

**OPENING REMARKS**

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**JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING SYMPOSIUM**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016**

**JAMAICA CONFERENCE CENTRE, KINGSTON**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD MORNING.

I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY. WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOU TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES TO ARM YOURSELVES WITH THIS IMPORTANT ANTI-DOPING INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT IT IS AN OLYMPIC YEAR AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

A FEW ANTI-DOPING ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN DECLARED NON-COMPLIANT AND ATHLETES, ADMINISTRATORS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED. NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE AS WELL AS THE JADCO RULES AND THAT WE ARE ABIDING BY THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SET OUT BY THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY (WADA). CODE COMPLIANCE IS KEY.

IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT THE JADCO TEAM FEELS IT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO HAVE OPEN DIALOGUE WITH YOU, OUR IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS. THE TRUTH IS, WHILE OUR ATHLETES MAY BE CONSIDERED OUR PRIMARY TARGET AUDIENCE, WE HAVE TO ENSURE

THAT SUPPORT PERSONNEL ARE JUST AS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ANTI-DOPING IF WE ARE TO KEEP ON TOP OF OUR GAME HERE IN JAMAICA.

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE ONES ON THE FRONTLINE. THEREFORE, YOU ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE DAY TO DAY CHOICES ATHLETES MAKE AND YOU TOO CAN BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IF YOU ASSIST OR HELP TO COVER UP ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY ATHLETES. WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF SPORT.

THE 2015 WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE TOOK EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 LAST YEAR, AND ON TOP OF UPDATING THE JADCO RULES AND THE ANTI-DOPING IN SPORT ACT TO CORRESPOND WITH THE NEW CODE, THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW NOTEWORTHY CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JAMAICA'S ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME.

THE NEW CODE CALLED FOR MORE ROBUST TEST DISTRIBUTION PLANNING AND SMARTER TESTING AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES. IN JUNE, WE INSTITUTED BLOOD SAMPLE COLLECTION AS PART OF OUR DOPING CONTROL PROCESS, WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO DETECT A WIDER RANGE OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND METHODS. WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE INRS-INSTITUTE ARMAND-FRAPPIER IN CANADA TO DEVELOP OUR ATHLETE BIOLOGICAL PASSPORT MODULE.

ANTI-DOPING ORGANISATIONS WERE ALSO MANDATED TO BROADEN THEIR INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY BASIC INFORMATION ON ANTI-DOPING, BUT TO INCORPORATE VALUES-BASED EDUCATION. DURING OUR JUNIOR ATHLETES ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION WORKSHOPS IN OCTOBER, WE ADDED A NEW COMPONENT FOCUSED ON VALUES-BASED EDUCATION TO OUR

STANDARD PRESENTATION. PARTICIPANTS WERE ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT ETHICS, THE SPIRIT OF SPORT VALUES AND ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT INFLUENCING THEM TO CONSIDER MORALS AND VALUES WHEN MAKING DECISIONS THROUGHOUT THEIR SPORTING CAREER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS WE ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE 2015 WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE A DETAILED LOOK AT THE ARTICLES OF THE CODE, REFLECT ON HOW YOU CAN PLAY YOUR PART TO HELP THE ANTI-DOPING EFFORT AND FIND WAYS TO FURTHER IMPROVE YOUR APPROACH.

AS ALWAYS, THE JADCO TEAM IS HERE TO SERVE YOU AND STANDS READY TO PARTNER WITH YOU TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OUR CLEAN ATHLETES AND JAMAICA'S RICH SPORTING HISTORY.

MAY WE HAVE A FRUITFUL SESSION.

THANK YOU.