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REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

High Court of Botswana
Private Bag 00220
Gaborone

PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

THE MAGISTRATES' COURT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022

1. Members of the Public are duly informed that the Magistrates' Court (Amendment) Act, 2022 came into operation, today, the 1st August 2022.

2. The Magistrates' Court (Amendment) Act, 2022 brings about the following amendments to the Magistrates' Court Act (hereinafter referred to as the "Act");

3. Substituting section 19 with the following new section-

17(1) Subject to section 30, a Regional Magistrate, a Chief Magistrate, a Principal Magistrate and a Senior Magistrate shall have jurisdiction in all civil claims where the total amount claimed either in the way of liquidated or unliquidated damages, or the value of the property claimed, does not exceed-

- (a) P100,000.00 in the case of a Regional Magistrate and a Chief Magistrate;
- (b) P80,000.00 in the case of a Principal Magistrate; and
- (c) P70,000.00 in the case of a Senior Magistrate.

(2) Subject to section 30, a Regional Magistrate, a Chief Magistrate, a Principal Magistrate and a Senior Magistrate shall have jurisdiction in all actions of

ejection against the occupier of any premises or land where the right of occupation of any such premises or land in dispute between the parties does not exceed, in value to the occupier –

- (a) P100, 000.00 in the case of Regional Magistrate and a Chief Magistrate;
- (b) P80, 000.00 in the case of a Principal Magistrate; and
- (c) P70, 000.00 in the case of a Senior Magistrate.

(3) Subject to section 30, a Magistrate Grade I, a Magistrate Grade II and a Magistrate Grade III shall have jurisdiction in all civil claims where the total amount claimed either in the way of liquidated or unliquidated damages or the value of the property claimed does not exceed-

- (a) P60,000.00 in the case of a Magistrate Grade I; and
- (b) P50,000.00 in the case of a Magistrate Grade II; and
- (c) P40, 000.00 in the case of a Magistrate Grade II.

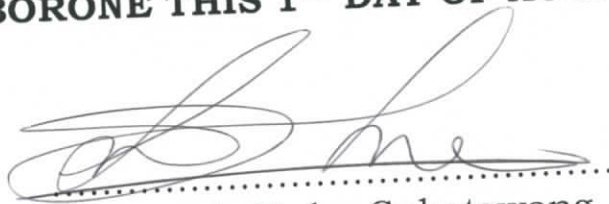
4. Section 61 of the Magistrate' Court Act is amended by substituting for subsection (1) the following new subsection-

- (1) Subject to provisions of this Act and of any other written law, the limits to the punishment that may be imposed by Magistrates shall be as follows;
 - (a) Regional and Chief Magistrates - 20 years Imprisonment or P 100 000.00 fine, or to both;
 - (b) Principal Magistrates - 15 years Imprisonment or P 80 000.00 fine, or to both;
 - (c) Senior Magistrates - 12 years imprisonment or P70,000.00 fine, or to both;
 - (d) Magistrate Grade I - 10years imprisonment or P60,000.00 fine or to both; and
 - (e) Magistrate Grade II - 7 years imprisonment or P50, 000.00 fine or to both.

(f) Magistrate Grade III - 5 years imprisonment or P40,000 fine or to both:

Provided that a Principal Magistrate and Senior Magistrate may impose a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a Magistrate Grade I may impose a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment ,where a minimum sentence has been prescribed as punishment for commission of an offence.

DATED AT GABORONE THIS 1ST DAY OF AUGUST 2022.



Juliana A. Dube-Gobotswang
CHIEF REGISTRAR

