



**In honour of the late Dr. Joseph Samuel Nathaniel Archibald, QC
at the Special Sitting of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court**

by

Rt. Hon. Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron

Friday, 25th April 2014

Honourable Dame Janice Pereira Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Court, thank you for allowing me a few minutes at this ceremonial sitting in honour of our late departed legal icon Dr. Joseph Samuel Archibald QC.

After listening to the brilliant oratory of the leading and distinguished legal luminaries, and the learned judges who have previously spoken, I am satisfied that our dear departed brother Dr. Joseph Samuel Archibald QC has been well and truly represented to this court in the many excellent ways in which he is and ought to be remembered.

I share in many of the recollections already expressed and can add some more (if it would not have been redundant to do so) because I ran the whole gamut of relationships with him from before my birth due to the connections of our fathers, having sat at his feet as a student in my youth, honed my advocacy skills as a defence criminal attorney when he was Director of Prosecutions, served in his Chambers, and in more mature times sat with him as a judicial colleague on the Court of Appeal, and in the most recent years benefitted from his wisdom on the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission to the Caribbean Court of Justice.

I also was warmly welcomed into the warmth of his home by his dear widow H.E. Inez Archibald and their three daughters and extended family and saw the family man who loved and cared for his family from the inside. I enjoyed his exuberance and

entertaining personality and the way in which he charmed his friends and acquaintances over the years. And I witnessed his abiding faith in God and his service to the Church and to the Caribbean Community.

But I must do the judicial thing with the kind permission of Dame Periera who will shortly be delivering the leading Judicial deliberation. I uphold with complete approval the unanimous testimony and submissions from the Bar. I concur with the deliberations of my judicial colleagues who have preceded me. I am satisfied that it has been proved beyond reasonable doubt that Dr. Joseph Samuel Archibald QC was a good and great man. He was loved, he had the light and those close to him knew that he was blessed with calm thoughts.

So as we remember this good and great man, celebrate his life, express our sorrow at his passing and impart our condolences to his family and loved ones I describe my finding that he lived the life of the good and the great in the words of the great English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge:

*What would'st thou have a good great man obtain?
Place? titles? salary? a gilded chain?
Or throne of corpses which his sword had slain?
Greatness and goodness are not means, but ends!
Hath he not always treasures, always friends,
The good great man? three treasures, LOVE, and LIGHT,
And CALM THOUGHTS, regular as infant's breath:
And three firm friends, more sure than day and night,
HIMSELF, his MAKER, and the ANGEL DEATH!*

May his soul rest in peace.