



Message From The Registrar



Ms. Paula Pierre
Registrar and Chief Marshal



Ms. Radha Permanand
Deputy Registrar and Deputy Marshal

As I look back over the period August 1, 2007 to July 31, 2008 I am pleased to report that the work of the Court and the Registry has been increasing. While the statistics shown in subsequent pages, will continue to reflect small numbers in terms of matters filed, heard and determined as compared to the statistics of a Supreme Court of a Contracting Party, the small numbers bear no relation to the legal, administrative and technical support required to process the matters through the system.

Two applications for special leave to commence proceedings were filed in the original jurisdiction of the Court. This was a very promising start to the work of the Court in its original jurisdiction and created expectations, in my mind, at least that all aspects of the original jurisdiction of the Court would come on stream soon. The inauguration of the Competition Commission in Suriname on 18th January 2008 lent support to one of those expectations as it meant that one more step had been achieved towards the full use of the Court in its original jurisdiction. While there appeared to be some initial reluctance to use the original jurisdiction of the Court, perhaps by reason of unfamiliarity with the new areas of law available in that jurisdiction, or unfamiliarity with the procedures set out in the Rules, I am optimistic that with the filing of these two applications, the Court will soon be as busy in the original jurisdiction as it is in the appellate jurisdiction.

The Court delivered seven judgments during this period, one of which was an interim ruling in one of the original jurisdiction matters. In the appellate jurisdiction the Court delivered six (6) judgments and made substantial amendments to three Parts of its Appellate Jurisdiction Rules and for the first time delivered judgments based on written submissions only. The amendments to the Rules ensured that training in the Rules of Court for attorneys-at-law, staff of the Registry and sub-Registries would continue to be ongoing initiatives of the Registry and of the Court.

The year was also a significant one for the Court as the Registry welcomed the appointment of Ms. Radha Permanand as the Deputy Registrar and Deputy Marshal of the Court.

I trust that the information contained in this report will prove to be both informative and educational.

Paula Pierre
Registrar and Chief Marshal