**SPEAKING NOTES**

**MR. ALEXANDER WILLIAMS**

**CHAIRMAN – JAMAICA ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION**

**AWARDS CEREMONY FOR THE HANDING OVER OF SAMSUNG TABLETS**

**JANUARY 6, 2021**

**JADCO OFFICE, BALLATER MULTIPLEX, 1 BALLATER AVENUE**

HONOURABLE OLIVIA GRANGE, CD, MP, MINISTER OF CULTURE, GENDER, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT

MR. DENZIL THORPE, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GENDER, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS FROM THE MINISTRY

MS. JOAN DAVIS, PRINCIPAL, GUY’S HILL HIGH SCHOOL AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

MRS. KARLENE COLLINS-DAWKINS, PRINCIPAL, ENSOM CITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

MR. CONROY GRIFFITHS, PRINCIPAL, ELTHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

MASTER OF CEREMONIES, MRS. PAULA-ANNE PORTER JONES

JUNIOR ATHLETES AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

TEAM MEMBERS FROM JADCO AND ALL OUR PARTNER AGENCIES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN GOOD AFTERNOON AND THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF TODAY’S CEREMONY.

THE YEAR 2020 WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY ONE. AS A NATION WE HAVE HAD TO FACE MANY OBSTACLES INCLUDING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC. DESPITE THE NUMEROUS CHALLENGES WHICH WE HAVE FACED, I AM HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON. TODAY WE WILL HAND OVER 25 SAMSUNG TABLETS TO JUNIOR ATHLETES FROM GUY’S HILL HIGH SCHOOL, A SECONDARY SCHOOL WITHIN REGION ONE. REGION ONE INCLUDES SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM KINGSTON AND ST. ANDREW, ST. THOMAS AND ST. CATHERINE. WE WILL ALSO HAND OVER 35 SAMSUNG TABLETS TO ENSOM CITY AND ELTHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOLS. A TOTAL OF 95 SAMSUNG TABLETS WILL BE HANDED OVER TODAY.

IN ADDITION TO THE 95 TABLETS BEING DISSEMINATED TODAY, 75 TABLETS WILL BE PRESENTED TO SCHOOLS FROM THE REMAINING REGIONS, WHICH INCLUDES REGION TWO, WITH SCHOOLS FROM CLARENDON, MANCHESTER AND ST. ELIZABETH, REGION THREE WITH SCHOOLS FROM WESTMORELAND, HANOVER, ST. JAMES AND SECTIONS OF TRELAWNY AND REGION FOUR, WHICH INCLUDES SCHOOLS FROM ST. ANN, ST. MARY, PORTLAND AND SECTIONS OF TRELAWNY. THEREFORE, A TOTAL OF 170 TABLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

JADCO HAS BEEN HOSTING THE JUNIOR ATHLETES ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION WORKSHOPS FOR ATHLETES AND ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL ANNUALLY SINCE 2014. IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE WORKSHOPS WERE HELD FACE TO FACE IN FOUR REGIONS ACROSS THE ISLAND. HOWEVER, IN OUR QUEST TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THIS TARGET AUDIENCE WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ANTI-DOPING AND TO REMAIN RELEVANT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, WE HAD TO MAKE A TRANSITION TO HOST THIS WORKSHOP VIRTUALLY, TO HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS. I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR ATTEMPT WAS A SUCCESS AND OVER 300 JUNIOR ATHLETES AND THEIR SUPPORT PERSONNEL LOGGED ON FOR THE 2020 VIRTUAL SERIES OF THE WORKSHOPS AND ALL THESE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH JADCO BRANDED MEMORABILIA.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE CORONAVIRUS HAS HAD NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OUR ATTEMPT TO EDUCATE ATHLETES AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL. TO DATE WE HAVE EDUCATED OVER 150 ATHLETES AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL FROM 13 FEDERATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS VIA ZOOM. IN ADDITION, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, OUR SENIOR ATHLETES ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION WORKSHOP WAS HELD VIRTUALLY ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020. ON THAT OCCASION, WE SUCCESSFULLY EDUCATED 80 ATHLETES AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL. OUR JADCO SYMPOSIUM WHICH IS ALSO HELD ANNUALLY FOR ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021.

APART FROM THESE WORKSHOPS, JADCO CONTINUES TO UTILISE SEVERAL PLATFORMS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC. THESE INCLUDE THE JADCO WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, THE TRUE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER AND THE JADCO AND YOU TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMMES. COVID-19 SLOWED DOWN OUR PROGRESS DURING 2020, BUT IT DID NOT STOP IT. WITH THE COLLECTIVE EFFORT OF ALL THE FEDERATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, ATHLETES AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL, THE NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY AND I AM PROUD TO BE LEADING THE TEAM ACCOMPLISHING THESE GREAT STRIDES IN ANTI-DOPING.

