



## CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **STATEMENT BY THE CCJ PRESIDENT ON THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CARICOM**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago:** The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) extends hearty congratulations to the CARICOM Secretariat, to Member States and all citizens of the Caribbean Community and the diaspora on the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Community.

It is a mark of distinction to be recognised as the oldest surviving integration movement in the developing world. Our forebears demonstrated great vision when forming this Community, and for this, we pay them tribute. The CCJ regards itself as a prime example of Caribbean ingenuity. The institutional arrangements developed to fund the Court and to select and appoint Judges have been praised the world over for their uniqueness.

The Court notes with appreciation the undeniable progress the Community has made in achieving its goals over the last five decades and we look forward to playing our own part in consolidating those achievements as the Court pursues its mission to provide accessible, fair and efficient justice for the people and states of the Caribbean Community

On behalf of the Judges and the staff of the Court, I extend congratulations again to the CARICOM Secretariat and all CARICOM citizens. May we all continue to strive to attain the ideals envisioned within the Treaty.

The Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders,  
President of the Caribbean Court of Justice

**-End-**

About the Caribbean Court of Justice:

The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) was inaugurated in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 16 April 2005 and presently has a Bench of seven judges presided over by CCJ President, the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Saunders. The CCJ has an Original and an Appellate Jurisdiction and is effectively, therefore, two courts in one. In its Original Jurisdiction, it is an international court with exclusive jurisdiction to interpret and apply the rules set out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC) and to decide disputes arising under it. The RTC established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). In its Original Jurisdiction, the CCJ is critical to the CSME and all 12 Member States which belong to the CSME (including their citizens, businesses, and governments) can access the Court's Original Jurisdiction to protect their rights under the RTC. In its Appellate Jurisdiction, the CCJ is the final court of appeal for criminal and civil matters for those countries in the Caribbean that alter their national Constitutions to enable the CCJ to perform that role. At present, five states access the Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction, these being Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana and Saint Lucia. However, by signing and ratifying the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, Member States of the Community have demonstrated a commitment to making the CCJ their final court of appeal. The Court is the realisation of a vision of our ancestors, an expression of independence and a signal of the region's coming of age.

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