



PRESS RELEASE

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## CHIEF JUSTICE: JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY KEY TO BUILDING INVESTOR CONFIDENCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Kingston, Jamaica: Chief Justice of Jamaica, The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, has underscored the critical role of an efficient and effective judiciary in building investor confidence and supporting national economic growth.**

Addressing the link between judicial performance and economic development at the 21<sup>st</sup> Regional, Investments and Capital Markets Conference at the Jamaica Pegasus, the Chief Justice noted that while traditional measures such as clearance rates and case disposal times remain important, they are not ends in themselves. Rather, judicial efficiency serves a broader purpose: safeguarding property rights, enforcing contracts, ensuring public safety, and creating an environment in which economic activity can flourish.

“The core function of the judiciary remains the fair and impartial resolution of disputes,” the Chief Justice said. “However, the manner in which justice is delivered proportionately, predictably, and within reasonable timeframes has direct implications for investor confidence and economic wellbeing.”

Drawing on international research and comparative studies, the Chief Justice highlighted evidence showing that countries with efficient, independent judiciaries experience higher economic growth, stronger financial systems, and increased investment. Delays in court proceedings, he noted, increase transaction costs, discourage lending, and incentivize unlawful behaviour.

The Chief Justice also emphasized that judicial reform must be comprehensive. While effective enforcement of civil and commercial law is essential, strengthening the criminal justice system particularly in addressing serious crime and corruption is equally important to sustaining investment and public trust.



## COURT ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

In Jamaica, he said, the Judiciary is deliberately shifting towards outcome-focused performance management, with increased emphasis on clearance rates, trial-date certainty, backlog reduction, and user experience. These efforts are guided by the Judiciary's Strategic Plan and supported by ongoing procedural reform, digitisation initiatives, and improvements in case management.

"An efficient judiciary is not a cost to be endured; it is an investment in economic development," Chief Justice Sykes stated. "Reliable and timely justice reassures investors that their rights will be protected and their disputes resolved in a manner that makes economic sense, if investor confidence is to be built and if capital markets are to fuel economic resurgence and resilience, judicial efficiency cannot be treated as a peripheral issue, it must be recognized as a central pillar of the country's growth strategy."

He concluded that judicial efficiency must be recognized as a central pillar of Jamaica's growth strategy, playing a vital role in turning national development goals into tangible outcomes for businesses, communities, and citizens alike.

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