

SUPPLEMENTARY PRACTICE DIRECTIONS FOR COURT SITTINGS
IN EDO STATE DURING THE COVID-19 PERIOD AND BEYOND

WHEREAS:

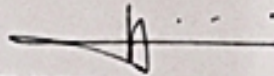
1. By the Practice Directions for Court sittings during the **COVID-19 PERIOD AND BEYOND, 2020**, issued by me as Chief Judge of Edo State, which came into effect on 4th June, 2020, all Courts in Edo State were enjoined to only sit skeletally to hear cases which can be fully heard or prosecuted by affidavit evidence only; such as originating motions, judicial review applications, appeals and any other matter where oral evidence is not required. Focus was also on bail applications, remand proceedings, interlocutory motions, final addresses in respect of civil or criminal matters, where Defendant is on bail, rulings/judgments and causes or matters considered urgent, necessary, essential or time bound.
2. The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Presidential Task Force (PTF)-Covid-19 announced phase 3 of the Eased Lockdown effective from the 4th of September, 2020 representing a significant gradual easing of Covid-19 Pandemic critical measures initially instituted at the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic.

In exercise of the powers conferred on me as **Chief Judge** by Sections 6(6) and Section 274 of 1999 Constitution, Section 53(1) of the High Court Law Cap.65 Volume III, Laws of defunct Bendel State of Nigeria 1976, applicable in Edo State of Nigeria by virtue of Section 4 of Act No.41 of 1991; Section 49 of the Magistrates' Courts Law, Section 68 of the Customary Courts Law No.2 of 1984 and by virtue of all other laws enabling me in that behalf I, **HONOURABLE JUSTICE ESTHER AMENAGHAWON EDIGIN, CHIEF JUDGE** of Edo State of Nigeria, do hereby issue the following directions:

1. That all Courts in Edo State shall now resume proper and regular sitting with effect from 14th September, 2020. Accordingly, Courts shall hear cases fully and take evidence from witnesses, where available.
2. Pursuant to the above, it is directed that the Courts shall not fix more than 6 cases for the day, including motions. Such matters are to be given specific timeslots to enable the Court enforce the Covid-19 protection guidelines.

3. All the containment guidelines referred to in the Edo State Judiciary (Covid-19) Pandemic Period and Beyond) Practice Directions for Court Sitings 2020 shall continue to be strictly observed and complied with.
4. This supplementary Practice Directions effectively modifies the earlier Practice Direction issued on 4th June, 2020, only to the above extent. Where, however there is any inconsistency or contradiction with the latter on the above subject, this Supplementary Practice Direction shall prevail.

ISSUED AT BENIN CITY, THIS 14th DAY OF September 2020



HON. JUSTICE ESTHER AMENAGHAWON EDIGIN
CHIEF JUDGE
EDO STATE