1. Allow me to say Thank You to Your Excellency on behalf of the Administration of Justice, my Ministry and on my own behalf for your message, guidance and articulation of your expectations in terms of service delivery across all levels within the Judiciary. Implicitly, your message is that, if we are to reach the highest levels of ratings in governance and the rule of law, we must re-focus our priorities, resource provision, strengthen our structures and transform our processes. I therefore wish to take advantage of the opportunity of passing a vote of thanks to acknowledge and commit to such needful process of re-focusing our objectives and measures in the area of justice delivery.

2. It is my belief that the opening of the refurbished Kanye Magistrates Court which you have just done, Your Excellency, will usher in, the necessary impetus to our policies and programmes aimed at enhancing access to justice in Botswana, underpinned by result-oriented processes and systems, initiated and implemented, within the Judiciary like e-filing, Court Records Management System (CRMS), Judicial Case Management, Voice Prompt systems, coverage of special courts, circuit court systems, etc.

**Director of Ceremonies**

3. I also believe that, the Registrar, will also ensure stakeholder collaboration by building strong collaborative structures at the regional and local levels for the achievement of speediness of justice delivery such as setting up a forum for exchanging ideas and sharing of operational challenges between the judicial officers, and other key stakeholders like the Botswana Police Service; the Directorate of Public Prosecution, the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime; Prisons Department and members of the Law Society of Botswana in Kanye and surrounding area. Such a forum in my view should have effective linkages with the Criminal Justice Forum, which I established at the Ministry level, made up of the Accounting Officers of the aforementioned organisations and chaired by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security.

**Director of Ceremonies**

4. One of the key performance indicators under the Thematic Working Group on Governance, Safety and Security, is the turnaround times with respect to the hearing of cases and the quality of judicial decisions. Of course this has implications for numbers of judges, magistrates, deputy registrars, court clerks and other support staff. Therefore, as we leave here after this wonderful occasion of handing over the facilities, Registrar you have to innovate and engage effectively, as the Administration of Justice, on how you will rationalise the resources availed to yourselves, in order to achieve and/or maintain quality service and timeous delivery of justice and in dealing with challenges of backlog of cases affecting the Judiciary and other stakeholders.

5. Let me also point out that the handing over of the facility should not signal the end of your interest in sustaining its pristine status. Instead you should develop a clearly defined programme of regular maintenance, and not wait for the ultimate, and often costly maintenance necessitated by extensive dilapidation of the entire structure.

**Director of Ceremonies**

5. In conclusion, I want to thank the contractor, Hitecon Construction, and all the sub-contractors for honouring and adhering to their contractual obligations and timelines in delivering this magnificent structure.

6. I also thank all our Guests, especially our judicial officers and related stakeholders. Allow me to thank our Dikgosi, Baruti, Bagolo Ba Motse from Kanye and neighbouring villages. Last but not least I also wish to thank the organising committee, which I am informed included local members of the community; in preparing for today’s event the Media; To all those who participated in making this event a success, we thank you.

I thank you,

Pula Pula Pula