

Message from the Court Executive Administrator

On 18 August 2011, the Right Honourable Mr Justice Michael de la Bastide demitted office as the founding President of the CCJ. He was succeeded on 1 September 2011 by the Right Honourable Sir Dennis Byron.

The advent of a new President heralded the start of a new direction. The two years under review saw the Court first in a period of transition, then in one of consolidation. With a new leader at its helm, it seemed prudent for the Court to embrace the opportunity to reflect upon its progress and determine how to chart its future course most sagaciously.

In this regard, the CCJ embarked on its first strategic planning exercise with a view to taking stock, evaluating and assessing its progress thus far. The results gleaned from this process have provided the court with the data enabling it to strategise the approach for the next stage of its development, which was undertaken in its eighth year. As a young institution, the Court is mindful of the need for it to be dynamic and innovative and to ensure that it provides a timely and relevant service to its stakeholders.

The role that the CCJ was created to play in the Caribbean Community, as the lynchpin of the CSME, and the prime mover in the development of an authentic Caribbean jurisprudence, necessarily means that the Court must remain permanently sensitive to the demands of leadership. The Court counts on reaping double dividends from its strategic planning exercise.

Having completed our strategic plan, we recognise that even the best-laid plan is not worth much unless it can be operationalised. The Court therefore commenced work on the next stage of the process of translating its strategies into detailed initiatives and action steps with timeframes that can be monitored, while aligning all the work being done at every level in the organisation, and creating a momentum through shared commitment, that will ultimately produce the outcomes defined in the strategic plan. Important as well is the identification of concrete milestones and the establishment of key performance indicators and targets to gauge the success of the plan.

On the one hand, it is hoped that the process will have helped the Court in its transition from one presidency to another; on the other, that the Court's focus will have been sharpened; and that these two developments together will position the CCJ to serve the peoples of the Caribbean to its best of its ability.

Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne
Court Executive Administrator

