

***SPEECH DELIVERED BY HON. Y.K.J. YEUNG SIK YUEN,  
CHIEF JUSTICE, G.O.S.K.  
AT THE CEREMONY OF HANDING OVER LETTERS PATENT TO  
NEWLY APPOINTED SENIOR ATTORNEYS  
SUPREME COURT, COURT NO. 1,  
WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2010 – 14.00 HOURS***

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of my brothers and sisters of the Bench let me extend a very warm welcome to all of you at this ceremony for the conferment of the distinguished title of Senior Attorney to the 12 new recipients. Congratulations to Messrs Huet de Froberville, Toolsee, Dwarka, Salehmohamed, Moollan, Atchia, Appa Jala, Mrs Lagesse, Messrs Seebaluck, Bucktowonsing, Mrs Maudarbocus Moolna, and Mr Koenig. It is the first time that we have so many new Senior Attorneys at the same ceremony. As I explained yesterday during the ceremony for the new Senior Counsel, that is because the last time such an event had taken place was in 2003, and again only 2 appointments then. In fact for the last fifteen years only two Senior Attorneys had been appointed, the exercise prior to 2003 having been undertaken in 1995 when Honourable Rajsoomer Lallah was the Chief Justice.

The intervening barren period could not have lasted longer and I have therefore tried to do some corrective justice in that regard also taking into account the present size of the profession.

Your accolade is hard earned and well deserved and this distinction is more to your credit since for the first time in the history of the Judiciary of Mauritius recommendations have been made to H.E the President of the Republic after the Chief Justice has had written consultations not only with all the Judges but also with all the practising Senior Attorneys. And this exercise was done on the basis of guidelines which were drawn up and communicated to all the persons consulted. I thank all Judges and SAs who made recommendations which in turn helped me make my own to H.E the President pursuant to section 9A of the Law Practitioners Act.

Although gender is not an issue in the selection of SAs I am pleased to salute the elevation of the first two ladies to that distinguished rank. Special congratulations therefore to Mrs Lagesse and Mrs Moolna.

In fact, it is fitting that we extend to all of you our sincere congratulations on your elevation to the rank of Senior Attorney.

I also wish to congratulate your families on the support they must surely have given you throughout your career.

Your appointment as Senior Attorneys cast a new role on you, that of role model for your profession with Ethics as main focus specially since you now have your own Code of Ethics pursuant to the Mauritius Law Society Act 2006. You will bear in mind that the honour and privileges bestowed upon you carry great responsibilities as leaders of your profession.

Exactly one week ago, the Mauritius Bar Association opened its permanent seat at Pope Hennessy Street I had the opportunity to congratulate the President, Sir Hamid Moollan QC for his **“tour de force”** in setting up the seat barely 5 months after he took office. This ceremony gives me the occasion to make a wish. That the Mauritius Law Society also has its own permanent seat which would be used as meeting place and a centre of learning and training for new attorneys with the active participation of Senior Attorneys.

Within the next 18 months new dramatic changes in the way in which you operate in your profession will be taking place. Mediation carried out by dedicated full-time Mediation Judges will soon be introduced.

A training course on Mediation is being organised for barristers and attorneys with the help of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple during the coming third term. In fact I must congratulate the Mauritius Law Society for having joined hands with its counterpart, the Law Society of England and Wales, to organise a two-day conference on the Development of Alternative Dispute Resolution in February last.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that my colleagues, the legal profession and the community at large have high expectations that you will play your role model as Senior Attorneys to the fullest. I am confident that you will rise to the challenges and will not disappoint them. With these remarks, I wish you, on behalf of the Bench, every happiness and success as Senior Attorneys.