

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....



Chambers
Director of Public Prosecutions,
P.O. Box 1031,
Georgetown,
Guyana

1st June, 2015

DPP CHAMBERS – APRIL 2015 CRIMINAL ASSIZES:

Gaol Delivery was done by Madam Justice Roxane George on Monday 1st June, 2015 bringing to an end the April 2015 Criminal Assizes which commenced on Tuesday 7th April, 2015 with Madam Justice Roxane George, Justice Navindra Singh and Justice Brassington Reynolds. A total of 230 cases were listed to be heard during the April Assizes.

Ten matters were disposed of during the Demerara April 2015 Criminal Assizes. Of these **ten** matters, **eight** were presented in the High Court of Demerara. **Two** matters were nolle prosequi in writing by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Of these **eight** matters that were presented, there were **two** guilty verdicts, **two** not guilty verdicts, **two** guilty pleas and **one** hung jury. One of these eight matters is currently in progress.

Justice Navindra Singh completed **two** matters for the offence of Murder. In one matter the accused was acquitted after the Trial Judge upheld a no case submission and in the other matter, the jury returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty for the accused.

Three matters for the offence of Murder were presented before Madam Justice Roxane George. In one of these matters the accused pleaded guilty and was sentenced to forty years imprisonment. In the other trial, the jury returned a unanimous guilty verdict and the accused was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment. The third trial in which three accused persons are indicted is in progress.

Justice Brassington Reynolds disposed of **two** matters for the offence of Murder. The jury in the first matter failed to reach a verdict and the trial judge ordered a retrial for the accused. In the other matter, the accused pleaded guilty to the lesser count of Manslaughter and was sentenced to thirteen years imprisonment.

Meanwhile, Justice James Bovell-Drakes who first sat during the January 2015 Criminal Assizes, continued into this Session and completed the one matter for the offence of Murder. The accused in this matter was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment after the jury returned a guilty verdict for the lesser count of Manslaughter.

Two matters were nolle prosequi by the DPP. Of these two matters, one matter was for the offence of Carnal Knowledge of a Girl Under 15 years and the other matter for the offence of Murder. In the matter for the offence of Carnal Knowledge the virtual complainant (VC) indicated by writing that she no longer wished to proceed with the matter.

In the other matter for the offence of Murder the accused could not instruct his defence counsel for the purpose of his trial and several witnesses were unable to testify.

At the same time the Berbice February 2015 Criminal Assizes was in progress with Justice Brassington Reynolds who first sat and then Justice Franklin Holder continued the Assizes which commenced on Tuesday 3rd February, 2015. Sixty-one cases have been listed to be heard during this Assizes which continues until 15th June, 2015. Of these sixty-one cases, seventeen of them received attention during the past four months, February to May.

Of these seventeen matters, nine were disposed of by Justice Reynolds when he sat. Three matters were presented before Justice Holder. Five matters were nolle prosequi by the DPP.

The three matters presented before Justice Franklin Holder were for the offences of Murder, Rape of A Child Family Member and Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent. In two of these trials the accused persons were acquitted after the trial judge up held a no case submission in each trial and directed the jury to return formal verdicts of not guilty.

In the one matter for the offence of Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent the accused pleaded guilty to the offence and will return to Court on Thursday 11th June, 2015 for sentencing by Justice Holder.

Meanwhile, the Essequibo May 2015 Criminal Assizes commenced on Tuesday 19th May, 2015 before Justice James Bovell-Drakes. One matter for the offence of Rape of a Child under Fifteen Years is in progress. This Assizes will continue until October 2015.

The Demerara June 2015 Criminal Assizes will commence on Tuesday 2nd June, 2015 with 231 cases listed to be heard while the Berbice June Criminal Assizes will start on Tuesday 16th June with 51 matters listed to be heard. The Essequibo May 2015 Criminal Assizes commenced on Tuesday 19th May, 2015 before Justice James Bovell-Drakes with 20 cases listed to be heard.