



COURT
ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION



THE COURT NEWSLETTER

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JUDICIARY UNVEILS HISTORIC STRATEGIC PLAN



The Judiciary of Jamaica officially unveiled its first ever Strategic Plan for the courts at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew on January 31.

The plan, ‘Benchmarking the Future: Courting Success’, covers 2019 to 2023 and is the roadmap towards achieving the vision of being the best in the Caribbean in three years and one of the best in the world in six years.

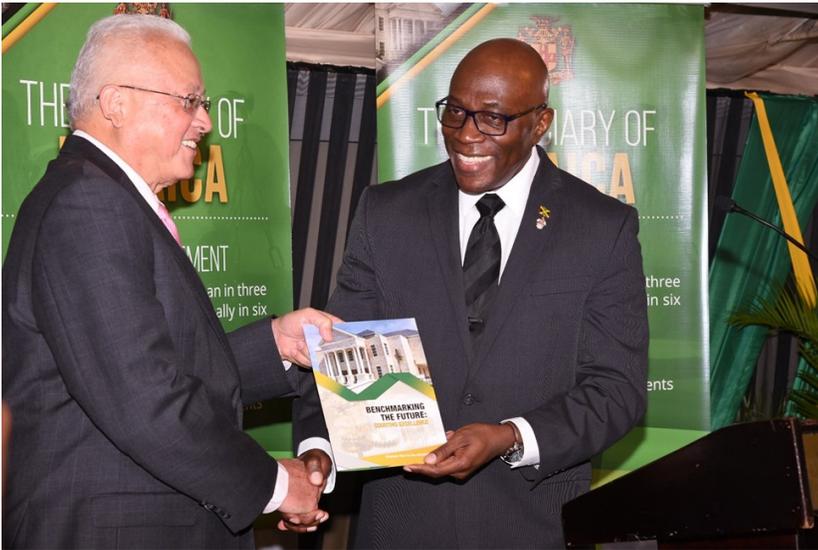
Among the strategic objectives are: significant reduction in court case backlogs; automation of some of the judicial processes to ensure ease of access and efficiency for all users of the courts; and eliminating delays and multiple adjournments, by 2023.

(From Left) Chief Judge of the Parish Courts His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, British High Commissioner Asif Ahmad, President of the Court of Appeal Dennis Morrison, OJ, CD, Justice Minister Hon. Delroy Chuck QC, MP, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska and Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Canada's High Commissioner to Jamaica, Ambassador Laurie Peters were all smiles as they observe the Judiciary’s vision statement, mission statement and core values.

JUDICIARY UNVEILS HISTORIC STRATEGIC PLAN (CONT'D)

Speaking at the launch, Chief Justice the Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD said “there is something in this plan for everyone.”

“It is designed to reduce wait time for judgements, court records, responses to basic things such as correspondence and to reduce the number of police officers who attend court on any given day, and so when we speak about hearing date certainty, when we speak of having the requisite number of cases set for the day, this has a knock-on effect,” Chief Justice Sykes said.



He further pointed out that the plan would ensure that there was optimum use of human, material and financial resources.

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck congratulated Chief Justice Sykes and the Judiciary, adding that the Government will do everything in its power to provide the resources to ensure that the Judiciary achieves its targets annually.

“When you look at the plan, targets have been set for the next five years, one year having gone already, and so if the targets are not being reached we need to examine annually, if and why they are not achieved, and if the

Chief Justice, the Hon. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, (on right) handed over a copy of the historic Strategic Plan entitled ‘*Benchmarking the Future: Courting Success*’ to Justice Minister Hon. Delroy Chuck QC, MP at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew on January 31, 2020.

issue is one of resources I would like to commit the executive to provide the necessary resources so they can be achieved,” Chuck said.

In the meantime, President of the Court of Appeal Justice Dennis Morrison welcomed the initiative. He pointed out that the Chief Justice was to be applauded for the energy and single-mindedness with which he has promoted it.

