

**ADDRESS BY HON. PETER S. SHIVUTE, CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA:
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS ON ANTI-
MONEY LAUNDERING AND RELATED MATTERS,
WINDHOEK,
19 AUGUST 2024**

Salutations

1. It is both a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to this crucial training initiative focused on anti-money laundering (AML) and asset freezing related matters. The significance of this event cannot be overstated, particularly as we navigate the increasingly complex and globalised world of financial crimes.
2. As judicial officers, we are on the front lines of the fight against money laundering and other financial crimes. The current climate, both locally in Namibia and internationally, presents us with significant challenges. AML crimes are evolving rapidly, becoming more sophisticated and harder to detect. This

requires us to be constantly vigilant and equipped with the latest knowledge and tools to ensure that we can effectively uphold justice in such cases.

3. Capacity building is essential in this context. It is not just about acquiring new skills; it is about staying ahead in a constantly changing landscape. The knowledge and expertise you will gain during this training will empower you to handle AML cases with the precision and understanding that they demand. Your participation is a vital step in ensuring that our judiciary remains strong and capable in the face of these challenges.
4. For those of you taking part in this training, I urge you to absorb as much as you can. The takeaway from this initiative is not only a deeper understanding of AML laws and asset freezing procedures but also the confidence to apply this knowledge in your daily work. I have every confidence that you will leave this training better equipped to tackle complex financial cases, ensuring that justice is served swiftly and fairly. Moreover, you will be contributing to the greater goal of protecting Namibia's

financial integrity and maintaining public trust in our judicial system.

5. We are all too aware that AML crimes have far-reaching consequences, both locally and internationally. In Namibia, as in many parts of the world, we have seen a worrying rise in money laundering activities. These crimes not only undermine our financial systems but also facilitate other forms of criminal behavior, such as terrorism financing, drug trafficking, and corruption. The increasing sophistication and prevalence of these crimes demand a robust and informed judicial response.

6. Internationally, AML crimes have evolved, exploiting technological advancements and globalization to operate across borders. The international dimension of these activities necessitates a coordinated and well-informed approach from the judiciary, ensuring that our legal systems can effectively combat these threats, no matter where they originate.

7. As members of the judiciary, we are tasked with not only adjudicating AML cases but also setting precedents and building a robust legal framework that deters future crimes. By enhancing our capacity through initiatives like this training, we ensure that Namibia remains resilient against illicit activities, protecting the integrity of our financial systems and maintaining public trust in our legal institutions.

8. We are incredibly fortunate to have His Lordship Justice Michael Hopmeier leading this training. Justice Hopmeier is a distinguished figure in the field of economic crime, serving as a judge at Southwark Crown Court in Londonm specialising in serious economic crime and asset recovery cases. His extensive background includes serving as an Honorary Visiting Professor of Law at City University of London and as an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. He is also a Bencher of Middle Temple and holds degrees from Oxford and London Universities.

9. He has extensive experience in cases involving money laundering, asset recovery, and financial fraud, and has contributed significantly to the development of AML legal frameworks. His insights and expertise will be invaluable to us all as we navigate the complexities of AML cases.
10. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Judge Orban Sibeya, a judge of the High Court of Namibia, who has worked closely with Justice Hopmeier in preparing for this training, whose efforts have been instrumental in bringing this training to fruition.
11. As the head of the judiciary, I want to reaffirm my unfettered support for initiatives of this nature. Our ability to combat financial crimes effectively depends on continuous learning and adaptation. This training is a testament to our commitment to maintaining a strong, capable judiciary that can rise to any challenge.
12. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Financial

Intelligence Centre (FIC) for their assistance in organising this event. Their efforts in attending to the logistical arrangements and ensuring that this training is a success are greatly appreciated.

13. In conclusion, I am confident that the days ahead will be filled with valuable learning and productive discussions. I encourage each of you to engage fully with the material, ask questions, and share your experiences. Together, we can strengthen our judiciary and ensure that Namibia remains steadfast in the fight against money laundering and financial crime.

I thank you, and I wish you all a successful training session.