



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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560% JUDGMENT DELIVERY RATE IN 2024

Kingston, Jamaica – September 23, 2025 – The Court of Appeal of Jamaica has opened its new term with an impressive report of achievements, including a record-breaking 560% judgment delivery rate in 2024. The announcement was made at the Court’s official opening by the Honourable Miss Justice Paulette Williams, CD, Judge of Appeal, representing the President of the Court of Appeal, the Honourable Mrs. Justice Marva McDonald Bishop OJ, CD.

Justice Williams noted that the Court’s performance far exceeded international standards, demonstrating both efficiency and a steadfast commitment to justice delivery. She said, “For every 10 new judgments reserved in 2024, approximately 56 were delivered, surpassing the international benchmark of 100%.”

In her remarks Justice Williams also highlighted three consecutive years of maintaining a case disposal rate higher than the clearance rate of incoming cases, with the 2024 rate standing at 102%. While slightly lower than 2023, the figure still surpasses the 100% benchmark, critical to reducing the courts backlog and ensuring a manageable case congestion rate.

Quoting the Chief Justice of Jamaica, the Honourable Mr. Justice Sykes, OJ, CD, Justice Williams reaffirmed that the Court of Appeal’s clearance rate positions it as one of the most productive courts in the Commonwealth Caribbean. She emphasized that these efficiency gains are being achieved without compromising the quality of judicial decisions.

She further reported:

- **Hearing Date Certainty:** In 2024, the Court also achieved an 86.1% certainty rate, meaning 86 out of 100 hearings proceeded as scheduled. Though below the 95% international standard, this reflects a 1.08% increase over 2023.
- **Reserved Judgments:** The timeliness of reserved judgments continues to be addressed in a significant way.
- **Certification Pursuit:** The Court of Appeal has been selected to pursue ISO 9001:2015 E certification, a designation of excellence that will enhance its services and processes.

The special sitting held on Monday, September 22, 2025, marked both the opening of a new term and a reaffirmation of the Court's commitment to continuous improvement in the delivery of justice.

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For further information, you may contact the Director for Client Services, Communications, & Information Division at the Court Administration Division.