MINISTRY PAPER NO. 10/2021

THE ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE GENERAL LEGAL COUNCIL FOR THE 2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The Honourable House is asked to note that Cabinet has approved the tabling of the Annual Report with Audited Financial Statements for the General Legal Council for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The GLC (hereafter referred to as the "Council") was established in 1972, in accordance with the Legal Profession Act. Its statutory function is concerned with the legal profession and in particular, the organization of legal education and upholding standards of professional conduct. By virtue of the Legal Education Act, the Council's function as the Legal Education Authority is vested in the Council of Legal Education, which is established by the Agreement Establishing the Council of Legal Education among several Commonwealth Caribbean Countries and Institutions.
- 2.2 The Council is authorised to make rules prescribing the standards of professional etiquette and professional conduct for Attorneys-at-Law and to direct that any specified breaches of such rules constitute misconduct in a professional respect.
- 2.3 The GLC is up to date with its Annual Reports for the previous years. The GLC's Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year 2018/2019 were noted by the Cabinet by way of **Decision No. 31/19** dated **September 30**, **2019**. The Annual Report for 2018/2019 was submitted for tabling to the Clerk of the Houses of Parliament.
- 2.4 For the Financial Year 2019/2020, the Council continued to pursue its mandate to regulate the legal profession in the public's interest and ensure continuous legal professional development through the committees of the Council.

3.0 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report covers the performance of the Council in the following major areas:

- Accreditation
- Advertising Regulation
- Information Technology
- Protection of Clients' Property
- Accounting Reports

- Finance and Accounting
- Maintenance and Enforcement of Discipline

4.0 ACCOUNTS OF THE GENERAL LEGAL COUNCIL

The total income of the Council amounted to One Hundred Thirteen Million, Six Hundred Sixty Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$113,660,479.00), which included Practising Certificate fees of \$70,772,808.00, CLPD of \$33,985, 208.00, Interest of \$1,102,712.00, Fines of \$6,153,241.00, as well as other sources of income which amounted to \$1,646,510.00. Expenditure amounted to Ninety-Four Million Ninety-Nine Thousand, One Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$94,099,186.00) resulting in a surplus of Nineteen Million, Five Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$19,561,293.00).

5.0 EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The emoluments of the Senior Executives of the Council are outlined at Appendix 1 of the Annual Report for the period under review. It should be noted that neither the Chairman nor other members of the Council are compensated.

6.0 AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Auditor, Vintoria Bernard, Chartered Accountant, concluded that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the General Legal Council as at March 31, 2020, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing

Delroy Chuck, QC, MP Minister of Justice January 29, 2021