**REMARKS BY THE HON CHIEF JUSTICE MR JUSTICE TERENCE RANNOWANE ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KANYE MAGISTRATES’ COURT ON FRIDAY 25TH MAY 2018**

**SALUTATIONS**

1. It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to this ceremony.

We are indeed most grateful and humbled that your Excellency the President has found time from your otherwise tight and packed itinerary and graciously acceded to our request to officiate at this event.

* 1. I also wish to take this opportunity, in my new role, to publicly congratulate Your Excellency on your ascension to the lofty office of President of this great country on 1 April 2018.
1. Please also allow me to salute my predecessor Mr. Justice Maruping Dibotelo for his capable stewardship and leadership of our Judiciary. I wish him all the best in his retirement and will from time to time benefit from his wise counsel. Due to pressing personal engagements, he could not be here with us today.

2.1 It was on the morning of Monday 26th January 2016 that the Former Chief Justice Mr. Maruping Dibotelo performed the official ground breaking ceremony to mark the commencement of the construction of this Court and the four (4) staff houses.

2.2 Nearly two and half years after that ceremony, we are today gathered for the official opening of the court facility. This project was one of the major projects under National Development Plan 10 which were frozen on account of the global economic recession. We are thus greatly indebted to Government that following the economic recovery this project was implemented.

1. **Your Excellency the President, Distinguished Guests**, we commend the Ngwaketse Land Board for allocating to us such a suitable and prime piece of land overlooking the main road for the construction of this court facility as well as the land on which Magistrates and staff houses are built. We also thank the contractor, Hitecon (Pty) Ltd. for putting up this magnificent facility.

3.1 This Court facility consists of three (3) spacious modern courtrooms, magnificent Magistrates’ Chambers, Registries, space for the safe keeping of Court records, Children’s court, office space for support staff, holding cells, Attorneys consulting rooms, witnesses rooms, library, ample parking space for staff and customers, a garden as well as four (4) staff houses, all at a total cost of **P65 870 383.00**. The total amount approved for the construction and consultants for Kanye Magistrate Court was **P72,814,889.20.** The project commenced in January 2016 and was expected to complete in May 2017. It was, however, completed and handed over in Mach 2018. The project is within budget but was not completed on time.

3.3 This court facility is a major improvement to our erstwhile rented premises which could no longer meet and sustain our needs owing to our growth and the ever increasing demands for services.

3.4 Prior to this Court facility, our Magistrates and staff were nomadic and had to improvise through the sharing of the available small court rooms and offices, which compromised and gravely affected service delivery.

3.5 The construction of this Court facility has not only improved our efficiency in service delivery and security, but has served to boost the morale of our workforce and enhanced their dignity and honour.

3.6 It is my fervent hope that this state of the art Court facility and its added comfort will translate into more productivity and significant reduction of case backlog at this station.

1. **Your Excellency the President, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**, the official opening of this court facility comes on the heels of the official opening of the extension of the Broadhurst Magistrates’ Court on the 12 March 2018 at a cost of **P75 628 899.00.**

4.1 We commend our Government for this weighty investment in public infrastructure and facilities for the betterment and wellbeing of our people. The building of these facilities is a fulfilment of one of our key strategic objectives of enhancing physical access to justice.

4.2 **Your Excellency,** I wish to also take this opportunity to again urge the Government, just like my predecessor, to give priority to the construction of similar purpose built courts in Ghanzi, Serowe and the decongestion of Francistown, with the provision of another court facility. Our staff in these areas are struggling to cope and deliver in the premises they are operating from and is also equally frustrating to the users of those facilities.

1. **Director of Ceremonies,** my task is not to give a speech but to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion. Once again, you are most welcome, and I commend you for coming in such large numbers to witness the opening of your court facilities.
2. I thank you all for your kind attention.

***Pula! Pula! Pula!***