

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, PHOLILE SHAKANTU DURING THE
LAUNCH OF SMALL CLAIMS COURTS IN THE KINGDOM OF
ESWATINI**

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

MY LORD CHIEF JUSTICE

MY LORD JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT

UN FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT

REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

COMMISSIONERS OF THE SMALL CLAIMS COURTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE MEDIA

GOOD AFTERNOON

today's event is a historic one for both the judiciary and the ministry of Justice and constitutional Affairs, The launching of the small claims courts marks a very significant step in

harnessing access to justice for the citizens of Eswatini. We are very excited as a ministry to be witnesses of such a gigantic step by our judiciary.

Courts are an integral part of service delivery in any set up, as such they are a medium through which many aspects of our society can be positively impacted.

The rollout of the Small claims courts in the country has come at a very opportune time, when the country and the world over is faced with huge economic meltdown. These courts will assist in uplifting our economy in a very big way.

Small entrepreneurs' will feel the impact of these courts in their businesses. The jurisdiction of these courts is Twenty Thousand Emalangi (E 20'000).this will alleviate the need to engage counsel and approach either the high court or magistrate's courts at a cost higher than the debt being pursued. Thus these courts will improve the lives and businesses of Emaswati.

This mechanism will also assist in speeding up the completion of cases involving monetary claims.

My Lord CJ, My Lord Justice Dlamini and colleagues we as a ministry are indeed alive to the wide ranging challenges faced by the judiciary in executing its mandate. These challenges cuts across government but that is not to say we will embrace them

and do nothing about alleviating the situation the judiciary finds itself contending with, the ministry will continue to collaborate with other responsible state agents to ensure that the judiciary, a very important state organ, is adequately provided for in terms of infrastructure and many other aspects. Hence these four court's being rolled out today will indeed be increased as soon as funds are availed to the judiciary.

The rollout of these courts is viewed by us in the ministry as a major achievement, as it meets a key thematic goal under the ease of doing business, as stipulated in our Strategic Action Plan of 2019-2023. Further, the establishment of these courts will improve the country's rankings in the World Bank platform under enforcements of contracts, hence attracting foreign investors.

On another note I would like to take this time and thank all the stakeholders who took their time to ensure the success of today's event.

May I also take this time to appreciate the support from our UN Family who has made it possible to have this training and launch.

My gratitude also goes to our facilitator for this training the hon. Judges of the Supreme Court Mr Dlamini as well as Parliamentary Counsels from the Attorney General's Chambers.

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Finally, may I congratulate the Small Claims Court Personnel for making history on being the First in the country to carry this commission. I urge you to make profitable use of the spent under the great wisdom of the facilitators as they are sharpening your legal skills for a tough journey ahead.

Having said this may I will you all fruitful deliberations.

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Finally, may I congratulate the Small Claims Court Personnel for making history on being the First in the country to work for these courts.

Having said this may I will you all fruitful deliberations.