



SUBORDINATE COURTS MEDIA RELEASE
SUBORDINATE COURTS 22ND WORKPLAN 2013

1 This morning, The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon (“CJ”) delivered the Keynote Address at the Subordinate Courts Workplan 2013 Seminar. The event, themed “Enhancing Justice: Building Our Future Together”, was held at the Subordinate Courts Auditorium. It was attended by the Senior Minister of State for Law and Education, the Attorney-General, the Subordinate Courts’ Bench, Court Administrators and invited guests.

2 In CJ’s Keynote Address, His Honour shared that “enhancing justice” goes beyond enhancing the quality and ease of access to justice that is dispensed in the Courts. Access to justice can also be enhanced by improving both access to the Courts and access to the mechanisms for reaching acceptable consensual outcomes outside the Courts.

3 CJ highlighted two key challenges in the endeavour to enhancing justice – informational inadequacy and litigation costs, and outlined the following initiatives for implementation by the Subordinate Courts, to address these challenges:

- (a) Embarking on the Primary Justice Project to build up a corps of primary justice lawyers who will provide a basic tier of paid legal services geared towards early resolution of cases;
- (b) Improving the resolution of family disputes;
- (c) Publishing the Guidelines for the Assessment of Liability in Motor Accident Cases, a quick reference guide book that will provide a range of likely liability findings for a comprehensive series of motor vehicle accident scenarios;

- (d) Publishing educational toolkits for litigants-in-person in civil cases to enhance their understanding of the processes and procedures;
- (e) Broadening the support services available to criminal case witnesses to help them to familiarise with the court environment and prepare for the court proceedings;
- (f) Setting up an integrated call centre to provide better informational support for members of the public and court users;
- (g) Improving the processes related to regulatory offences;
- (h) Simplifying the process for lower value civil cases to save time and cost; and
- (i) Conducting hearings via smart phones to save time for parties and counsel.

4 While continuing to provide an effective and accessible system of justice, inspiring public trust and confidence, the Subordinate Courts are committed to collaborating with their stakeholders, the community and the public to enhance justice and build a better future for all.

ISSUED BY : SUBORDINATE COURTS

DATE : 1 MARCH 2013

For further information or clarification, please contact:

Ms Lim Lay Kim, Senior Assistant Director, Communications, at 6435 5045 (tel), 9722 6139 (duty mobile) or lim_lay_kim@subct.gov.sg

Ms Michelle Chiang, Senior Executive, Corporate Communications, at 6435 5179 (tel), 9722 6139 (duty mobile) or michelle_chiang@subct.gov.sg