

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE P.S. SHIVUTE
AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF THE HON. LADY JUSTICE
RITA TAMBUDZAI MAKARAU AS ACTING JUDGE OF THE
SUPREME COURT,
SUPREME COURT OF NAMIBIA
WINDHOEK, 28 JUNE 2023**

(Salutations)

I am most pleased to welcome you all to the Supreme Court and I thank you for braving this cold weather to bear witness to this marked occasion.

As I stated at another occasion, it is imperative for the Namibian Judiciary for our courts to reflect the demographic diversity of our Nation. In realising this goal, concrete steps have been taken to increase female representation on the Supreme Court Bench.

It was just three weeks ago that we proudly welcomed Lady Justice Hannelie Prinsloo and Lady Justice Esi Schimming-Chase to serve as Acting Judges of the Supreme Court. Today, we add to this number, with the swearing-in of Lady Justice Rita Makarau.

Lady Justice Makarau hails from our neighbouring jurisdiction of Zimbabwe, where she serves as a Judge of the Constitutional Court. This is certainly not the first time that our Judiciary has sourced expertise from the region to help it execute its mandate. Our past experience has shown that the service of judicial officers from our neighbouring countries and beyond has greatly enriched our jurisprudence and enhanced the work of our courts. I have no doubt that the results of Lady Justice Makarau's service on the Bench will be any different. Her extensive judicial experience will certainly be of great benefit to our Supreme Court.

Lady Justice Makarau, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment. I extend my profound appreciation on behalf of the Judiciary of Namibia for your generosity in agreeing to serve the Court and the people of Namibia. I can assure you that you will find nothing but professionalism, enhanced work ethics and a great sense of collegiality at the Court.

With those few remarks, it is now my distinct honour to call upon Lady Justice Makarau to step forward to make an Oath or Affirmation of Office.

I thank you.