His Lordship The Chief Justice
Honourable Senior Puisne Judge
Honourable Puisne Judges
Ladies and gentlemen

I am deeply honoured to have been called upon to participate in the call to the Bar ceremony which is a privileged moment in the life of a new lawyer.

Hard work, perseverance and dedication have brought you here and you must take pride for this accomplishment. I should in the same breath acknowledge your families, friends, mentors and pupil masters who have assisted you to pave your way to the Supreme Court today.

This call to the Bar ceremony is full of significance. Standing before you on this auspicious occasion, my thoughts travel back to my own call to the Bar, years back. I can still remember the invaluable pieces of advice that were imparted to me by my seniors. I shall also urge you to embrace your career with professionalism, civility, ethical conduct and respect. By choosing a career in law, you have also chosen to reference your life by your service to the public and my message to you is to live up to this commitment with honour. You must recognize that to practise law is not a right but a privilege. It is a privilege, not to mention your reputation, that can be lost in a vanishing moment, should you fail to live up to the high professional standards imposed upon you by virtue of your entry into the community of lawyers.

As lawyers, you have a duty to ensure that the justice system is accessible to everyone regardless of one’s social or financial status. As Attorney General, public access to justice is one of my highest priorities; it continues to be the focus of my work.

Be responsible towards your clients and work hard to uphold justice and do not hesitate to seek the guidance of your “confreres” in the legal profession. You will find everywhere experienced colleagues at the bar who will be more willing to help you
through difficult problems. You only have to ask them and as time goes by, you too will become someone else's mentor. This is in the best tradition of our profession.

Whatever direction you embark upon in the legal profession, my sincere wish is that your career brings you immense satisfaction and let me remind you that I strongly believe that there is no more rewarding profession which exists than the one you join today.

In the name of all officers of the Attorney General’s Office and in my personal name I extend to all of you my warmest congratulations. I sincerely wish you a very successful career.

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