



Date: December 11, 2014
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Judiciary and Court Staff Gather to Honour Departing Security Officer

Judiciary and Court staff, headed by Chief Justice Anthony Smellie, gathered on Wednesday afternoon (10 December) for a farewell ceremony in honour of departing Court Security Officer Emelson Principe who had served at the Courts for four years. Returning to his native Philippines, Mr. Principe was departing in fulfilment of an immigration requirement.

Speaking on behalf of Judiciary and Court staff, the Chief Justice said that Mr. Principe was the “embodiment of service.” The departing officer was honoured for his dedication above and beyond the terms of his job, the Chief Justice said, noting that, as one staff had observed, they had never heard the word “no” from him.

Court Administrator Kevin McCormac said: “Emelson was the epitome of service; both as a security officer and as an acting court marshal he was efficient, dedicated and considerate – nothing was ever too much trouble for him and he consistently performed his duties to a standard over and above that which could reasonably have been expected. We will all miss him very much.”

As a coincidence, on the eve of his departure, just hours before the ceremony, Mr. Principe had jumped in to apprehend an offender who had tried to escape as he was being brought to appear in Court. Security Officer Principe had also been authorised to act as a court marshal for the last 18 months and has acted as and when required.

As a mark of respect for his dedication, staff from all levels of the court, judges and magistrates, joined in the widely attended ceremony.

The Chief Justice presented an engraved clock and a monetary gift to which many people had contributed.

Chief Justice Smellie said how sorry he was about Mr. Principe’s mandatory departure and that he hoped that he would return in a year’s time.

Mr. Principe served as part of the Court’s security detail provided by National Security Services Limited. In December 2013 he had also received an award for outstanding service to Judicial Administration.



Chief Justice Anthony Smellie making the presentation to Emelson Principe



Judiciary and Staff joining Emelson Principe at his presentation and farewell

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