



## OPENING REMARKS

### CRMS USERS CONFERENCE

HON. CHIEF JUSTICE M. DIBOTELO

30 MAY 2013

PREMIER HOTEL - MAHALAPYE

1. Director of Ceremony, Hon. Judges, Hon. Attorney General, Director of Public Prosecutions, Commissioner of Police, the Registrar and Master and his deputies, Your worships the Magistrates, distinguished guests, ladies and I have accepted the invitation to officiate at this year's CRMS Users Conference because of the importance of the CRMS reform to the Judiciary.
2. Director of Ceremony this year's conference is historic in many respects. It is the first CRMS Conference to be officially opened by the Chief Justice. I am honoured to be part of this historic occasion which demonstrates the importance of CRMS and this conference. The conference is convened to afford CRMS Users an opportunity to share their experiences on the CRMS applications with a view of enhancing system usage. The User's Conference is one of the many strategies put in place to promote efficient CRMS Usage.
3. Director of Ceremony this year's conference is also special in that, it is the first conference in which our Stakeholders are invited. This is in recognition of the fact that their

involvement will enhance greater system usage in line with the theme of the conference which is **“STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION:- KEY TO CRMS SUCCESS”**. I want to take this opportunity to welcome our Stakeholders and invite them to deliberate on ways in which our system can best assist in your various differing mandates within the Criminal and Civil Justice System. Our systems and operations overlap which requires us to find better ways of information sharing and dissemination.

4. The invitation to stakeholders is also appropriate in that we have since enhanced CRMS Usage by allowing Stakeholders “view only” access, to case related information in our system. The Public Kiosks which are now operational in all the three High Court centres afford members of the Public, Litigants and stakeholders an opportunity to view case related information. You are all urged to use these devices as you will get case related information without queuing in our registries.

5. In addition to the decongesting our registries this will promote greater “Access to Justice” in line with our vision of “Access to Justice for all by 2016”. You will be shown the functionality of this equipment during the course of the conference. The Kiosk pulls case related information from the CRMS system. I therefore urge User`s to be vigilant with what they put into the system so as to safeguard our integrity.

6. Director of ceremony, during the opening of the 2013 Legal Year the Administration of Justice launched a website which pulls case related information from the CRMS application. This means that our system is now accessible beyond our borders to the international community. To this end the need for quality assurance and observing data entry standards can therefore not be overemphasised as inaccurate data can discredit the Judiciary and dent our good public standing. This further demonstrates the importance of this system and the need for all the delegates in this conference to contribute to its success. You will accordingly be briefed on our continuing efforts to enhance system usage by other

speakers during the course of the conference and your support is essential.

7. Director of Ceremony, our Judiciary is one of the best performing Judiciaries in Africa and worldwide. Some of this success is attributed to Judicial Case Management, CRMS and other reforms we have put in place to speed up the case disposal rate. We have in the last two years hosted many visitors from other sister Judiciaries in Africa who were benchmarking on the systems we have put in place. We however need to be vigilant and avoid resting on *our* laurels as we need to keep up with the ever changing times. As it is often stated change is the only constant in the world we live in. It is against this background that I have authorised benchmarking trips to the United States of America and neighbouring Jurisdictions. CRMS is now part of our daily operations and we should have all embraced it at this stage. Those who still resist its usage have no place in our ever transforming Judiciary.

8. Director of ceremony I am further informed that the 2013 User's Conference is indeed special as in addition to what I have already mentioned it is the Fifth Anniversary of the User's Conference. I therefore urge all of you to work towards ensuring that we make this conference a memorable one.
  
9. Director of ceremony my role was to welcome and officially open this conference. I wish to thank the organisers of this event in advance and recognise the good work that they put in to ensure that our system remains operational. I am therefore greatly honoured to declare this conference officially open and wish you productive deliberations and fruitful stay in Mahalapye.

**PULA PULA**