

SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE 1 OF 2017

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| DATE | 7 FEBRUARY 2017 |
| CIRCULATION | ALL LAWYERS ALL PARTIES TO PENDING CUSTOMARY LAND APPEALS IN THE SUPREME COURT GENERAL PUBLIC |
| PRIOR KNOWLEDGE | PENDING CUSTOMARY LAND APPEAL CASES |
| SUBJECT | CONFERENCES IN CUSTOMARY LAND APPEALS |
| COPIES | CHIEF JUSTICE, ALL JUDGES, CHIEF MAGISTRATE ALL MAGISTRATES, COURT STAFF |

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE No. 1 OF 2017 IS AUTHORIZED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE FOR THE PURPOSES OF CIRCULATING INFORMATION.

BACKGROUND:

1. THERE ARE UP TO 50 PENDING CUSTOMARY LAND APPEAL CASES IN THE SUPREME COURT
2. MANY OF THESE APPEALS ARE OLD AND HAS BEEN PENDING FOR AT LEAST 7 YEARS
3. THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

INFORMATION:

1. THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE HAS DESIGNATED A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT TO HOLD CONFERENCES IN ALL THE PENDING CUSTOMARY LAND APPEAL CASES TO ASCERTAIN THE POSITION OF THE PARTIES WHETHER:
 - a. TO CONTINUE TO PROSECUTE THEIR APPEALS IN THE SUPREME COURT; OR
 - b. TO WITHDRAW THEIR APPEAL AND PURSUE THEIR INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CUSTOMARY LAND MANAGEMENT ACT.

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2. ALL LAWYERS ACTING IN CURRENTLY PENDING LAND APPEAL CASES ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS OF THEIR CLIENTS ON THE TWO OPTIONS IN POINT 1. a and b ABOVE;
3. ALL PARTIES IN CURRENTLY PENDING CUSTOMARY LAND APPEAL CASES TO BE CLEAR ON THEIR INTENTIONS IN RESPECT TO THE TWO OPTIONS IN POINT 1. a and b ABOVE
4. FORMAL NOTICES FOR CONFERENCE IN EACH OF THE CUSTOMARY LAND APPEAL CASES WILL NOW BE ISSUED


JOHN OBED ALILEE
REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT

