

Crisis averted, don't resign

De la Bastide to Archie on JLSC controversy:

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THE recent appointments of High Court judges Avason Quinlan-Williams and Marcia Ayers-Caesar have resulted in yet another judicial controversy by the Chief Justice-led Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC).

The commission members include chairman Chief Justice Ivor Archie, Roger Hamel-Smith, Maureen Manchouck and Justice Humphrey Stollmeyer.

Under Section 104 of the Constitution, the JLSC has the power to advise the President on the appointment of judges other than the Chief Justice, the acting appointment of judges and the revocation of such acting appointments.

The President must act upon the advice he receives from the commission on all such matters.

Despite the JLSC having such dominance over the selection process of judges, many have been clamouring for a more transparent selection process and elevation of judges.

In May 2015, a number of judges of the High Court expressed concern over the opaque process in the promotion of judges to the Appeal Court.