

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### UPDATE ON PART HEARD MATTERS LEFT BY MARCIA AYERS-CAESAR

The Honourable the Chief Justice Mr Justice Ivor Archie convened a meeting of key stakeholders comprising the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago represented by its Vice President and members of the Criminal Bar, the Acting Chief Magistrate, Senior Magistrates and the Registrar of the Supreme Court to determine the way forward for the fifty-three (53) part heard matters left unresolved by the former Chief Magistrate, Marcia Ayers-Caesar.

Consensus was reached and the meeting on Wednesday 24th May 2017 agreed to have all fifty-three (53) matters restarted "de novo". The Acting Chief Magistrate will preside over indictable matters and all summary matters will be handled by an assigned magistrate at the St. George West Magistrates' Court. All other eight court matters which have not been started will be managed by Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate.

Priority will be given to the to the fifty-three (53) matters in question which will be actively case managed using the Criminal Procedure Rules (2016) having regard to the hardships already experienced by the incarcerated, accused on bail, victims, witnesses and other stakeholders within the system. The Criminal Procedure Rules (2016) were implemented in April 2017.

The Judiciary regrets the inconvenience to the parties involved and is working with all stakeholders to have the fifty-three (53) matters disposed of in the shortest possible timeframe.

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