

PRESS STATEMENT: SWEARING IN OF JUDGES

- 1. We would like to thank His Majesty, The King and Ingwenyama of Eswatini for the appointment of four Judges, one at the High Court and three at the Industrial Court. The appointed Judges are: Justice Mazwi Mavuso – High Court, Lorraine Lungile Hlophe – Industrial Court, Dumsile Faith Dlamini - Industrial Court and Manene Musa Thwala – Industrial Court. Two Judges will be sworn today and the other two Judges will be sworn very shortly.**
- 2. The appointment of the Judges will contribute positively in the reduction of the backlog of cases at the High Court and Industrial Court.**
- 3. The Industrial Court, High Court and Magistrate Courts receive high volumes of cases on a daily basis. It is against this background that we are still requesting the Government to give us additional posts for Judges and Magistrates in order to meet the demand.**
- 4. His Majesty enacted the Small Claims Court Act, and the Judiciary has since launched the Small Claims Court in June, 2021. These Courts have started operations in Nhlangano, Manzini, Siteki, Pigg's Peak and Mbabane. They have a civil**

jurisdiction of E20, 000.00. Members of the public are urged to institute their claims. Each Court is manned by the Commissioner who presides over the Court, a Legal Assistant who helps litigants in drafting the legal documents, the Legal Clerk who keeps the records as well as Legal Secretaries and Court Messengers.

5. The launching of the Small Claims Court with a E20, 000.00 civil jurisdiction has necessitated a review of the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the Magistrates Courts to E100, 000.00. Ordinary Magistrates could have a jurisdiction of E40, 000.00, Senior Magistrates to E60, 000.00 and Principal Magistrates to E100, 000.00. Talks have been commenced with the office of the Attorney General with a view to increase the jurisdiction of the Magistrate courts. This review once accomplished will reduce the backlog of cases at the High Court.
6. We are now in the process of establishing the Commercial Court. We have secured the premises and finalized the partitioning of the Court. What remains is the installation of recording equipment as well as the required furniture. We have requested the Government to give us three posts for Judges who will preside over the Court together with the support staff.

7. As a Judiciary we are committed to advancing and promoting the administration of justice. Again, we wish to thank His Majesty for these appointments.

BAYETHE, WENA WAPHAKATHI !!!!!!!!!!!!!

