



PRESS RELEASE

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PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL CALLS FOR JUDICIAL HUMILITY AT SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Kingston, Jamaica — President of the Court of Appeal, The Honourable Justice Marva McDonald Bishop, emphasised the importance of judicial humility, lifelong learning, and integrity in the exercise of judicial office, as she addressed the Swearing-in Ceremony for Judges of Appeal, Puisne Judges, and Masters in Chambers at King’s House.

“The perspective of seeing yourself as a learning judge is one that should persist throughout your entire judicial career, right up until the day of your retirement.” Justice McDonald Bishop underscored the importance of humility in maintaining public confidence in the judiciary.

She noted, “Approaching your responsibilities with this mindset will secure a number of important outcomes, foremost among them being the cultivation of judicial humility. “Judicial humility stands in direct opposition to judicial arrogance, a characteristic that we must all be diligent to avoid in our professional conduct.”

Judicial humility she said, is demonstrated “when judges recognize the limits of their power and knowledge, staying open to different perspectives and willing to reconsider their position.”

Greater Infrastructure Needed for Courts

Meanwhile, the Chief Justice the Honourable Mr. Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD used his address to lament the poor infrastructure that persists across the courts and the need for greater control of the capital budget for the Judiciary.

On court performance, the Chief Justice highlighted, “Notwithstanding, all those troubles, the parish courts continue to deliver outstanding service, with its net backlog still under 3%.”

He also shared that the Traffic Court in Kingston will be backlog free for the first time in recent memory, even while the courts continue to operate in these less than ideal conditions.



In concluding, the Chief Justice announced a major institutional milestone. “In roughly 12 weeks' time, the Court of Appeal of Jamaica, the High Court Division of the Gun Court in Kingston, the St. Thomas Parish Court, and the Court Administration Division should be ISO certified. It is saying that we are committed to establishing and maintaining a minimum standard of service to our citizens.”

The ceremony marked a significant moment in the continued strengthening of Jamaica’s judiciary, reaffirming its commitment to humility, resilience, reform, and service to the public.

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