MEDIA RELEASE
No. 08:2010
15 June 2010

HISTORIC FIRSTS AS CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE WELCOMES NEW JUDGE

Port of Spain, Trinidad, CCJ - Professor Charles Winston Anderson, the first Jamaican national to be appointed Judge of the CCJ, took the oath of office today in the first ceremony of its kind to take place in Kingston, Jamaica.

The historic swearing-in ceremony occurred at King’s House, the official residence of the Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency The Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen. In attendance were the President of the CCJ; the Secretary-General of CARICOM; and the Prime Minister of Jamaica, who all gave remarks at the event.

In his contribution, The Rt. Hon. Mr. Justice Michael de la Bastide, President of the CCJ, graciously acknowledged those who welcomed and facilitated the request of the new Judge to be sworn-in in the country of his birth, allowing his family members to witness the momentous occasion.

The President’s contribution also recognized the fairness of the selection process, which has produced these most significant results;

“It is indeed a very auspicious occasion as Professor Anderson is the first Jamaican to be appointed a Judge of the CCJ... I would like to emphasize that this selection, apart from being based on merit and not on geographical allocation of seats, is conducted by a truly independent Commission...”

Today’s ceremony was well attended; also indicative of its significance, not only to the judicial fraternity, but also wider national community. Among those present were; Attorney General, Sen. The Hon. Mrs. Dorothy Lightbourne; Leader of Opposition, Mrs. Portia Simpson-Miller; Chief Justice of Jamaica, The Hon. Mme. Justice Zaila McCalla; Judges of the Supreme Court; The President of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica, The Hon. Mr. Justice Seymour Panton; Members of the Jamaican Privy Council.

Professor Anderson’s appointment comes in light of the retirement of The Hon. Mr. Justice Duke E.E. Pollard, who served as CCJ Judge from February 2005.

The CCJ, which recently celebrated its 5-year anniversary, has also just welcomed the decision by the people of Belize to relinquish that country’s ties to the Privy Council in England. As of June 1st 2010 the CCJ now hears all appeals from Belize, Barbados and Guyana in its Appellate Jurisdiction as well as all member states contracting parties in its original jurisdiction.

Public Education and Communications Unit:
Ms. Seanna Annisette or Ms. Zola Pilgrim
Tel: (868) 623 2225 exts. 2226/4260
Fax: (868) 624 5071
Email: pecu@caribbeancourtofjustice.org
Public Education and Communications Unit:
Ms. Seanna Annisette or Ms. Zola Pilgrim
Tel: (868) 623 2225 exts. 2226/4260
Fax: (868) 624 5071
Email: pecu@caribbeancourtofjustice.org