**ADDRESS BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**LT GENERAL DR. SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA**

**AT THE**

**OFFICIAL OPENING**

**TO THE**

**EXTENSION OF THE**

**BROADHURST MAGISTRATES COURT - GABORONE**

**MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018**

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA LT. GENERAL DR. SERETSE KHAMA IAN KHAMA AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING TO THE EXTENSION OF THE BROADHURST MAGISTRATES COURT ON MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018**

The Hon. Chief Justice Mr. Maruping Dibotelo

The Hon. Judge President of the Court of Appeal Mr. Justice Ian Kirby

Hon Justices of Appeal

Hon Judges

Hon. Minister of Defence, Justice and Security Mr. Shaw Kgathi

Permanent Secretary to the President

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence Justice and Security Permanent Secretaries

Hon. Members of Parliament

Dikgosi

Hon. Attorney General

Registrar and Master, Your Deputies and Assistants

Your Worships of the Magisterial Bench

Commissioner of Police

Commissioner of Prisons

District Commissioner, Gaborone

Your Worship the Mayor of Gaborone

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I am pleased and elated to have been invited by the Chief Justice to officiate at this ceremony. Please allow me to preface my address by tendering my sincere apologies for missing two consecutive court sittings of the Legal Year Opening Ceremonies for 2017 and 2018.

I wish to place it on record that this was not intended to be in contempt of court as my official engagements which coincided with the key Judicial Calendar events made it impossible for me to attend.

1. *Distinguished Guests,* we are gathered this morning at these magnificent premises which have changed the landscape of Broadhurst, to witness the official opening of the expansion of the Broadhurst Magistrates Court. The original structure was officially opened in 1991. It was one our first modern Magistrates Court structures in the Country. At that time the Courthouse with four court rooms was large enough to handle the workload that was generated by Gaborone. However, the population and economic growth, expansion and transformation of Gaborone from a Town to a Metropolitan City brought with it increased and concomitant demand for diverse services of the Court.

2.1 I am advised that since the construction of the Court there has been tremendous increase in the number of cases registered before it which made it difficult for the old structure to cope. I am further advised that this Court does not only deal with cases emanating from Gaborone but with other cases from surrounding areas like Mogoditshane, Tlokweng and so forth.

2.2 As explained by the Chief Justice, the extension was from a modest four (4) Courtroom facility to a ten (10) courtroom facility with more space for Magistrates, including the Regional Magistrate South, support staff, Registries and a gymnasium all at a total cost of **P75 628 899.00.**

2.2.1It cannot be gainsaid that for the Judiciary to cope with the increase in litigation there must be a corresponding increase in both infrastructural development and human resource.

1. My Government and that of my predecessors invested and will continue to invest huge public resources in the Administration of Justice in the form of infrastructure such as court buildings, staff houses, motor vehicles, equipment, courtrooms, salaries and other perquisites of court officials.

3.1 The powers and resources bestowed on the Courts are for the public good. Our Judiciary should always therefore be conscious that they owe the Nation a duty to do all within their powers and ingenuity to give the country a good Judicial System.

1. *Director of Ceremonies,* The Judiciary, like the other Arms of the State, plays a pivotal role in the governance of our Nation. As you are aware the Judiciary’s overarching goal is *“to develop, maintain and sustain an efficient as well as an effective Judicial System that dispenses justice fairly, impartially and expeditiously.”* The discharge of this function is anchored on the Rule of Law foundation which is the pedestal of our Vision 2036.
2. *Hon Chief Justice,* I am pleased to note that under your leadership and your predecessors, the Judiciary introduced a plethora robust raft of reforms all geared towards *“achieving a just, efficient and speedy dispensation of Justice.”*

5.1 I am informed that you are on the verge of introducing E-Filing, Court Annexed Mediation (at the High Court and Magistrates Courts) and Real Time Reporting all designed towards enhancing and improving your services in your quest to *“achieve a World Class Judiciary.’*

1. I wish to assure you of the continued support of Government in the implementation of your programmes and projects including their resourcement.
2. *Ladies and Gentlemen,* it is a truism and a matter of public record and concern that Government and the Nation at large have in the past received a raw deal from some unscrupulous contractors who either did shoddy work or delivered projects past the contractual time lines with huge cost overruns which had to be borne by the tax payers.
   1. Such incidents have now been arrested and are isolated and few.
   2. I thus applaud the Contractor, Red East, and the SubContractors for delivering this project within budget and the stipulated specifications,
   3. I hope that in the fullness of time the workmanship will remain enduring.
   4. In the same breath, I ask those responsible for the maintenance and refurbishment to ensure that this will be done on schedule.
   5. I equally challenge the users of this Facility to take good care of it as well as the furniture so that it retains its mint condition.
3. *Ladies and Gentlemen,* please allow me to also take this opportunity to salute you, Chief Justice, for your astute and exemplary leadership as you will be retiring on 30 April 2018 after many years of service to our Nation. I wish you, your dear wife and family well in your retirement and that as you look back you will take comfort in the legacy you have bequeathed to the Judiciary and the Nation.
4. *Director of Ceremonies,* *Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,* it is now my singular honour and privilege to officially declare open the extension of the Broadhurst Magistrates Court.
5. I thank you.

**PULA! PULA! PULA!**