JUDICIARY UNVEILS HISTORIC STRATEGIC PLAN (CONT'D)

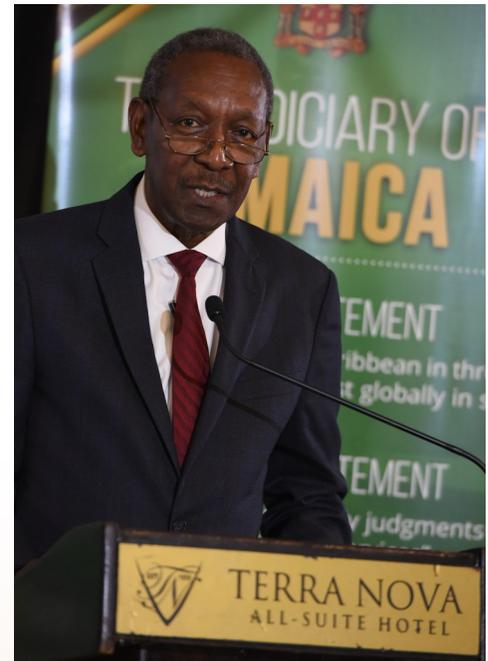
“The truth is that soldiering on from year to year without a vision and a strategy is a sure means of achieving Einstein's definition of insanity, which is to do the same thing over and over but expect different results every time. This strategic plan is to be welcomed,” he said.

‘Bold’ Strategic Plan

Attorney-at-law and former deputy governor of the central bank in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Terrence Farrell, who was the guest speaker, said the strategic plan outlined by Chief Justice Sykes was bold. Dr. Farrell said that the targets set for case-clearance rates were aggressive, noting that there might be passive resistance by those who were not amenable to change. Further, he said that the announcement of the targets by Chief Justice Sykes meant that he had to deliver, as there would be little room for excuses.



Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, addressing audience at the unveiling of the Judiciary's Strategic Plan at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew on January 31, 2020.



President of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Morrison OJ, CD gave remarks at the launch of the Strategic Plan.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH



Director (Acting) of Court Administration Division Mrs. Tricia Cameron-Anglin unveiled the Judiciary's core values at the launch of the Strategic Plan.

Chief Justice, the Hon. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, unveiled the Judiciary's new Vision Statement at the Strategic Plan Launch.



Attorney-at-law and former deputy governor of the central bank in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr Terrence Farrell was the guest speaker at the launch of the Strategic Plan.

Some members of the audience were all smiles as Chief Judge of the Parish Courts His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks delivered a humorous vote of thanks.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH



His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks unveiled the Judiciary's new Mission Statement at the Strategic Plan Launch.



These talented violinists entertained the guests at the unveiling of the Judiciary's Strategic Plan at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew on January 31, 2020.



The Honourable Mrs. Justice Carol Lawrence-Beswick CD, chaired the programme for Strategic Plan.



(From left): President of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Morrison OJ, CD, Justice Minister Hon. Delroy Chuck QC, MP, Attorney-at-law Dr Terrence Farrell and Chief Justice, the Hon. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, were all smiles as they flipped through the pages of the Strategic Plan.

JAMAICA JUDICIARY INTERGRATED STRATEGIC MAP

VISION	To be the best in the Caribbean in three years and one of the best globally in six years.		
MISSION	To provide sound, timely judgments and efficient court services.		
STRATEGIC DRIVER	Court Leadership and Management		
STRATEGIC PILLARS	Court Planning and Policies	Court Resources	Court Proceedings and Processes
STRATEGIC RESULTS	Constantly use accurate and reliable data to engage judges, staff and court users in developing initiatives for improved court performance.	Utilize all available resources (human, material and financial) effectively and proactively to enable optimal performance of all courts	Frequently review court proceedings and processes to identify areas for improvement and implement change.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY MAP	STRATEGIC MEASURES	STRATEGIC TARGETS	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 ↑ 2 ↑ 3 ↑ 2 ↑ Increased Case Clearance 3 ↑ Trial/Hearing/Event date certainty 3 ↓ Reduced case backlog 2 ↓ Reduced wait time for records 2 ↑ Increased public awareness of court services and processes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 ↑ to 130% 2 ↑ to 95% 3 ↑ to 95% number of cases disposed within 24 months of entry in particular court 2 ↓ delays to 21 days 2 ↓ to 80% 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Implement: 2 Scheduling 3 Differentiated Case Management Programme 4 Updated Record Keeping and Retrieval System <p>Internal and public education on court services and processes</p>
Customer/Stakeholder	4	4	4
Financial Stewardship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4(a) Repaired and maintained Plant and ICT infrastructure 4(b) Financial accountability 4(c) Effective management of Assets 4(d) Timely budget requests 4(e) Operating within budget 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4(a) ↑ to 100% 4(b) ↑ to 100% compliance with Laws/GOU Policies and Guidelines 4(c) ↑ to 100% compliance with GOU Policies 4(d) 100% on time requests 4(e) ↑ to 100% of courts and CMS operating within budget 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4(a) Active Court Maintenance Plan 4(b) Training in Laws, GOU Policies and Guidelines 4(c) Implement Asset Management System 4(d) Internal training on Budget and Payment Cycles 4(e) Internal training on Budget Preparation
Internal Processes	5	5	5
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5(a) Efficient Work processes 5(b) Case flow management 5(c) Timely, safe and efficient monetary transactions 5(d) Effective Internal Communication 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5(a) 100% of courts by 2021 5(b) 100% of courts by June 2020 5(c) 100% of courts by 2022 5(d) Complete and implement Communication Protocol by June 2020 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5(a) Map efficient work flow processes 5(b) Implement formal Case flow Management 5(c) Automate payment and collection systems 5(d) Develop and Implement Communication Protocol
Organisational Capacity	6	6	6
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6(a) Improved Knowledge, Skills and Abilities 6(b) Efficient Organizational Structure determined 6(c) Improved Welfare 6(d) Effective Talent Management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6(a) 25% annually 6(b) 100% by December 2020 6(c) ↑ in health and security complaints 6(d) ↑ 100% in one time evaluations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6(a) Training for judges and Staff 6(b) Structure Review of Courts 6(c) Develop and Implement Health, Security and Anti-Sexual Harassment Policies 6(d) Develop and Implement Evaluation, and Rewards and Recognition Programmes
	7. Infrastructure expansion	7. ↑ Annually	7. Implement ICT Solutions
CORE VALUES: • Fairness • Accountability • Independence, Integrity, Impartiality • Respect • Commitment, Courtesy • Accessibility • Responsiveness • Empathy			

