

Ceremony of handing over of Letters Patent

to newly-appointed Senior Attorney

Supreme Court, 16 June 2010

ATTORNEY- GENERAL'S ADDRESS

May it please Your Lordships,

It is a great honour for me to join in the congratulations that have been offered by the Bench to our colleagues from the Mauritius Law Society, on whom has been conferred the distinction of Senior Attorney for the Republic of Mauritius.

At the very outset, allow me to state that I do take comfort from the fact , as stated by the Honourable Chief Justice and Sir Hamid Moollan QC at the ceremony of yesterday and a few minutes ago that the

recommendations for elevation to the rank of Senior Attorney and Senior Counsel, have been preceded by an open and transparent process of consultations with and proposals from existing Senior Attorneys, Senior Counsel, Queen's Counsel and the Honourable Judges of the Supreme Court.

My Lords,

The conferring of the title of Senior Attorney is much more than marking the distinction of the individual on account of his or her knowledge of the law and his or her long and distinguished standing as an attorney; it imposes on the appointee the responsibility of assisting in the administration of justice according to law and in upholding the rule of law.

It is not only recognition of past and ongoing achievements; it implies challenging responsibilities for the future.

I would make the same plea to the newly-appointed Senior Attorneys as I did yesterday to the newly-appointed Senior Counsel, and I would urge them to be true leaders in the profession and to share their experience and expertise generously, with both the profession and the community, by guiding new members of the profession, lecturing, writing, and doing pro bono work, as appropriate.

My Lords,

I have had the privilege of knowing the newly appointed Senior Attorneys for many years, during which I have had the occasion of observing their varied talents, their vast legal expertise, their spirit of cooperation and their unswerving loyalty to the cause of justice.

It is naturally a source of pride to my Office that the Chief State Attorney, Mrs Maudarbocus-Moolna, should have such a high honour bestowed upon her. Mrs Maudarbocus-Moolna has always demonstrated sound knowledge of our civil procedure, leadership, resourcefulness and a strong sense of initiative, to mention just a few of her qualities. I understand she is frequently consulted by members of the profession at large, as well as by my own Officers, on procedural issues. Her elevation to the rank of Senior Attorney is, we feel, well-deserved.

But let not what I have just said be taken for one moment as in any way lessening the high merit of the other appointees who have all rightly obtained recognition for their deep legal knowledge, their skills and their distinguished service.

In my own name and in that of my Office, I wish to tender my heartiest congratulations to the new appointees and to their families. With our best wishes, goes the belief that they will be the continuing mark of excellence and uphold our expectation to perform to the highest standard in the legal profession.

Thank you.