

INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Corporate Office

3rd to 6th Floors, Sagicor-Sigma Building, 63-67 Knutsford Boulevard

Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.

Tel: (876)-929-6460, (876)-929-8560, (876)-929-6466

Fax: (876)-929-7335

Website: www.integrity.gov.jm

Media Release

Integrity Commission Submits two (2) Investigation Reports to Parliament Inclusive of Unaltered Recalled Report; Highlights Misstatement made in Jamaica Observer Newspaper Editorial

July 5, 2023 – The Integrity Commission has today submitted two (2) Investigation Reports to Parliament.

One of the Reports is a resubmission of the original and unaltered copy of a Report that was first submitted to the Parliament on May 31, 2023, but which was subsequently recalled by the Commission by way of letters, dated June 8 and 9, 2023.

It is important to state that the Commission recalled its Report as it was aware at the time that the Report had not yet been tabled, and that it had recalled Reports in the past with the kind facility and courtesy of the Parliament.

Under cover of letter, dated June 12, 2023, the Hon. Speaker of the House was kind enough to return her copy of the recalled Report. However, in the same letter, the Commission was advised that the copy of the Report that was sent to the Hon. President of the Senate "is in his possession and so we are unable to return same."

The Commission has since noted that the recalled Report was tabled in the Senate on June 30, 2023, on the instructions of the Senate President.

The Commission wishes to place on record that, contrary to what was inferred by the Senate President in his comments made in the Senate on June 30, the Commission did not receive any communication from him to indicate that he was awaiting a legal justification for the recall of the Report, nor did the President, at any time, request such a justification from the Commission.

As regards its reason for recalling the Report, the Commission wishes to advise that, effective June 7, 2023, it implemented a new internal policy to require its Director of Investigation to communicate with persons who may be adversely affected by an Investigation Report, and to do so before the Report is tabled. The objective of the policy is to communicate the findings of Investigation Reports to the affected parties so that their comments may be recorded.

It was this new policy which prompted the Commission's recall of the captioned Report on June 8 and 9, 2023. The Report was not recalled because of any error or to add anything to it.

In the circumstances, the tabling of the Report by the Senate President on June 30, 2023, has now rendered the Commission's exercise academic, and in consequence of which the original and unaltered Report was returned today to the Hon. Speaker "for tabling" in the House of Representatives, in accordance with the clear provisions of Section 54(4) of the Integrity Commission Act.

It should be noted that the referenced policy of the Commission, that was instituted on June 7, 2023, has not and will not be applied by the Commission to matters that are being referred for prosecution. In such cases, persons who are negatively impacted, where appropriate, would be communicated with pursuant to the Judges' Rules Administrative Directive.

The Commission also wishes to advise that, at its regular monthly meeting that was convened on Monday, July 4, 2023, a decision was taken that, going forward, in the interest of transparency, the public will be notified once the Commission sends an Investigation Report to Parliament for tabling. This will be done via a formal Media Release.

Finally, the Commission wishes to draw attention to an inaccurate statement that was made in the Editorial of today's edition of the Jamaica Observer Newspaper. The statement reads as follows:

"Therefore, last week, after the Commission announced that it had sent six reports to Parliament to be tabled, then asked that one of the reports be returned – we assume on the basis that there was need for amendment – came across as a little messy and, unfortunately, could have fueled further distrust."

The facts concerning the "six reports" are as follows:

- (1) The Commission announced on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, that it had delivered six (6) Investigation Reports to Parliament for tabling.
- (2) All six (6) Reports were subsequently tabled in the Senate on Friday, June 30, 2023.
- (3) The six (6) Reports concern matters that are associated with five (5) medical doctors and the former Government Senator and Minister, Mr. Leslie Campbell.
- (4) Upon tabling, all six (6) Reports were immediately uploaded to and published on the Commission's official website, where they have since remained undisturbed.
- (5) In direct opposition to what the Editor of the Observer has unfortunately published today, the Commission has not asked for any of these six (6) Reports to be returned.

The Commission, therefore, anticipates that the Observer will correct its misstatement, which it has used to ground an unfounded assumption, and then to use same to cast aspersions against the Commission and its Officers.

END

Contact: The Communications Department, Integrity Commission

E-mail: communications@integrity.gov.jm

Tel: (876)929-6460/ (876) 929-8560/ (876)929-6466, Fax: (876)929-7335