CMS IS NOW CAD



**JURY DUTY
JAMAICA**

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WHAT YOU *Need* TO KNOW

- EMPLOYEES ARE PROTECTED FROM LOSING THEIR JOBS UNDER THE JURY ACT.
- JURORS ARE SELECTED FROM THE VOTERS' LIST AND TRN LIST.
- IF YOU ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 70, YOU CAN BE ASKED TO SERVE AS A JUROR.
- IT'S YOUR CIVIC DUTY!

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HELP SOMEONE GET JUSTICE!**

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The Court Management Services (CMS) was, by the Judicature (Supreme Court) (Amendment) Act 2016, renamed the Court Administration Division (CAD).

The amendment became necessary to reinforce the principle of “judicial independence in Jamaica and to streamline the work of the administrative body of the Judiciary”.

The CAD will continue to have responsibilities for information communication technology, human resource management, internal audit, building and property management, finance and accounts, client services and communications for all courts.

Fully integrated into Jamaica's court system, the CAD falls under the Supreme Court and is headed by a Director who reports to the Chief Justice and to Parliament. The CAD will develop its budget in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

Is there an event happening at your court? We can provide coverage. Call the Court Administration Division and ask for the Communications Unit. Also, send us your events, birthday and congratulatory wishes and messages for our quarterly Newsletter to communicationsunit@cad.gov.jm

SECOND CHIEF JUDGE OF THE PARISH COURTS SWORN-IN



Governor-General, His Excellency, the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ, Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks at King's House during Crooks' swearing-in ceremony on January 6, 2020.

His Honour Mr. Chester Crooks, who was earlier this week sworn-in as the country's second Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, has committed to upholding the dignity, integrity and responsibilities of the Office.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony held at King's House on January 06, 2020 to mark his permanent appointment, Judge Crooks said he was honoured to have officially been bestowed with the Office of the Chief Judge of the Parish Courts.

"As I undertake my duties in the capacity as Chief Judge of the Parish Courts, I hereby endeavour to continue carrying out the roles and responsibilities of

the Office to the best of my abilities in serving the Jamaican justice system and all who rely on it," Judge Crooks said.

He further stated that "my fellow Judges of the Parish Courts and I will make every effort to support our Chief Justice in realizing his vision that our justice system become the best in the region in three years and one of the best in the world in six years."

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, Chief Justice, congratulated Justice Crooks on his appointment, adding that he has his full support.

"Judge Crooks has distinguished himself as a person of sound moral character, a man of integrity and a man who is approachable," said Chief Justice Sykes.

The key responsibilities of the Chief Judge of the Parish Courts are among other things to support the Chief

SECOND CHIEF JUDGE OF THE PARISH COURTS SWORN-IN (CONT'D)

Justice in supervising and coordinating the nonjudicial and administrative functions of the parish courts.

Judge Crooks was appointed to act in the position on January 2018 after his predecessor Justice Judith Pusey was appointed to the Supreme Court to act as a Pusine Judge.

