

The Honorable, The Chief Justice

The Honourable Minister of Justice

Judges of Appeal

Judges of the High Court

Ombudsman

Prosecutor General

Deputy Chief of US Embassy in Namibia

Judge Campbell and Mrs Campbell

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Invited guests

[1] I welcome you all to this official launch of the workshop on Case management and the proposed rules of the High Court.

Hon. Chief Justice,

[2] I thank you for agreeing to officially launch the workshop but also agreeing to host the opening ceremony at the Supreme Court.

[3] Allow me, in the first place, to extend a special word of thanks to the American Embassy for sponsoring the participation at the workshop of Judge David Campbell, an old friend of the High Court. Judge Campbell has not only previously mentored the High court judges on case management on a previous visit to Namibia, but graciously hosted a Namibian delegation in Arizona to learn from their experiences in case management and other aspects of administration of justice.

[4] I also wish to thank advocate Rudi Cohrsen for agreeing to come and share with us his experience at the Australian Bar. Advocate Cohrsen has been truly unselfish in offering assistance to me personally and the High Court in reviewing the draft rules and offering valuable

critique. He had to rearrange his engagements in Australia in order to be with us at the workshop. I suppose, once a Namibian, always a Namibian.

[5] I do not intend to be long today. I stand before you to thank you all for coming and to participate in the program planned over the next few days. We want to use the workshop to undertake a frank assessment of our experience with case management since its introduction in May 2011. I know that not all has been rosy in the process.

[5] We want to know what the problems are so that we can fashion solutions accordingly. We want to also identify the positive elements and to build on them.

[6] The other objective is to share with the profession key elements and features of the proposed new rules of court. They will require an important culture change on the part of all of us. We need to know what is coming.

[7] Today's program is ceremonial in large part, but will devote some time for us to hear from the profession about their experiences. I wish to thank the profession for agreeing to share those experiences with us. I gave them a pretty open brief: I did not insist on hearing the positive things only, but to let us also know where we are not getting it right so that we can improve.

We will also receive a brief presentation from the Registrar about the electronic litigation initiative that has been initiated by the Supreme Court and the High Court in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice.