



EFF STATEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE MANDISA MAYA

Thursday, 25 July 2024.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) welcomes the announcement that Justice Mandisa Maya will commence her tenure as Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa on 1 September 2024. We commend this landmark decision which marks the appointment of the first African woman to lead the Constitutional Court (ConCourt).

The EFF has consistently supported Justice Maya's nomination, recognising her as a beacon of justice and an advocate for the marginalised. Our support for her candidacy was evident even during the nomination process. It is noteworthy that we have always prioritised her nomination over the current Chief Justice, Raymond Zondo, who only had two years till retirement when he was appointed.

Justice Maya has been a stalwart in the South African judiciary. She holds a BProc from the University of Transkei (now Walter Sisulu University), an LLB from the University of Natal, and an LLM from Duke University in the USA. Over the years, she has served in various capacities, including as a judge of the Eastern Cape High Court, the Supreme Court of Appeal, and the ConCourt.

Notably, she is the founder of the South African Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges, showcasing her commitment to gender equality in the judiciary. As Deputy Chief Justice, she has paved the way for many, and she holds the distinction of delivering the first judgment in Xhosa, reflecting her dedication to cultural inclusivity. Her journey to becoming the first African woman to lead the ConCourt is a testament to her dedication to the rule of law.

With this confirmation, Justice Zondo must take a long leave of absence to allow Justice Maya to assume the duties of the Chief Justice to rid the office of the political interference that has characterised it since his appointment.

Zondo has blatantly defined himself as a politician and will leave the highest office of the judiciary having brought it into disrepute - that is his legacy!

Salute to Chief Justice Mandisa Maya. We look forward to a judiciary that will fearlessly defend the rights of our people and uphold the values enshrined in our Constitution.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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