**WELCOME REMARKS**

**BY THE**

**HON. CHIEF JUSTICE MR. MARUPING DIBOTELO**

**ON THE**

**OCCASSION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING**

**OF THE EXTENSION**

**TO THE**

**BROADHURST MAGISTRATES COURT**

**ON**

**MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018**

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE MR. MARUPING DIBOTELO ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE EXTENSION OF THE BROADHURST MAGISTRATES COURT ON MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018**

Your Excellency The President of the Republic of Botswana Lt General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama

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. My task this morning is to welcome you all to this ceremony. We are most honoured and humbled to have your Excellency officiating at this ceremony following our request. We are grateful that you found time from your busy and hectic schedule to officially open this building.
2. *Distinguished Guests,* it was on Friday 29 January 2016 that I officiated at the ground breaking ceremony for the extension of this Court facility. Prior to that on Monday 26 January 2016, I had officiated at the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of Kanye Magistrates Court and four (4) staff houses. I am pleased to report that the Kanye project which cost **P65 870 383.00** is now complete and will soon be officially opened.
3. *Director of Ceremonies,* the expansion and refurbishment of this facility into a modern and grand double storey courthouse has strikingly transformed the outlook of Broadhurst. This facility has been extended from a four Courtroom facility to ten spacious modern court rooms, ten Magistrates Chambers, Court Reporters’ offices, Common room for Bench clerks, Bench Clerks’ offices, three Registries, Conference Room, Juvenile Court, three holding cells, Attorneys Room, Library, Four witnesses’ rooms, sufficient ablution facilities, gymnasium, convenient basement parking for Magistrates and staff all at a total cost of **P75 628 89.00.**

The extension of this Court has greatly alleviated the problem of shortage of office space and courtrooms as prior to this staff endured sharing small offices and Registries with little room for serving external customers let alone space for storage of files and case records

1. We commend Government for the weighty investment in public infrastructure and facilities for the betterment and wellbeing of its people. To us in the Judiciary this is an affirmation of one of our strategic objectives of enhancing physical access to justice. This auspicious occasion attests to our growth as an organisation and reinforces our responsiveness to the needs of our customers, stakeholders and employees.
2. The Judiciary has been fortunate that Your Excellency has always demonstrated keen interest and sensitivity in addressing its financial requirements.
3. *Your Excellency,* we remain hopeful that our modest request that a specified percentage of the national budget be allocated to the Judiciary for its resourcing will be accepted by Government as the independence and functions of the Judiciary are affected when it is not well funded.
4. *Ladies and Gentlemen,* it will be remiss of me to conclude my remarks without paying tribute to Your Excellency within your hearing as you will soon vacate office come 1st of April 2018. I will not repeat what I said at the Legal Year Opening Ceremony, suffice to say that Your Excellency has been an inspirational, compassionate and selfless leader to our Nation.

7.1 Your adherence to set schedules, punctuality and time keeping is a key principle of Judicial Case Management which eludes many a Judicial Officer and Attorney.

7.2 I urge you in your retirement to continue with your philanthropic work including attending to the challenges besetting our Continent and the World.

1. Finally, I thank you all for your kind attention and once more again welcome you all to this event. It is now my distinguished honour to invite Your Excellency to address us on this occasion. Your Excellency.