



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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PORT OF SPAIN

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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MEDIA RELEASE

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THE JAMAICAN LOWER HOUSE VOTES YES TO THE CCJ, BILLS NOW MOVE TO THE SENATE

CCJ, Port of Spain. **Earlier this afternoon, the Lower House of the Jamaican Parliament secured the favorable majority vote required to have that country accede to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Appellate Jurisdiction. The three bills laid before the House of Representatives will now proceed to the Senate for the final parliamentary decision.**

The three bills in question are; an Act to Amend the Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) Act, an Act to Amend the Constitution of Jamaica, and an Act to make provisions for the implementation of the agreement establishing the CCJ.

Once in the Senate the Government of Jamaica, which does not enjoy the required two-thirds advantage, will need the support of at least one Opposition Senator. If the Government of Jamaica secures this majority, Jamaica is likely to become the 5th country to accede to the CCJ's Appellate Jurisdiction.

This development comes on the heels of the Court's 10th anniversary celebrations on April 16th 2015 and just two months after the Commonwealth of Dominica formally celebrated its accession to the Court's Appellate Jurisdiction. Barbados, Guyana and Belize also enjoy full access to the Court's judicial services.

Notwithstanding this important vote, Jamaicans do have access to the Court's Original Jurisdiction, which provides redress to contentions that arise from the rights and responsibilities espoused in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

The Court continues to follow very closely these developments in Jamaica, with the highest respect and regard for the constitutional processes that will ultimately afford Jamaican citizens with greater access to the CCJ.

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