

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF NAMIBIA, HIS
LORDSHIP PETER S. SHIVUTE, ON THE OCCASION OF A
COURTESY VISIT BY THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF
UGANDA, HIS LORDSHIP ALFONSE CHIGAMOY OWINY-DOLLO,
SUPREME COURT, WINDHOEK, 10 JANUARY 2025**

Salutations

1. It is a distinct honour and privilege for me to welcome His Lordship, the Chief Justice of Uganda and his esteemed delegation to the Supreme Court of Namibia.
2. I was delighted to have received news of Your Lordship's visit to Namibia, organised in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to explore our country's advanced biomass and charcoal industry. Namibia's efforts in this area serve as a vital contribution to environmental sustainability and economic development, and I trust your tour has been both enlightening and productive.

3. I am particularly grateful that you have graciously made time to pay this courtesy visit to our Supreme Court amidst your busy schedule.
4. The Judiciaries of Namibia and Uganda already enjoy warm relations rooted in our shared commitment to upholding justice and the rule of law. However, there is always room to strengthen these ties further for the mutual benefit of our respective jurisdictions.
5. As Your Lordship is aware, Namibia actively participates in the Africa Chief Justices' Alternative Dispute Resolution Forum (ACJAF), which Your Lordship played a crucial role in establishing. I wish to express my gratitude for your vision, leadership and commitment in founding this organization, which aims to promote judicial reforms, reduce case backlogs, and enhance the efficient administration of justice across the African continent.
6. One area of particular interest to me is Uganda's experience with plea bargaining in criminal matters. The introduction of plea bargaining in Namibia is an idea whose time is long overdue. Far from being perceived as letting an accused person off the hook, plea bargaining

greatly assists courts to expeditiously dispose of criminal cases. I am advised that Uganda has made greater strides in this approach. Namibia is keen to learn from Uganda's successes in this regard, and I believe Uganda's experiences could offer valuable insights for our Judiciary.

7. To this end, I wish to propose an official visit by Your Lordship to Namibia at a time that is mutually convenient. Such a visit would provide an opportunity to explore these areas of mutual interest in greater depth, and I sincerely hope that this invitation will be met favourably.
8. Although I understand that your visit to Namibia is brief and your schedule tightly packed, I trust you have had the opportunity to experience some of the unique charm and hospitality that our country has to offer. Namibia is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and the warmth of its people, and I hope it has left a lasting impression on you.

9. In conclusion, Your Lordship, I wish you and your delegation a successful conclusion to your visit and a safe journey back to Uganda. May the bonds between our Judiciaries continue to grow, fostering greater collaboration and mutual enrichment in the years to come.

Thank you.