

**Transformation Priorities for the Ministry of Justice
For the Financial Year 2008/09**

- Case Backlog Reduction
- Establishment of Community Justice Tribunals
- Establishment of the Office of the Special Coroner
- Establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor
- Establishment of the Independent Investigative Body
- Strengthening the Independence of the Judiciary
- The Court Management Services
- Strengthening the Prosecutorial Services
- Automation in the Courts
- Equity, Fairness & Access to Justice
- Strengthening Human Resource Capacity of Ministry
- Physical Infrastructure Development
- Fiscal Discipline
- Implement Energy Conservation practices

1. CASE BACKLOG REDUCTION

- A multi-faceted approach to address Criminal Case Backlog in the Supreme Court.
- Establishment of backlog reduction courts
 - **Legislative amendments to allow for an increase in the number of judges and to allow for retired Judges to be re-engaged**
 - **Increase in the number of Prosecutors**
 - **Increase in support staff**
 - **Identify locations for Backlog Court – The Jamaica Conference Centre is being explored.**
- Facilitative processes:
 - **Increase the number of Judges and Masters**
 - **Bring into force Criminal Justice Administration (Plea Agreements and Negotiations Act)**
 - **Jury Reform – to widen the jury pool e.g. by using TRN, use of majority verdicts in non-capital murders**
 - **Legislative amendments required**
- Implementing ‘Settlement Week’ – Supreme Court. Advice is currently being sought from Legal Reform Department.
- Implementation of training modules in Restorative Justice – to be undertaken by the Justice Training Institute with expert consultancy support
- Diversion programmes to be implemented in the area of Child Justice
- Backlog Assessment Study to focus on Criminal matters
- Jury Reform Study to provide the policy basis for a submission to Cabinet

3. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL CORONER

- Islandwide jurisdiction to allow for speedy conduct of inquests surrounding deaths allegedly caused by agents of the state
- Legislation tabled before the Parliament.

4. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

- To tackle corruption in both the private & public sectors
- Legislation currently before the Legislation Committee

5. INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE BODY

- To investigate excesses and abuses by agents of the state
- Legislation tabled before the Parliament
- Activities & cost implications will be significantly reduced

6. AUTOMATION IN THE COURTS

- Increase case management training & efficiency through training in the use of case management software
- Focus will be the Supreme Court, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Pilot Court Site - May Pen Resident Magistrates' Court, Clarendon
- Develop standards for court processes
- Design template for technology
- Proposed acquisition of consultant – to assist with re-engineering of business processes, with the support of the Canadian Caribbean Co-operation Fund

7. STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY THE COURT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- To allow for judicial independence from executive arm
- The Human Resource, Finance and Accounts, Audit, Statistics & MIS functions are to be filled in on a phased basis
- Security of the tenure of Resident Magistrates

8. STRENGTHENING THE PROSECUTORIAL SERVICE

- Re-engineering and modernisation of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to ensure efficiencies
- Introduce Criminal Case Flow Management practices
- The vesting of Prosecutorial functions from the Clerk of Courts to the ODPP
- Introduce Criminal case flow management
- Establish ODPP website

9. EQUITY, FAIRNESS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- Legal Aid
 - Expand access to Legal Aid
 - Establish Legal Aid Mobile Clinic

- Review Legal Aid Counsel structure
- Revise Legal Aid fees
- Improved customer service in the court’s offices
- Victim Services
 - Implement Victim’s Charter
 - Expand victim services
 - Review structure of Victim Support Unit
 - Introduce hotline service
- Human Rights Education
 - Judiciary
 - Court and Ministry Staff

Other pieces of Priority Legislation

- Charter of Rights
- Whistleblower Legislation
- Sexual Offences Bill
- Legal Profession Act
- Amendments to Evidence Act
- Cyber Crime
- Child Pornography

10. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Completion of Balaclava & Cambridge Courts
- Furnishing of the Port Antonio Court
- Refurbishing of former Goodyear Factory to temporarily house the Morant Bay Court
- Construction of shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking
- Relocation of the Corporate Area Coroners & Traffic Courts and Family Court

11. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- Enhance human & physical resource capacity
 - Structural review
 - Develop policy framework for Justice Transformation agenda
 - Training for all categories of staff
 - Introduce Performance Management Appraisal System

12. FISCAL DISCIPLINE

- Manage expenditure of MOJ effectively
 - Timely payment of debts – Finance & Accounts
 - Juror arrears
 - Legal Aid fees
 - Judgment Debts
 - Statutory deductions

13. ENERGY CONSERVATION

* Target: 15% reduction in energy consumption by July 2008.

- Reduction in energy consumption at all locations

- Appointment of energy Conservation Officers
- Develop and implement Energy Conservation Plan
- Staff sensitized in Energy Conservation