OUR VISION IS TO BECOME THE PREMIER WORLD CLASS ANTI-DOPING ORGANISATION AND I BELIEVE WE ARE GETTING THERE. THIS IS ALSO EVIDENT IN OUR DOPING CONTROL PROGRAMME WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY TRANSFORMED TO PROTECT OUR ATHLETES, SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND STAFF DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. DESPITE THE CHALLENGES WE HAVE FACED, SINCE THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR, WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED 139 URINE TESTS AND 26 BLOOD TESTS.

THE NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING PROGRAMME WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND ON JANUARY 1 A NEW WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE CAME INTO EFFECT. PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, FOR THE 2021 VIRTUAL JADCO SYMPOSIUM TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THESE CHANGES. WE WILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

WHEN IT COMES TO ANTI-DOPING, COLLABORATION IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND I AM PLEASED TO STATE THAT WE HAVE COMMENCED DIALOGUE WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND INFORMATION TO INCLUDE ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION ON THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM. SO I AM DELIGHTED THAT TODAY WE ARE JOINING THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN THE EFFORT TO PROVIDE SAMSUNG TABLETS TO SCHOOLS.

EDUCATION IS ONE OF JADCO’S CORE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND AS A COMMISSION WE WORK ASSIDUOUSLY TO EDUCATE ATHLETES, ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT MATTERS RELATING TO ANTI-DOPING IN SPORT. THE COMMISSION PRELOADED ANTI-DOPING INFORMATION TO THE DEVICES, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT IF ATHLETES ARE ARMED WITH THE REQUISITE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ANTI-DOPING FROM THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVELS THEY WILL BE WELL EQUIPPED TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS WHEN THEY BECOME SENIOR AND PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES.

THE TABLETS ARE EQUIPPED WITH A MEMORY CARD AS WELL AS A SIM CARD SLOT TO FACILITATE STORAGE EXPANSION AND CONNECTIVITY VIA DATA PLAN. THE JADCO WEBSITE HAS BEEN SET AS THE DEFAULT HOMEPAGE AND HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE TABLETS AS A SHORTCUT APPLICATION ON THE HOME SCREEN. THIS MAKES THE WEBSITE ACCESSIBLE BY THE CLICK OF THE ICON.

ADDITIONALLY, JADCO IS AWARE THAT NOT ALL STUDENTS READILY HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, SO A PDF VIEWER APPLICATION CALLED SIDEBOOKS HAS BEEN INSTALLED ON THE TABLETS. THE JADCO BROCHURES HAVE BEEN UPLOADED TO THIS APPLICATION AND CAN BE ACCESSED WITHOUT THE INTERNET. THE PDF VIEWER WILL GIVE JADCO THE ABILITY TO CONTINUOUSLY UPDATE THE INFORMATION ON THE TABLETS THROUGH CLOUD STORAGE AND ALL THAT IS REQUIRED OF STUDENT ATHLETES, IS TO DOWNLOAD THE UPDATED INFORMATION FROM THE CLOUD. THIS HAS CERTAINLY PLACED ANTI-DOPING INFORMATION AT THE FINGERTIPS OF ATHLETES.

EVERY CHILD DESERVES THE RIGHT TO A GOOD EDUCATION AND NO CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND DUE TO THE LACK OF RESOURCES. THEREFORE, WE ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THIS LEVEL OF SUPPORT TO HELP EASE THE BURDEN FOR SOME PARENTS AND SCHOOLS DURING THIS PANDEMIC.

TO THE SCHOOLS WHO WILL BE REWARDED TODAY, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE TABLETS AND FAMILIARISE YOURSELVES WITH THE INFORMATION ON ANTI-DOPING. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE JADCO WORKSHOPS WHETHER THEY ARE HELD VIRTUALLY OR FACE TO FACE. WITHOUT YOUR EFFORT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO KEEP SPORT CLEAN AND PROTECT BRAND JAMAICA.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR AND PLEASE REMAIN SAFE, CONTINUE TO PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING, WEAR YOUR MASKS AND SANITISE YOUR HANDS. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT AS WE CONTINUE TO TEST AND EDUCATE ATHLETES DURING 2021 AND BEYOND.

THANK YOU.