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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **SUPREME COURT INTRODUCES SENTENCE REDUCTION DAYS FOR CIRCUIT AND GUN COURTS**

The Supreme Court as part of the Criminal Case Management Programme is introducing an initiative tagged “Sentence Reduction Days.” The initiative is aimed at providing opportunities for accused persons who are guilty and wish to plead guilty on specific days where significant discounts in sentences would be granted.

It will also assist in reducing the significant inventory of cases before the Circuit Courts.

The first such Day is scheduled for May 22, 2017 and applies to all accused persons, in custody or on bail, who have their cases before the Home Circuit Courts and the Corporate Area Gun Courts.

An accused person, who wishes to avail himself/herself of this measure, must notify the Home Circuit Criminal Registry or the Gun Court Registry in writing on or before May 15, 2017 to benefit from this initiative.

All accused persons entering a guilty plea on this date, will be treated as if, they had pleaded guilty on the first relevant date they were brought before the Courts.

The Legal Aid Council will provide representation for any accused person who does not have an attorney at law previously assigned to represent them.

“Sentence Reduction Days” allows accused persons who have pleaded guilty to benefit from the sentencing policy set out in Part 1A of the Criminal Justice (Administration) Act. The initiative will be adapted for implementation in other Circuit Courts and the Western Regional Gun Court.

Criminal Case Management is a broad term describing a judge-driven process to ensure that pre-trial issues are dealt with effectively, thus resulting in expeditious and fair trials.

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