



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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CCJ PRESIDENT TRAVELS TO ANTIGUA FOR INITIAL CONSULTATIONS

Last month, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Honourable Gaston Browne along with Leader of the Opposition Baldwin Spencer, agreed, in the presence of the Governor General of Antigua & Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams to engage the people of Antigua & Barbuda in a bipartisan consultation on certain areas of constitutional reform; the accession of Antigua & Barbuda to the appellate jurisdiction of the Caribbean Court of Justice being one of the main issues to be canvassed.

As accession to the Caribbean Court of Justice's appellate jurisdiction will be by referendum both sides of the political divide insisted that a comprehensive public education campaign should be mounted to ensure that the people of Antigua and Barbuda are sufficiently informed before they are asked to make a decision.

The President travelled to Antigua, with a team from the CCJ, for an initial slate of meetings to lend support to the preparations for comprehensive public education efforts later in the year. Sir Dennis Byron stated, "we were very encouraged by the initial meetings and look forward to engaging the people of Antigua and Barbuda in fulsome discussions. Already, our initial efforts have begun to bear fruit and we can see how useful our engagement will be."

Sir Dennis gave further assurance that the Caribbean Court of Justice, "will ensure that the people of Antigua and Barbuda get all the information they need to ensure that they can make a decision that is in their best interest and we will respect whatever decision is made. We thank both the Government and the Opposition for involving us and pledge the full support of myself and my team to the process."

While in Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Dennis also highlighted the work that the CCJ has been doing with courts in the region including projects that have impacted Antigua and Barbuda.

He also revealed that the Court has been supporting regional judiciaries through a US\$20m grant from the Government of Canada under the JURIST project. JURIST is a five year programme that seeks to work with each nation to improve court administration, accelerate the resolution of cases and modernize courts.

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PHOTO CAPTION



(Photo Credit: Antigua & Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

While in Antigua, members of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) visited a number of organizations in order to prepare for larger public consultations in the future. Here Dr. Errol Samuels (second left) of the Antigua & Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry discusses plans with the CCJ's Communications and Information Manager, Charmaine Wright and Ms. Knijah Knowles (right), Legal Officer. President of the CCJ, Sir Dennis Byron (left) led the team and has indicated that the CCJ will ensure public education efforts will also engage Antigua and Barbuda's business community.

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