

## **CABINET APPROVES PLANS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF APPEAL COURT JUDGES**

Cabinet has given its approval to a submission from the Justice Ministry to increase the number of Judges in the Court of Appeal to ten (10). The strategy is among several recommendations to help clear the huge backlog of cases which have swamped both the civil and criminal court systems for several years.

Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Senator the Hon. Dorothy C. Lightbourne, Q.C. says over the period 1991-2008 there has been a substantial increase in the volume of appeal cases.

“The seriousness, and complexity of the appeal matters, consumes a lot of judicial time and demand extensive research to facilitate detailed and precise writing of judgments,” the Justice Minister adds.

In keeping with Government’s manifesto pledge, an increase in the complement of Judges of Appeal to 10 will facilitate an additional panel of three (3) placing the Appeal Court in a better position to manage the workload.

The Jamaican Justice Sector Reform Task Force Report recommended that the complement of Court of Appeal Judges be increased from seven (7) to ten (10) or eleven (11).

Cabinet instructed that drafting instructions be given to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel for the necessary amendments to the law to give effect to the increase.