
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2015

Contact: Client Services, Communication & Information
Court Management Services, 8th Floor, The Towers
25 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5
Telephone: 665-3701
Website: www.cms.gov.jm

CHIEF JUSTICE REVIEWS ISSUES AT KINGSTON & ST. ANDREW FAMILY COURT

KINGSTON, Jamaica –Chief Justice, The Honourable Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla O.J. has taken steps to review and implement measures to address issues raised by a litigant in a Letter to the Gleaner Editor dated Saturday, July 4, 2015, concerning the management and administration of the Kingston and St. Andrew Family Court.

The Honourable Chief Justice has instructed a technical team from the Court Management Services (CMS), to provide improved technological support associated with record keeping as an interim measure to address the situation. Additionally, these efforts are to be fortified by sustained and continuous customer service training supported by ongoing monitoring and evaluation by CMS. The technical team deployed will conduct assessments and provide a comprehensive report on ICT Solutions, Procurement of Equipment, and Customer Service Training for Court Staff.

The CMS has been in the process of coordinating the implementation of an automated data collection system for all courts. This is being done on a phased basis due to certain infrastructural and financial constraints. Two courts, Corporate Area Criminal and St Thomas Resident Magistrates' Courts, have commenced utilizing this new system. However, due to physical infrastructure problems, the Kingston & St. Andrew Family Court was not selected in the first phase of the implementation. There is however, a need for an appropriate space to be identified for the relocation of the Family Court.

Due to budgetary constraints, the necessary funding requested has not yet been provided to give attention to the Family Court as well as to complete the automation project in all the courts across Jamaica.

In the meantime, staff at the Family Court will take steps to ensure that information needed from the Court Sheet is available to litigants during the period that the Court Sheet is in use by the Magistrate in court.

"END"