He was appointed under the Judicature (Resident Magistrates) (Amendment and Change of Name) Act 2015 and on the advice of the Judicial Services Commission.



(From left) The Honourable Miss Justice Nicole A. Simmons, Chief Justice, the Hon. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Her Honour Miss Tricia N. Hutchinson, Governor-General, His Excellency, the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ, Miss Tania Mott Tulloch-Reid and President of the Court of Appeal the Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Morrison OJ, CD at the swearing-in ceremony held at King's House on January 6, 2020.

More Appointments

Other judges sworn in during the ceremony were the Honourable Miss Justice Nicole A. Simmons who was appointed to act as Judge of the Court of Appeal; Her Honour Miss Tricia N. Hutchinson, who was appointed to act as Puisne Judge in the Supreme Court; while Miss Tania Mott Tulloch Reid who was appointed as Master in Chambers in the Supreme Court.

Senior Parish Court Judges' Commission

“In furthering the effective administration of the courts, Chief Justice Sykes said “the Parish Courts will be establishing administratively what we could call a Senior Parish Court Judges’ Commission to oversee the implementation of the Judiciary’s Strategic Plan as well as to assist with the general operations of the courts.”

PARISH COURT DISPOSAL RATE IS 83%



Data from a study conducted by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court, involving 61,700 cases examined across parish courts islandwide, revealed that 83 per cent of cases were disposed of in under 12 months.

The study, conducted over 37 months, began in September 2016 and lasted until December 2019.

Speaking at a recent national conference on Technology in the Justice Sector, Chief Justice, Bryan Sykes, said with the continued integration of technology in the Justice Sector, the Judiciary will work

The Honourable Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD shared a light moment with Justice Minister Delroy Chuck at the launch of the National Conference on Technology in the Justice Sector, at the AC Marriot Hotel in Kingston in February.

towards addressing the 17 per cent of cases that take longer to be resolved.

“The parish courts are not as inefficient as we believe. Our time stamp is 24 months from entry to disposition. The real issue is with the 17 per cent, and that is where our efforts should be focused. So, with this new software slated to come on stream and assuming that it does what is required of it, and more importantly, the staff and the judges are comfortable with it and can use it, it should make an important difference,” Chief Justice Sykes said.

New Case Management System

The new case management system, which will be in all courts across the country, is expected to help optimise the operations of the courts. Justice Sykes said one important area that the new system will assist in, is Case Weighting. The process involves assigning a numerical value, otherwise known as a weighted credit, to

PARISH COURT DISPOSAL RATE IS 83% (CONT'D)

specific types of cases that recognise the greater or lesser workload required for those cases compared to an average case. Case weighting improves and simplifies the assessment of court workloads, allowing the correct allotment of time and resources to dedicate to each matter before the court.

“We are now getting into the weighting of cases, so we’ll be having different weights attached to different types of cases. This will be tied to, hopefully, an algorithm of some kind, so it can sort of work out a bit more precisely how long a case should take, depending on the various factors that you take into account that would affect that particular case,” Justice Sykes explained.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Sykes said the case management system will also assist in the timely scheduling of trial proceedings. “One of our problems has been [improper] scheduling of cases... allocating sufficient time so that [they] can run efficiently from beginning to end. What we hope to achieve with the case management software is to know that a case will take 30 days or 40 days, so that we are not allocating days on a hit or miss method,” he pointed out.

So far, some staff members at the Court of Appeal, Supreme and Parish courts have been exposed to and trained in case management principles. In addition to work already done to train and expose staff, sensitisation sessions are ongoing as well as the development of an internal education programme to explain what the system does, its potential and how to use it effectively.



The Honourable Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD, in discussion with Justice Minister Delroy Chuck (right) and Executive Director of the National Integrity Action (NIA), Professor Trevor Munroe (middle) at the launch of the National Conference on Technology in the Justice Sector, at the AC Marriot Hotel in Kingston in February 2020.

PATOIS TRANSCRIPTION SOFTWARE NEEDED IN COURTS



The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Chief Justice, has issued a call to software developers to create a programme to do voice-to-text Jamaican Patois transcription for use in the nation's courts.

Chief Justice Sykes was speaking at the launch of the National Conference on Technology in the Justice Sector held at the AC Marriott Hotel in St Andrew on February 27, 2020.

Chief Justice, Bryan Sykes (centre), seems to be enjoying the exchange between Director of Public Prosecutions, Paula Llewellyn; and Justice Minister, Hon. Delroy Chuck, at the launch of the National Conference on Technology in the Justice Sector in February.

