

Your Lordship the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Julian Nganunu,

Your honour, the Attorney General Dr. Athalia Molokomme,

Your Lordships Judges of the High Court,

Your Excellency, Ambassador of the United States of America, Catherine Canavan

The Registrar and Master of the High Court Mr. Godfrey Nthomiwa,

Respective participants and the invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning

1. First, let me say how delighted I am to be with you today at the opening of this important workshop. I'd like to thank the organizers for their efforts to provide you with a stimulating and forward looking training programme, which I'm quite sure you will find greatly enriching. It is my role this morning to provide just a few words of background on this initiative, in addition to welcoming you on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme.
2. As has been mentioned earlier, the Government of Botswana in partnership with the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) is in the first year of the implementation of the National Governance Programme. At the center of this programme, public sector reform for effective public service delivery is placed high on the agenda. Through this programme partners aim at strengthening and deepening initiatives, programmes and strategies for improved service delivery.

3. Noteworthy to be mentioned is that the programme is premised on the need for creative and innovative service delivery methods, and to this end, the programme's emphasis in improving human capabilities, processes as well as structural and systems issues.
4. Distinguished guests and participants, I would like to emphasize and justify my repeated reference to effective service delivery. Effective service delivery is critical to the achievement of both the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and aspirations of Botswana as articulated in the Vision 2016 Document of 1996.
5. In this connection, and within the context of the national governance programme, the Attorney General's Chambers and the Administration of Justice are collaborating on an initiative to increasing the efficiency of existing processes and

structures as they relate to case management and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. This project therefore aims at reforming the Legal System by introducing Case Management and Court Annexed Mediation, which are complimentary methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

6. The background for the reform is that currently, the control and direction of civil cases under the present Civil Rules is entirely in the hands of the litigating parties (or their lawyers) up to the stage when all pleadings are completed. Consequently, the court system is clogged by large volumes of civil cases which do not flow to the finish line as quickly as modern principles of justice delivery demand.
7. The '**Case Management**', as a case-flow control and monitoring system, is designed to empower a judicial officer to take charge and control the pace of civil cases. In this process, a judge may decide to channel some of the cases to a court connected Mediation System, thereby promoting the speedy resolution of cases without the need to proceed for trial.
8. Distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to note that the Administration of Justice, through this project has identified and acquired

the services of an experienced judge from California, U.S.A, Judge Clifford Wallace, to conduct this very important training workshop. Judge Wallace is assisted in this workshop by Judge David Campbell whose important contribution is being supported by the American Embassy here in Botswana. I understand that Judge Wallace is familiar with the Botswana justice system following his visit to Botswana in January 2007. I further understand that during that visit, he explored the possibilities and modalities of introducing Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in the judicial system of Botswana.

9. In this regard we are also pleased with the findings Judge Wallace made; particularly, that Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms were appreciated by all the main role players in the legal system of Botswana, and the acknowledgement made especially by the judges, government attorneys and private practitioners that Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms and related litigation systems can alleviate problems of trial delays and the backlog of cases.
10. With regard to judicial case management we understand and appreciate the position taken by the judges of the High Court of Botswana, again on the advice of judge Wallace, that the control by a

judicial officer of the pace of litigation is an essential facilitator of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, particularly when the intervention by a judge is made as soon as possible after a case is registered.

11. In concluding my remarks, I wish to emphasize that the United Nations Development Programme is highly honored to be associated with innovative partners such as the Administration of Justice and the Attorney General's Chamber. I wish to use this opportunity to once again pledge UNDP's full support for initiatives of this nature and wish you success in this training workshop. Let me also mention that it is the positive impact of this training workshop that will be of major interest to us. It will give us much pleasure and satisfaction to hear of improvement in the speedy flow of cases and to hear of zero backlog as a direct result from this initiative.
12. Let me end by wishing you every success in this workshop, and in your future endeavors related to this programme.
13. Thank you