

## **PREFACE**

The compilation of these rules, I can safely say, for all those who have been engaged in the exercise, was a labour of love: love for justice and its due and proper administration of justice. This is felicitously expressed in the overriding objective of the Rules as stated in Part 1: “..... to enable the court to deal with cases justly.” This is sought to be achieved by, for example –

- Ensuring that parties to litigation are, as far as is practicable, on an equal footing.
- Saving expense of litigation.
- Reducing delays and adjournments so that cases will be dealt with more speedily.
- Simplifying the language and procedures used in Court so that the ordinary litigant can more easily understand the process.
- By encouraging the parties to cooperate with each other in the resolution of their cases.
- By enabling the courts to be more proactive in managing cases.

The Rules themselves represent a major shift from the old Rules of the Supreme Court and are the result of a comparative analysis and compilation by an ad hoc Rules Committee which comprised all the judges of the Supreme Court and included some senior members of the Bar, namely Derek Courtenay S.C., Michael Young S.C., Rodwell Williams S.C., and Fred Lumor S.C.. This Committee was able to analyze, and compare the texts of similar Rules already extant in two sister jurisdictions in the region and then after much discussion, compiled the present Rules. I take this opportunity therefore, to register grateful thanks and appreciation to members of this Committee for their valuable contributions and in particular to the Solicitor General of Belize, Elson Kaseke, Esq., whose drafting skills proved invaluable in the exercise.

The new Rules, it is hoped, will make litigation in the Supreme Court more intelligible and expeditious to the litigants themselves, their attorneys and the Court! All this will undoubtedly aid in the due and proper administration of justice.

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