



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Council of the Law Association has read with increasing alarm the allegations of improper conduct levelled directly and by implication against the Head of the Judiciary. Of particular concern is the allegation that he has intervened to obtain preferential treatment in the distribution of public housing to his acquaintances. The Council is even more troubled at the failure of the Chief Justice to respond to these damaging allegations despite calls from various quarters, including the Law Association, publicly and privately, that he do so with alacrity. The Chief Justice's steadfast refusal to refute these and other accusations levelled against him is unacceptable and incomprehensible.

The Council is of the view that the Chief Justice's continued failure to challenge the allegations has the potential to irreparably bring the Office of Chief Justice into disrepute, and by extension tarnish the entire Judiciary. His continued silence is nothing short of reckless.

As already stated publicly, the Council of the Law Association had resolved to ascertain/substantiate the facts upon which the allegations made against the Chief Justice were alleged to be based with a view to determining what, if any, further action might be appropriate. In this regard, attention is drawn to section 5 of the Legal Profession Act which mandates that the purposes of the Law Association include representing and protecting the interests of the legal profession and promoting, maintaining and supporting the administration of justice and the rule of law.

In relation to similar provisions governing the Belizean Bar Association, the Privy Council commented that "complaints alleging inability and misbehaviour on the part of a justice of the Supreme Court would be a matter of concern to the Bar Association, and that it would likely be involved in the presentation of such complaints to any tribunal that was commenced to inquire into the matter."

The Council of the Law Association will continue to discharge its statutory mandate to the best of its ability.

Dated the 14 December 2017

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Elena Araujo

Secretary