

▼ Ramdeen: Not another magistrate

53 cases for Marcia

Leah Sorias

leah.sorias@trinidadexpress.com

OPPOSITION Senator Gerald Ramdeen has accused the Judiciary of lying.

Ramdeen said, contrary to the Judiciary's announcement on May 25, via press release, persons attending a meeting chaired by the Chief Justice never came to a decision to have all 53 cases left unresolved by former chief magistrate Marcia Ayers-Caesar restarted de novo.

He produced proof of this, in the form of a letter penned by Senior Counsel Sophia Chote to the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago, in which she detailed exactly what transpired at the meeting.

Chote represented the Law Association at the meeting.

At a press conference, held yesterday at his Woodbrook office, Ramdeen claimed that, according to Chote's letter, while the majority of persons felt that it was perhaps better for the matters to be started de novo, "there was certainly no decision taken" neither were attendees "individually polled for our view".

He said Chote noted that "certainly no collective decision was taken at this meeting" and that the idea of the press release was also never raised.

The meeting was held on May 24.

In attendance were 13 persons, including senior magistrates, Director of Public Prosecutions Roger Gaspard, High Court and Appeal Court judges, Registrar of the Supreme Court Julia Rodriguez and acting Chief Magistrate Maria Busby-Earle-Caddle.

The following day the Judiciary issued a press release stating that "consensus was

reached" and that the meeting "agreed to have all 53 matters restarted de novo".

Ramdeen said what was even more alarming were comments made by a High Court judge during the meeting that she wanted to be "put down there so she could wrap up the cases" after Chote and the DPP pointed out that they would need the notes of the earlier hearing if matters were being heard de novo.

"This is a sitting judge of the High Court who has the jurisdiction in a capital matter to send you to the gallows saying put me down there so she could wrap up the cases. Is this justice? Is this what is passing as justice in our country today. This is what is astounding," he exclaimed.

'53 back in court Thursday'

He added: "Nobody is considering that the 53 people who are going to attend court on Thursday they don't have a right. They're entitled to due process

and the protection of the law. They were not even invited to the meeting and chaired by the Chief Justice."

Ramdeen has written to the Law Association, calling on it to immediately make a public statement on the issue.

"I'm very disappointed at the position taken by the Judiciary. It is disturbing and it is troubling that a document could be issued from the Judiciary, meant for public consumption, and contained untruths as to what took place at that meeting that affects 53 matters that are before courts of this country," he said.

Ayers-Caesar was sworn in as a High Court judge on April 12. She resigned 15 days later following revelations that she had left 53 part-heard matters in the Magistrates' Court.

Ramdeen is representing one of the 53—Akili Charles—who has been incarcerated for the past five-and-a-half years.

He said a lawyer plan to appear be-

WHY I LOVE THE EXPRESS



FROM FRONT TO BACK: Anthony Maloney, a North/South taxi driver, says: "In between trips, I enjoy reading the Express from front page to the last page, so I am kept abreast of all the happenings in T&T and the world. I also like the free SEA tuition. I wish the Express all the best and hope they continue with their great journalism." —Photo: TREVOR WATSON

Man slain in Morvant

MORVANT

Gyasi Gonzales

gyasi.gonzales@trinidadexpress.com

A MAN was pronounced dead on arrival at the Port of Spain General Hospital yesterday after he had been brought by ambulance from Never Dirty, Morvant, with gunshot wounds.

The only name investigators had for the victim was his last name, Applewhite.

Police said that around 4 p.m. they received information that a man who had been shot was conveyed to hospital, but, beyond that, they received no other information about the victim.

Investigators from the Morvant CID, led by Senior Supt Surendra Sagrarsingh, later visited the area in a bid to find out what happened.

When they got there, no-one was able to tell them why Applewhite had been shot. The few people who spoke to the officers did not know Applewhite's first name and they were also unable to say what circumstances led to his shooting.

Police also said it appeared Applewhite had been running from someone, but because they are unaware of the exact circumstances behind his death they did not want to say whether it was a case of murder or self-defence.

VACANCY Extra Heavy T Driver

5 YEARS or MORE EXPERIENCE

355-7347

ISLAM AND YOU For info: 740-7563 or ttmuslim@yahoo.com

The Messenger of Allah said: "Look at those who are less fortunate than yourselves, not at those who are better off than yourselves, so that you will not belittle the graces of Allah." (Bukhari) Implementing this practice into our lives would allow us to focus on thanking Allah for His blessings. Also, we would be convinced that our difficulties could have been much worse so we would be more positive when overcoming our problems.

ST. CLAIR
MRI
CENTRE

Over 12 Years Serving You

The Latest Technology
& the Most Advanced
Software in MRI

Faster Scans!
More Comfortable Experience!
More Accurate Results!

Our GE MRI SIGNA I.5 HDxt is the most advanced in MRI technology. It also has the strongest magnet and more diagnostic value and higher resolution images. Our highly qualified MRI technologists can give patients the benefit of:

- An easier scanning experience
- Extraordinarily clear images.

Family members can stay with patients for the duration of the scan.

MRI REPORTS are available within 24 HOURS

ASK YOUR DOCTOR OR CALL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.
11 Havelock Street, St. Clair, Port of Spain.
Tel/Fax: 1(868)628-9780 • 628-7157
e-mail: stclairmri@hotmail.com

Scotiabank Mutual Funds

Net Asset Value per Share (US Dollars) as at May 26, 2017

Scotiabank Money Market Fund	US\$ 13.0956
Scotiabank US Dollar Bond Fund	US\$ 2.6517
Scotiabank US Growth Fund	US\$ 14.7542
Scotiabank Canadian Growth Fund	US\$ 2.6523
Scotiabank Global Growth Fund	US\$ 2.9477
Scotiabank Caribbean Income Fund	US\$ 3.7131
Scotiabank TT Fixed Income Fund	TT\$ 10.0874
Scotiabank TT Growth Fund	TT\$ 10.4033

Important information about Scotiabank Mutual Funds is contained in the Funds' prospectus. Copies are available from Scotiabank branches and should be read carefully before investing. The value of any Fund is dependent on the performance of the underlying securities and past performance may not be repeated. Scotiabank Mutual Funds are not insured by any deposit insurance corporation nor are they insured or guaranteed by The Bank of Nova Scotia or the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Scotiabank

*Trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence.