SPEECH OF HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL
CALL TO THE BAR CEREMONY
SUPREME COURT – 18th JANUARY 2013

His Lordship The Chief Justice
The Honourable Senior Puisne Judge
Your Ladyships, Your Lordships
Learned members of the legal profession
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am indeed very honoured to participate in today’s call ceremony. This is a very special and privileged moment in the life of any new lawyer. I would like to begin by heartily congratulating the 37 new callees and welcome them to a profession with a great history…. a profession which carries with it rights involving heavy obligations and empowering responsibilities.

We must also on this very special day pay tribute to the families of the new callees and show appreciation for all their support and love extended during the long and arduous years of study.

Your Lordships,

I will avail myself of this solemn occasion to convey some useful advice to the newly called barristers.

In the words of Lord Denning, a barrister, by virtue of his calling, I quote:


“owes an allegiance to a higher cause. It is the cause of justice and truth.”

Indeed, an independent and vibrant legal profession is one of the guarantees of a free and democratic society and is also essential for the maintenance of the rule of law and the proper functioning of the administration of justice.

And one of the fundamental responsibilities of Counsel is to maintain the highest professional standard of integrity and competence at all times. I must very strongly emphasise that a Barrister plays a pivotal role in our justice system which depends to a large extent on the confidence which the courts can repose on their professional conduct.

Our profession is a noble, learned and honourable one. One cannot go without saying that respect and success can only be earned through hard work and adherence to strong ethical and professional values. The new callees have chosen to join this profession and they should always aim to promote it to the best of their abilities. Our code of ethics which came into operation on 01st January 1998 should be their guide all through their career.

Also, recent amendments brought to the Law Practitioners Act, now makes it compulsory for all law practitioners to follow Continuous Professional Development programmes run by the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies. It is strongly believed that on-going professional development and education can only enhance our legal competence and we must commit ourselves to lifelong learning to develop and hone
our legal knowledge and skills in order to honour our obligations to the public and provide competent legal services without fear or favour.

I will end by quoting Albert Schweitzer (a German philosopher), I quote:

“Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.”

In the name of the Attorney General’s Office and in my personal name, I extend to all new callees my warmest congratulations and wish them a long and successful career.