



SUBORDINATE COURTS MEDIA RELEASE
SUBORDINATE COURTS 20th WORKPLAN 2011/2012:
ENGAGING COMMUNITIES, SERVING SOCIETY

1 This morning, The Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong delivered the Keynote Address at the Subordinate Courts Workplan 2011/2012 Seminar. The event, held at the Subordinate Courts Auditorium, was attended by the Subordinate Courts' Bench, Court Administrators and invited guests.

2 The theme for this year's Workplan is "Engaging Communities, Serving Society". In his Keynote Address, the Chief Justice shared that a new-age, non-adversarial justice movement is gaining momentum in many jurisdictions. While the Courts continue to dispense justice, their ability to engage and collaborate with stakeholders, and to devise innovative ways to reach just outcomes, is crucial to ensure the continued flourishing of the justice eco-system.

3 Accordingly, in his Keynote Address, The Honourable the Chief Justice outlined the following initiatives for implementation by the Subordinate Courts:

- (a) Formalising the Criminal Case Resolution programme which was successfully piloted in 2009;
- (b) Establishing specialised Community Sentencing Courts pursuant to the new Criminal Procedure Code 2010 which

empowers the Courts to impose Community-Based Sentences (CBS) in appropriate cases;

- (c) Establishing the Drug Courts for more effective and expeditious disposition of drug cases;
- (d) Developing a Criminal Case Filing and Management System which will enable the electronic sharing of common data instantly and provide a single source of information to all enforcement agencies;
- (e) Implementing mandatory post-filing counselling and mediation for divorcing couples with children to help the couples work together to make better choices for the long term benefit of their children;
- (f) Hearing new cases under the International Child Abduction Act that will take effect from 1 March 2011;
- (g) Handling application for financial reliefs for foreign divorces pursuant to a new chapter in the Women's Charter;
- (h) Implementing a pilot programme on Witness Conferencing for a more streamlined management of civil cases;
- (i) Expanding the use of single joint experts for low value personal injury claims; and
- (j) Increasing the jurisdiction of the FIDReC-NIMA Scheme from S\$1,000 to S\$3,000.

4 The Subordinate Courts would also continue to strengthen their capabilities through structured training of Judicial Officers and staff and knowledge management initiatives.

5 With the above, the Subordinate Courts are committed to engaging communities to achieve our mission to provide an effective and accessible system of justice, inspiring public trust and confidence.

ISSUED BY : SUBORDINATE COURTS

DATE : 18 FEBRUARY 2011