

SPEAKING NOTES

HON. R. DANNY WILLIAMS, OJ

CHAIRMAN, JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION

JADCO MEDIA BRIEFING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014, 10:00 A.M.

PRESS ROOM, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPORT, NATALIE NEITA-HEADLEY,
MS. ONIKA MILLER, PERMANENT SECRETARY,
GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF OF INTERACTIVE TOUCAN JAMAICA LIMITED,
COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF OF THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION,
SPECIALLY INVITED GUESTS,
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,
GOOD MORNING.....

I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO SHARE IN THIS MEDIA BRIEFING, WHERE THE TEAM FROM THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION (JADCO) WILL COMMUNICATE SOME OF THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THIS BOARD TOOK OFFICE IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. IT HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING PERIOD, BUT WE HAVE BEEN GUIDED ALL THE WHILE BY JADCO'S MISSION AND VISION. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT.

AS ONE OF FOUR INDEPENDENT BODIES ESTABLISHED BY THE ANTI-DOPING IN SPORT ACT OF 2008, JADCO ALONG WITH THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING DISCIPLINARY PANEL (JADDP), THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING APPEALS TRIBUNAL (JADAT) AND THE JADCO THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION COMMITTEE (TUEC), WORKS TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNTRY'S ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME MEETS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.



I STATED EARLIER IN THE YEAR AND I MUST SAY IT AGAIN. HERE AT JADCO WE ARE FRIENDS OF THE ATHLETES. WE EXIST ONLY TO MAKE THEIR LIVES EASIER. WE EXIST TO VERIFY THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE IS CREDIBLE AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ALL THE INFORMATION THAT THEY NEED TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING ANTI-DOPING. WE ARE HERE FOR THEM AND WE WERE CREATED TO SERVE THEM.

IN FACT, THE TEAM AT JADCO HAS A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY TO EXHAUST EVERY MEANS NECESSARY TO REINFORCE TO OUR ATHLETES THAT THEY DON'T NEED DOPE TO COPE. WE HAVE TO REMIND THEM ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FAIR COMPETITION AND EDUCATE THEM, AS WELL AS THEIR SUPPORT PERSONNEL, ON WAYS THEY CAN SHOWCASE THEIR TALENT WITHOUT UNFAIR ADVANTAGE. JADCO ALSO PREPARES THEM FOR WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE TESTING PROCESS.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT DOPING CONTROL AND RESULTS MANAGEMENT IS CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. WE MUST REFER CASES OF ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATIONS TO THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING DISCIPLINARY PANEL.

THE DISCIPLINARY PANEL THEN HEARS ARGUMENTS FROM BOTH THE ATHLETE AND JADCO AND DETERMINES THE SANCTION, IF ANY IS TO BE IMPOSED.

I HAVE READ SEVERAL ARTICLES RECENTLY STATING THAT JADCO HAS SANCTIONED ATHLETES AND I WISH TO USE THIS MEDIUM TO POINT OUT THAT SANCTIONS ARE IMPOSED BY THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING DISCIPLINARY PANEL AND NOT JADCO.

I WANT TO EMPHASISE THAT THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING DISCIPLINARY PANEL, THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING APPEALS TRIBUNAL AND JADCO ARE ALL INDEPENDENT ENTITIES AND THE COMMISSION DOES NOT HAVE ANY LEGAL

AUTHORITY TO VARY ANY PENALTY IMPOSED BY THE DISCIPLINARY PANEL OR THE APPEALS TRIBUNAL.

THE ANTI-DOPING IN SPORT ACT OF 2008, STIPULATES THAT THE ROUTE OF APPEAL FOR ATHLETES WHO HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING DISCIPLINARY PANEL IS THROUGH THE JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING APPEALS TRIBUNAL FOR NATIONAL LEVEL ATHLETES AND THEN TO THE FINAL APPELLANT BODY WHICH IS THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS). IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT CASES INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL LEVEL ATHLETES CAN BE APPEALED DIRECTLY TO THE CAS.

THE FOURTH ENTITY, THE JADCO TUEC, HAS THE TASK OF GRANTING OR REVOKING THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES WHICH GIVE ATHLETES PERMISSION TO USE A SUBSTANCE OR METHOD INCLUDED ON THE WADA PROHIBITED LIST FOR LEGITIMATE MEDICAL PURPOSES. THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE APPOINTED BY JADCO'S COMMISSIONERS.

ALL FOUR BODIES HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S RESPONSE TO DOPING IN SPORT, BUT **OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF EACH OTHER.**

WE WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE MEDIA TO PARTNER WITH US AND TO PLAY A ROLE IN FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ATHLETES AND OUR COUNTRY. WE INVITE YOU TO ASSIST US IN SPREADING THE ANTI-DOPING MESSAGE TO ALL JAMAICANS, SO THEY WILL UNDERSTAND ALL THE PROCESSES INVOLVED.

SINCE THE NEW COMMISSIONERS CAME ON BOARD IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, JADCO HAS BEEN WORKING ASSIDUOUSLY TO STRENGTHEN ITS OPERATIONS AND TO BUILD CAPACITY IN ORDER TO TAKE THE COUNTRY TO HIGHER HEIGHTS IN THE SPHERE OF ANTI-DOPING.

WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE HUMAN RESOURCE CAPABILITY OF THE COMMISSION THROUGH THE HIRING OF NEW STAFF TO HELP US CARRY OUT OUR DUTIES MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY. SINCE THE START OF THE

YEAR, WE HAVE ADDED A TOTAL OF FOUR STAFF MEMBERS IN OUR COMMUNICATION, ACCOUNTING AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENTS.

WE HAVE ALSO FORGED INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ETHICS IN SPORT (CCES) AND WITH THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY (WADA). THROUGH THESE PARTNERSHIPS, JADCO IS RECEIVING GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP US MEET THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE AND THE MANDATORY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT IN 2015.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ENSURE OUR TESTING PROCEDURES MEET INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO NOT ONLY CARRYING OUT MORE DOPING TESTS, BUT TO MATCHING OUR STANDARDS AGAINST WADA'S INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TESTING.

OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION STRATEGY CONTINUES TO BE IMPROVED AS WE MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE PRESENCE AT SPORTING EVENTS. WE ALSO CONDUCT WORKSHOPS WITH ATHLETES AND SUPPORT STAFF AND MEMBERS OF SPORTING FEDERATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SPORT IS BIG BUSINESS FOR JAMAICA AND AS SUCH THE CREDIBILITY OF THE COUNTRY'S SPORTING PROGRAMME IS VERY IMPORTANT. JADCO WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE ITS OPERATIONS TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS IT RELATES TO THE FIGHT AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT. WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BUILD BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS AS WE STRIVE TO EXECUTE OUR MISSION.

I WILL NOW HAND OVER TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO WILL PROVIDE MORE IN DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JADCO. HE WILL ALSO INFORM YOU OF ALL THE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE ON THE HORIZON.

THANK YOU.