THE JUDICIARY NOTES THE PASSING OF JUSTICE CARLTON BEST

It is with great sadness that the Judiciary records the death of retired Judge of the High Court, Mr. Justice Carlton Best. The Honourable the Chief Justice extends regrets and condolences to his family on behalf of the Judiciary which the judge served in varying capacities for some 33 years. He retired in 2010.

The Chief Justice said that Justice Best’s relationship with the Judiciary was quite unique, since he was one of those very rare professionals who spent all of his working life in its service. The Chief Justice described him upon his retirement, as a model of judicial temperament and dedication who had more than earned his break. The Chief Justice said he was made even sadder that Justice Best’s rest a mere four years, was not as prolonged as everyone wished it to be.

“When Justice Best left the Bench in 2010, he had completed 19 years as a Judge of the Supreme Court and was the most senior among our complement of High Court Judges,” the Chief Justice noted. “Having come through the court system, starting almost immediately upon being admitted to the bar in 1976, he had the unique experience of witnessing firsthand the evolution of the institution, not without his own involvement and contribution in shaping some of the processes that continue to be applied today as we seek to become more high performing and professional in our service to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.”

Justice Best made his contribution to the Judiciary as Administrative Secretary to the Chief Justice, Assistant Registrar, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Master of the High Court, and ultimately as a Puisne Judge. He came to the Judiciary after he graduated with the second ever graduating classes of both the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies and the Hugh Wooding Law School where he later tutored for two years.
Before joining the Judiciary he was a volunteer in the Trinidad and Tobago Voluntary Defence Force. He continued to serve subsequent to his ascension to the Bench, attaining an honorary red beret in tribute to his service when the VDF was re-branded as the TT Defence Force Reserves.

The Judiciary and the legal fraternity have lost a distinguished brother who will be remembered for his humility and his dedication to our jurisprudence. It is our prayer that he will be granted eternal rest.

For further information, kindly contact:
Cassie Ann James
Senior Court Communication Officer
Telephone: (Mobile) 701 6282 (Office) 627 9744
E-mail: cannjames@ttlawcourts.org