

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY HIS LORDSHIP, JUSTICE PETER S. SHIVUTE, CHIEF JUSTICE OF NAMIBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF A MASTER LECTURE DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. RUBÉN REMIGIO FERRO, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

**SUPREME COURT, WINDHOEK, 11 SEPTEMBER 2024**

*Salutations*

1. It is a great honour and privilege to welcome you all to this much-anticipated event, where we have the unique opportunity to learn from one of the most distinguished judicial figures in the international legal landscape, His Excellency Dr. Rubén Remigio Ferro, President of the Supreme People's Court of the Republic of Cuba.
2. His Excellency's career is a testament to a lifelong commitment to the rule of law, justice, and the betterment of judicial institutions. Born in Los Palacios, Pinar del Río Province, Cuba, His Excellency's path to prominence began at the University of Havana, where he graduated in 1980 as the top student of his

law cohort. His early dedication to the legal profession quickly earned him recognition, and by the same year, he was appointed President of the People's Municipal Court of Bahía Honda in Pinar del Río.

3. From those early days, His Excellency demonstrated a firm commitment to judicial leadership, serving as President of various courts across Cuba, including his promotion to President of the Provincial People's Court of Pinar del Río Province by 1996. In 1997, his expertise and leadership earned him the position of Vice President of the Supreme People's Court of Cuba, and only a year later, in 1998, he ascended to the position of President of that esteemed institution – a position he has now held with distinction for over 25 years.
4. His Excellency's contributions extend far beyond the Cuban judicial system. He is recognised as one of the most influential judicial leaders in Ibero-America, having shared his insights on a wide range of legal topics at international conferences and prestigious institutions across Europe, the Americas, and beyond. His academic contributions, including over 50

publications in leading legal journals, reflect his deep knowledge and commitment to advancing legal scholarship.

5. In addition to his remarkable career as a jurist, His Excellency continues to serve as an associate professor at the University of Havana, and in 2015, he earned a Master's degree in Constitutional and Administrative Law, further enriching his already vast knowledge in these fields.
6. It is this wealth of experience, spanning over four decades, that makes His Excellency's presence here today all the more significant. We are indeed fortunate to have him with us, and I have no doubt that his insights will leave a lasting impact on all of us.
7. Your Excellency, we are deeply honoured by your presence, and we look forward to your lecture with great anticipation.
8. I would now like you to rise and join me in inviting the President of the People's Supreme Court of the Republic of Cuba to come and deliver his address.

I thank you.