

## **SPEAKING NOTES**

**HON. R. DANNY WILLIAMS**

**CHAIRMAN – JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION (JADCO)**

**JADCO SYMPOSIUM**

**JANUARY 29, 2015**

**THE JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE, KINGSTON, JAMAICA**

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER NATALIE NEITA HEADLEY, MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPORT, MS. SONIA MITCHELL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY (WADA) AND THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ETHICS IN SPORT (CCES), OTHER SPECIALLY INVITED GUESTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF JADCO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD MORNING.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO JADCO'S SYMPOSIUM WHICH IS BEING HELD UNDER THE THEME: "*EXPLORING THE NEW AND IMPROVED WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE*". AS WE ALL KNOW BY NOW, THE REVISED WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY BROUGHT WITH IT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. SOME OF THESE INCLUDE:

- THE ADDITION OF NEW ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS

- STRICTER SANCTIONS FOR OFFENDERS, INCLUDING ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND OTHERS WHO FACILITATE OR COVER UP WRONGDOING
- GREATER FOCUS ON INVESTIGATION AND INTELLIGENCE TO UNCOVER DOPING VIOLATIONS
- AND INCREASED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS.

AS A RESULT OF THIS, WE HAD TO STRENGTHEN THE RULES GOVERNING OUR ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME IN JAMAICA, TO ENSURE WE ARE COMPLIANT WITH THE CODE. SO THE ANTI-DOPING IN SPORT ACT, 2014 AND THE 2015 ANTI-DOPING RULES HAVE NOW REPLACED THE 2008 VERSIONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE CANNOT DENY THAT THESE CHANGES FORCE US TO BE MORE VIGILANT AND WILL REQUIRE US TO BE STRATEGIC IN OUR APPROACH TO ENSURE WE FOLLOW THE RULES.

THEREFORE, IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT SETTING AND REVISING THE FRAMEWORK FOR GOVERNANCE. IT IS ALSO ABOUT HAVING DIALOGUE WITH YOU, OUR STAKEHOLDERS, WHO ARE THE ONES WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THEM. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT WE NOT ONLY UNDERSTAND THE CHANGES, BUT ALSO THEIR IMPLICATIONS AND FIND

WAYS OF WORKING TOGETHER TO STAY ON THE RIGHT PATH. THIS IS OUR PURPOSE HERE TODAY AND I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR MAKING THE EFFORT TO BE HERE.

WHILE OUR ATHLETES ARE THE ONES DIRECTLY ON THE FRONT LINE, THEY RELY ON US FOR GUIDANCE. AS COACHES, SPORT ADMINISTRATORS, MEMBERS OF SPORTING FEDERATIONS, MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO STAND UP AS A STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THEM.

I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY THAT OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS ARE WITH US TODAY, SO THEY CAN BE PART OF THE DIALOGUE ON THE GROUND. WE KNOW THE FIGHT AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT IS A PARTNERSHIP AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO CREATE A DOPE FREE SPORTING ENVIRONMENT.

I HOPE THE SESSIONS TODAY WILL BE VERY PRODUCTIVE AND THAT WE WILL ALL LEAVE WITH A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO DO ALL WE CAN TO PROTECT JAMAICA'S SPORTING PROGRAMME.

THANK YOU.