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Note: Please attribute this statement solely to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) as a Government Department and not the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa or the Judiciary.

Dear Mr Geffen,

The media enquiry dated 4 August 2026 refers.

RESPONSE

The Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ), as a national department, appointed a new travel management service provider, with effect from 1 April 2026, in compliance with National Treasury directives. Travel With Flair (TWF) was duly appointed following the government-set process.

TWF advised that domestic airlines apply different booking class designations and fare rules depending on the fare class and route. Airfares range from fully flexible economy fares (Y class) to the most restricted fare classes (I class), each with varying pricing and conditions, hence the initial quote of R8 500.

In the interest of prudent financial management and responsible use of public funds, the OCJ elected to utilise a more cost-effective fixed fare option for the travel arrangements of approximately 204 delegates. Invoices are still being processed, and final expenditure is unavailable at this stage.

Ends.

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Issued by the Office of the Chief Justice

