



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

TRIBUTE TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MICHAEL DE LA BASTIDE QC TC

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago joins the Judiciary of the Supreme Court and the country by extension in mourning the passing of the Right Honourable Mr Justice Michael de la Bastide QC, TC.

The late Right Honourable Mr Justice de la Bastide was born on 18 July 1937 in Port-of-Spain. After completing his secondary education at St Mary's College from 1945 to 1955, he won the Trinidad and Tobago Open Scholarship (Languages) in 1954. He then attended the Christ Church College of Oxford University from 1956 to 1960. He attained a Bachelor of Arts (Jurisprudence) degree and a Bachelor in Civil Law degree, with First Class Honours in 1959 and 1960, respectively. He was admitted to practice on 7 February 1961.

He then returned to Trinidad and served as a Crown Counsel in the Office of the Honourable Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago from 1961 to 1963 before entering private practice. He was appointed Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel) in 1975. In 1992, he founded and established the law chambers of de la Bastide and Jacelon together with Charles Jacelon SC, which later merged in 1998 to form the law firm Pollonais, Blanc, de la Bastide and Jacelon.

In the first Republican Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Justice de la Bastide served as an Independent Senator from 1976 to 1981. From 1987 to 1990, he was elected for three consecutive terms as the President of the LATT. On 31 May 1995, Mr Justice de la Bastide was appointed Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago. He was conferred with Trinidad and Tobago's highest national honour in August 1996, the Trinity Cross (now the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago).

Mr Justice de la Bastide was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in July 2004, and he became the first President of the Caribbean Court of Justice

(CCJ) in August of the same year. He retired from the CCJ in August 2011, having set a high standard for the court and having developed its rules, processes and systems.

The late Mr Justice de la Bastide was also a sportsman and represented Trinidad and Tobago in hockey at the Pan American Games in Cali, Columbia, in 1971. He was involved in cricket from an administrative standpoint, serving as a member of the management committee of the Queen's Park Cricket Club from 1969 to 1992 and as Vice President from 1982 to 1992. Mr Justice de la Bastide was also fond of the varying aspects of Trinidad and Tobago culture.

Mr Justice de la Bastide has authored numerous papers and publications such as the Anthony J. Bland Memorial Lecture, Barbados, Inaugural Telford Georges Memorial Lecture, Barbados – "Judicial Supervision of Executive Action in the Commonwealth Caribbean" published in the Commonwealth Law Bulletin Vol. 33 (2) of 2007, The Seventh William G. Demas Memorial Lecture, Jamaica – "Putting things Right and the Caribbean Court of Justice" and co-authored his autobiography with Justice Kathy Ann Waterman-Latchoo – "Within the Law- Memoirs of a Caribbean Jurist."

There has been a tremendous public outpouring of condolences on his passing as he has dedicated his life and career to developing law and jurisprudence in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. The LATT extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Right Honourable Mr Justice Michael de la Bastide QC TC during this time of loss.

May he rest in peace.

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