He explained that the technology is greatly needed particularly in the Parish Courts where most of the litigants are Patois speakers. "So it may mean at some point, and it may be a business opportunity here, someone, for the voice-to-text Patois translation," the Chief Justice Sykes said.

Technology and Training

In the meantime, Chief Justice Sykes said as efforts are made to modernise the sector, equal investment must be made in training the staff to manoeuvre technology. "Introducing technology by itself will not produce results unless the human dimension is addressed comprehensively. You have to begin to sensitise persons about the change that is coming, what is expected and, more importantly, how they'll be able to use it in a manner that is easy for them," he contended.

Court Transcripts

Minister of Justice, Delroy Chuck QC, MP, said by the end of the year the court system will be equipped with technology for the delivery of transcripts within days.

"This technology will make it possible for cases not only to be finished quickly but also when a transcript is needed, or when an appeal is to be heard, it can be done in weeks rather than years," he said.

PATOIS TRANSCRIPTION SOFTWARE NEEDED IN COURTS (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Bryan Sykes said a number of the convicted persons may have had very good grounds for appeal but abandoned their right to appeal their sentences due to the lengthy delays in the justice system.

He said “in many cases it takes a long time for the courts to produce the transcripts that are needed for the appeals to be filed.”

The National Conference on Technology in the Justice Sector was held under the theme 'Roadmap to e-Justice: Enhancing Efficiency, Effectiveness and Access to Justice'.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR JUDICIARY



The Judiciary of Jamaica is to launch its social media policy shortly as it seeks to improve customer service and to strengthen public trust and confidence.

Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, said the Judiciary will be using social media to provide a platform for customers to interact with the court system and to ensure that staff members are delivering quality services to customers.

“We will be using social media not to quarrel with you, but for you to tell us what your experience has been with the court,” said Chief Justice Sykes.

He pointed out that the Judiciary will also be using other strategy to improve customer service including mystery shoppers in an effort to hold staff members accountable.

“Not every customer coming inside here will necessary be a person who wants to find a document. It may very well be a mystery shopper to see whether the customer service training the Judiciary has invested in is being applied to the job,” said the Chief Justice.

Chief Justice Sykes was speaking at the National Public Education Symposium held at the St. Thomas Parish Court in Morant Bay, St. Thomas on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

DO NOT WASTE JUDICIAL TIME!



(From left) Justice Minister Hon. Delroy Chuck, Custos of St. Thomas Marcia Benneth, Acting Director of the Court Administration Division Tricia Cameron-Anglin, a member of the public and Chief Justice Bryan Sykes.

Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, is urging the Jamaica Constabulary Force to ensure that prisoners arrive to court on time in order for cases to be disposed of in a timely manner.

Speaking at the St. Thomas Parish Court, the Chief Justice said this is critical for the Judiciary to achieve its vision which is *“To be the best in the Caribbean in three years and one of the best globally in six years.”*

“If the prisoners get to court 30 minutes late each day, that is, two-and-half hours every weekday. That is five hours in two weeks. In other words, when the prisoners come late for two weeks for 30 minutes, it means that every 10 working days, we lose a day. Every 20 working days, we lose two days. That is an area we need to improve upon,” said the Chief Justice.

He added that once prisoners arrive on time and courts start on time, there will be improvement in the performance indices of the courts and the Judiciary will be able to meet its target of 95% hearing date certainty and 100% court time utilization.

Fewer Delayed Cases

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck, who was also in attendance, noted that there has been a reduction in the delay being experienced in some cases such as probate and divorce.

However, Mr. Chuck said he continues to receive complaints about the delay in the court system and in particular with regards to the delivery of judgement.

“It is not fair to the litigants to wait months or years to get a judgement having waited very long for the matters to go to trial,” said Mr. Chuck.

DO NOT WASTE JUDICIAL TIME! (CONT'D)

He's appealing to the few judges who are yet to deliver long-overdue judgements to do so immediately and prevent a recurrence.

The Justice Minister also supported the Chief Justice in his call to judges to provide oral judgements and at a later date, submit the written judgement so the parties can know where they stand.

The Justice Minister has reiterated the need for litigants to use alternative dispute resolution to reduce the volume of cases entering the court system.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM ST. THOMAS PARISH COURT PUBLIC EDUCATION DAY



Justice Minister the Honourable Delroy Chuck addresses the audience at the National Public Education Symposium at the St. Thomas Parish Court in Morant Bay, St. Thomas on January 22, 2020.



