

## **JUDICIAL TRAINING ON “HOW DO WE WRITE BETTER JUDGMENTS?” FOR SUPREME COURT JUDGES**

The Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (IJLS) in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Justice organised a residential retreat cum training for Supreme Court judges on “How do we write better judgments?” on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the Ravenala Attitude Hotel in Balaclava. Around 18 Supreme Court Judges attended this training, which is the brainchild of the new Chief Justice Hon. Eddy Balancy, who himself conducted and designed this training for his brother and sister judges.

The Judicial training was inaugurated by the Chief Justice in presence of the Attorney General – Hon. Maneesh Gobin and the Chairperson of IJLS – Mrs Ah Foon Chui Yew Cheong. Most of the judges of the Supreme Court of Mauritius including the Deputy Master and Registrar, Director and staff from IJLS and Secretaries to the Chief Justice were present for the Opening Ceremony on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

In her opening address, the Chairperson of the IJLS recalled the various objectives of the Institute under its statutory mandate, i.e, the IJLS Act 2011. She elaborated on the evolution of the IJLS, its courses and training dispensed, highlighting the training of judicial officers over the years. She further emphasized the international co-operation with other legal and judicial institutions abroad which has ensured that the best judicial standards are maintained within our system.

The Attorney General was to the point in his address. He clearly expressed that his presence was mainly to strengthen the “partnership” between the executive and the judiciary; and further to ensure that the most efficient legislative reforms are implemented. He further appreciated that the new Chief Justice has various innovative ideas which he wishes to look into very closely in order to assist in working towards a better and more efficient legal and judicial system.

The Honourable Chief Justice, in his address, forcefully expressed that by conducting this training for judges, his intention is to “Bury Caesar and not to Praise him”. He mentioned that the purpose of referring this training as a “retreat

cum training”, is due to the need to enter into a quiet and meditative mood and analyse how judges write their judgments. He specified that no amount of theory would suffice to enhance judgment writing but instead there is the need for judges to look inwards and seek out how to develop more efficient methodologies to achieve better judgment writing technique.

The Chief Justice himself delivered the keynote address to the judges, following which the judges broke away in smaller groups to engage fully into the various sessions designed by the Honourable Chief Justice to ensure that the aim of the training is achieved. The training cum retreat ran with much zeal and enthusiasm from all the judges who worked together and in smaller groups on their own judgments and more.

The training concluded on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019, after a fruitful deliberation on the main take-aways of the training and was a resounding success. The Honourable Chief Justice mentioned that this kind of training will also be beneficial to the magistrates of intermediate and district courts and should be organised in the future.