



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

Appointment of the Honourable Mr Justice Ronnie Boodoosingh as the 9th Chief Justice of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) wishes to express its sincerest congratulations to the Honourable Mr Justice Ronnie Boodoosingh on his appointment as the 9th Chief Justice of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The LATT notes the tremendous contribution which Justice Boodoosingh has made to the jurisprudence of Trinidad and Tobago and acknowledges his dedicated service in education as a lecturer at the Hugh Wooding Law School. We also take the opportunity to express our gratitude to outgoing Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr Justice Ivor Archie ORTT, for his commitment to the people of Trinidad and Tobago during his tenure and extend our best wishes on his future endeavours.

While LATT commends the choice of Mr Justice Boodoosingh JA as the 9th Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago, the hastened and truncated process which led to his appointment has not escaped our attention. We note the requirement enshrined in Section 102 of our Constitution for the President to consult with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition regarding the appointment of a Chief Justice.

On settled principles, the constitutional obligation to consult requires the President to inform those with whom he must consult of his proposed candidate or candidates and the reasons supporting his preliminary choice, that consultation take place at a point in time when the President has not yet made up his mind, that adequate time be given for consideration of the

President's proposal and for a response and that the President give conscientious consideration to the consultee's response before making his decision. Given the extraordinarily short period of time over which 'consultation' occurred in this instance, it is highly unlikely that any of these settled principles was satisfied.

It is of utmost importance that an appointment to the highest office in our Judiciary is grounded in transparency and in accordance with the parameters of our Constitution. While we appreciate the unexpected timing of the then sitting Chief Justice's resignation, we are equally satisfied that the appointment to fill the vacancy demands proper and reasonable consultation by all relevant stakeholders as prescribed by the Constitution. Unfortunately, the information we have at this time does not allow us to conclude that a reasonable process of consultation was undertaken before making a substantive appointment.

Notwithstanding, we are very confident in the capability of Mr Justice Boodoosingh JA to take on the leadership of our Judiciary and wish him every success during what we anticipate shall be an exceptionally productive and visionary tenure. The LATT looks forward to meaningful collaborations with our newly appointed Chief Justice to address the issues that confront our judicial system.

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23rd October 2025