Students from several schools in St. Thomas participated in the National Public Education Symposium held at the St. Thomas Parish Court on January 22, 2020.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM ST. THOMAS PARISH COURT PUBLIC EDUCATION DAY



Staff members from the Court Administration Division engaged in a conversation with Justice Minister the Honourable Delroy Chuck at the National Public Education Symposium held at the St. Thomas Parish Court on January 22, 2020.

Students and their teachers were given a tour of inside the St. Thomas Parish Court and were also informed of the roles of the various personnel inside the court and the operations of the court.



The tent was full of stakeholders and students as they came out in their numbers to make the St. Thomas Parish Court Education Day a success.

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck engages in a conversation with a representative from the Registrar General's Department.

SECOND CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMING SOON

The introduction of the second electronic case management system in the island's courts is closer to reality as the pilot phase of the project is to be rolled-out in select courts within the 2020/21 fiscal year.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, Chief Justice, made the announcement during a seminar for judges entitled, 'Leading Effective Caseflow Management in Your Court', held at the AC Hotel by Marriott, Kingston from February 5 to 7, 2020.

“The European Union (EU) is at a point now where I think within another eight weeks; it will conduct a pilot at the Court of Appeal, the Commercial Registry, Probate and I think two Parish Courts. So the idea is that you will run it in a trial court and in the appellate court to see if it will work and do what we want it to do,” Chief Justice Sykes said.

He added that the electronic system would significantly assist with leading effective caseflow management because the current system has resulted in inefficiencies.

Chief Justice Sykes further pointed out that the electronic system will also be able to generate reports and keep track of cases “to know how long a case has been before the court.”

“You will be able to access it remotely from anywhere. Additionally, you will get notifications that the documents are available on the system similar to what obtains with the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ),” Chief Justice Sykes explained.

While noting that caseflow management is the coordination of court processes and resources so that court cases progress in a timely fashion from filing to disposition, the Chief Justice said it is critical in order for the Judiciary to achieve its objectives outlined in its Strategic Plan.

One of the objectives of the Strategic Plan is for 95% of cases coming into the courts to be disposed of within 24 months from the date of filing to reduce the backlog by 2023.

He added that judges should not look to address cases before the court in a sequential order but should

SECOND CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMING SOON

instead categorized them based on the types of cases to ensure that the simple cases are disposed of in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, the Honourable Mr. Justice C. Dennis Morrison OJ, CD, President of the Court of Appeal, and Chief Judge of the Parish Courts welcomed the announcement by Chief Justice Sykes and have committed to assist in the process.

COVID-19 IMPACTING COURT OPERATIONS

Reduced operations at the island's courts were among several measures implemented by the Judiciary of Jamaica in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Jamaica recorded its first COVID-19 case on March 10, 2020 forcing the Government to implement a raft of measures aimed at discouraging public gatherings and promoting social distancing to contain the spread of the highly contagious respiratory illness.

As a result, hearings at Parish Courts were suspended until April 20 with the exception of emergency matters such as domestic violence, maintenance, breaches of the Quarantine Act and those involving children. Guilty pleas are also being facilitated

Sensitization and Sanitization

The frequency of cleaning at the courts increased with office attendants cleaning high-touch areas and surfaces hourly during the work day.

Hand sanitizer stations were also set up and court users were required to sanitize their hands before entering the building.

Representatives from the various Health Departments were deployed to courts to sensitize staff about the coronavirus. These sessions helped to demystify the novel coronavirus and also sought to allay fears among staff members.

SNAPSHOTS OF COVID-19 SENSITIZATION SESSIONS



Members of staff from the Coroners and Special Coroner's Courts are attentive during a COVID-19 sensitization session conducted by Mrs. Olive Scott from Ministry of Health and Wellness on Thursday, March 19, 2020.



His Honour Mr Vaughn Smith, Senior Judge of the Parish Court for Kingston & St. Andrew (Criminal Division) and staff are locked into what is being delivered by Mrs. Olive Scott.



Mrs. Nicola White was tasked to deliver the vote of thanks to Mrs. Scott following the sensitization session at the Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Court (Criminal Division) on March 20, 2020.



Staff members at Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Court (Civil and Tax Division) were given flyers to apprise themselves of ways to prevent the spread of the coronavirus at a sensitization session held on March 20, 2020.

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF **CORONAVIRUS** INFECTION



Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub



Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow



Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms



Thoroughly cook meat and eggs



Avoid contact with wild or live farm animals



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