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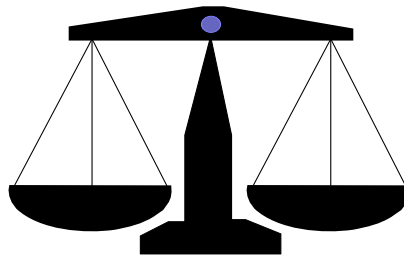
BY

MRS. VICTORIA CHARLES-CLARKE

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

TO MARK

THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECSC



SAINT LUCIA

TUESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2007

Honourable Acting Chief Justice Brian Alleyne, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy, Justices of Appeal , Gordon, Barrow and Rawlins, Retired Justice of Appeal and acting High Court Judge Redhead, Madame Justice Ola Mae Edwards, Madame Justice Sandra Mason, Retired High Court Judge Madame Justice D'Auvergne, Learned Queens Counsel, members of the utter bar, colleagues, friends and well-wishers.

It is a special and distinct honour for me to address this Court on this very auspicious occasion which marks a milestone in the Court's history on the commemoration of its 40th anniversary. This is an opportunity for us to acknowledge the Court's achievements and to bask in its success as one of the hallmarks of Caribbean integration and its contribution in shaping the jurisprudence of this region. There is no doubt that this Court shares equal rank in superiority with other courts at this level throughout the Western hemisphere. Indeed this Court has produced several euidite jurists whose prominence has been recognised all over the world and whose many landmark judgements have revolutionised the law and jurisprudence in the region and beyond.

The Court has also been instrumental in the area of law reform and development of procedures for improving the justice system in the region. The ongoing modernisation process undertaken by the court is already bearing fruit in the area of civil law and procedure.

Equal effort is being given to the area of Criminal law reform and procedure. The establishment of the Criminal Division of the High Court and the proposed implementation of procedures through the Delay Reduction Rules to deal with the backlog and delays in the hearing of criminal cases confirms this.

The commitment of the court to training and development is exemplified in the Court's establishment of the Judicial Education Institute which has facilitated training for judges, Magistrates, Registrars, prosecutors and police investigators and all other players in the justice system. All these initiatives are testimony to the court's developmental ethos which is aimed at both institutional and human development.

There is much for us to be proud of about this institution which seeks to dispense justice with a high level of professionalism and excellence, in a timely and effective manner. It is therefore fitting for me, on behalf of the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions and the Crown Prosecution Service to extend well wishes, congratulations and success to all members of this Supreme court as they seek to carry out the Courts mandate in accordance with its mission statement for a cohesive, independent and accountable system of justice for the benefit of its member states.

I wish to commend those who had the foresight to establish the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. I ask God to bless all those who have served and who currently serve and to give them wisdom in dispensing your duties with a high sense of fairness, integrity and humility.