



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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CCJ RULES ON A 24-YEAR LAND DISPUTE IN GUYANA

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) delivered today its decision in *Daniel Ramlagan v Narine Singh* [2015] CCJ 7 (AJ). The CCJ dismissed Mr Ramlagan's appeal and brought to an end a twenty-four year dispute regarding the ownership of a two-acre parcel of rice land, located in Essequibo, Guyana.

This appeal arose out of a dispute dating back to 1991 when Mr Ramlagan attempted to remove Mr Singh from the land, which is part of a larger twelve-acre parcel. As a result, Mr Singh sued Daniel Ramlagan for trespass. Mr Singh claimed he had been on the land since 1975 and had been using it to plant rice and rear cattle. Mr Ramlagan claimed that the entire twelve-acre parcel of land was owned by his family as shown by a Transport (a deed) which had been issued after legal proceedings in the Land Court in 1983.

The CCJ accepted Mr Singh's evidence that he had been on the two-acre parcel of land since 1975. He therefore satisfied the twelve year time period required to claim adverse possession under the Title to Land (Prescription and Limitation) Act. The Court also ruled that the legal claim initiated by Mr Ramlagan's family in the Land Court did not stop time running under the Act, given that Mr Singh was not a party to the proceedings before the Land Court. In addition no other proceedings were brought against Mr Singh prior to the expiry of the twelve year period. The Court concluded that in entering the land in 1991, Mr Ramlagan had trespassed on Mr Singh's property. The Court ordered that a Transport be issued to Mr Singh for the two-acre parcel. It further ordered that the Transport for the twelve-acres held by Mr Ramlagan's family be cancelled and that a Transport for the remaining ten acre parcel be issued.

The decision of the Court was delivered by Mme Justice Rajnauth-Lee. Attorneys-at-law, Mr Roopnarine Satram, Mr Chandrapratesh Satram and Mr. Mahendra Satram appeared for Daniel Ramlagan and Mr Khemraj Ramjattan appeared for Narine Singh.

The judgment of the Court and an Executive Summary is available on the CCJ's website at www.caribbeancourtjustice.org

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