



SOUTHERN AFRICAN CHIEF JUSTICES FORUM

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
AUGUST 2015 TO AUGUST 2016

24th September 2016

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

I welcome you all to this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Windhoek; a special welcome is extended to the Chief Justice of Seychelles, Honourable Justice Dr. Mathilda Twomey who is making her maiden attendance.

This year's Meeting like many others in the past was preceded by an Annual Conference, attended by judges and non-judicial officers, drawn from the Southern and Eastern regions of Africa. The jurisdictions represented in this year's Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting are: Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Uganda, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

At the last Annual General Meeting in Zimbabwe, we did not agree on who should host the 2016 Annual Conference and the AGM. The decision to host this year's Annual Conference and AGM, was communicated to the Forum Secretariat in May, 2016. The delay to have the venue settled on affected implementation of preparatory work, and full engagement with the Forum members. The proposed dates, and the theme, "**Contemporary Issues in the Prevention of Transnational Organised Crime with special reference to cybercrime, terrorism, money laundering, human trafficking and proliferation – The**

Judiciary's Response was circulated to all members for approval. Concerns regarding the dates were raised, suggesting possible postponement given the fact that the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges' Association (CMJA) was scheduled to take place around the same time. However, given the financial commitments and plans put in place by the host, it became practically impossible to postpone this year's conference. It is gratifying that the response to attend has been very impressive.

2.0 INTERGRATION AND COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

In the period under review the Forum continued to foster active participation with strategic partners. The International Commission for Jurists (ICJ), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit (DGRU) have provided financial and technical support to the Forum to host this year's conference. The Forum itself has also provided financial support to its members.

There is growing interest from international bodies to work with the Forum. This is because of the Forum's strategic positioning, being the only organised formation of Chief Justices that is operational in Eastern and Southern Africa. Evidently, we have in this year's conference the