mailto:vanuatucourts@gmail.com). Any required fee need not be paid on filing but will be subsequently collected.
- The Supreme Court Registry will not be physically open. Telephone calls will be received at: 26715
- Pursuant to Rule 18.3(2) of the Civil Procedure Rules, the Supreme Court Registry will be closed for non-urgent matters while the Supreme Court and Magistrate's Court face with a shortage of support court staff or where a 24-hour curfew is in force.
- This regime now applies due to the court's shortage of support staff until further notice.

2. This Addendum to the Protocol will commence on the date it is signed.



Chief Justice V. Lunabek  
Dated at Port Vila this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

