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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summary Overview of Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) with Focus on Jamaica

January 30, 2024

1. Jamaica's position on Transparency International's (TI's) 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Country Rankings has remained unchanged for 2023. Jamaica continues to be ranked at #69 of 180 countries. TI's 2023 CPI Rankings were released today, January 30, 2024, at 1:01 a.m.
2. Jamaica's 2022 CPI score of out of 100, where 0 means 'Highly Corrupt', and 100 'Very Clean', has also remained unchanged for 2023. Jamaica's 2022/2023 CPI score of 44/100 continues to stand as its best score ever. It was previously attained in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021.
3. In the 22 years that TI has been ranking Jamaica, the country has averaged a CPI score of only 38 of 100. Prior to its 2017 CPI score of 44/100, Jamaica had never scored higher than 41 - its CPI score in 2015. Jamaica's lowest CPI score ever was 30, recorded in 2009.
4. Jamaica's CPI jump in TI's 2017 rankings came in the same year that Parliament passed a long-awaited anti-corruption law - the Integrity Commission Act. The Act merged the country's then three leading Anti-Corruption Commissions into a single entity - the Integrity Commission.
5. A CPI score of below 50 means a country has a serious corruption problem. Jamaica has been firmly planted in this category for 22 years. A poor CPI signals prevalent bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that do not respond to citizens' needs.
6. In referencing Jamaica in its 2023 CPI Report, TI says "collusion among the powerful, as well as the overwhelming dominance of the Executive over the Legislature, weakens the Parliament's oversight capacities, creating conditions ripe for abuse and corruption."
7. Instructively, TI then included a web link to The Jamaica Gleaner Newspaper Editorial of October 11, 2023, entitled "Oversight and the Speaker." For ease of reference, this is the link: <https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/commentary/20231011/editorial-oversight-and-speaker>.

8. Commenting further on Jamaica in its 2023 CPI Report, TI says: “Additionally, the Executive’s failure to close gaps in the governance framework weakens the pursuit of corruption cases involving organized crime, and fosters impunity of high-level corrupt elites.”
9. Nine English-speaking Caribbean countries were ranked by TI in 2023. Barbados, The Bahamas and St Vincent came out on top, with Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana at the bottom - the same order as they were in 2022 and 2021. Barbados’ Country Ranking improved from 29 in 2022 to 24 in 2023.
10. Barbados now has the distinction of being ranked the least corrupt of nine English-speaking Caribbean countries for four consecutive years - 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The nine Caribbean countries, their Country Rankings (out of 180), and their CPI Scores (out of 100), are shown below:
11. TI’s 2023 English-speaking Caribbean CPI Country Rankings: Country Rank (out of 180) and CPI (out of 100):

Barbados:	24		69
Bahamas:	30		64
St Vincent:	36		60
Dominica:	42		56
St Lucia:	45		55
Grenada:	49		53
Jamaica:	69		44
Trinidad & Tobago:	76		42
Guyana:	87		40
12. Topping TI’s 2023 CPI Country Rankings are Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg, in that order. The list is identical to last year’s except for Luxembourg’s placement.
13. Denmark, Finland and New Zealand, the top three performers, had CPI scores of 90, 87 and 85, respectively.
14. At the other end of the scale, in TI’s 2023 CPI Country Rankings, are Somalia, Venezuela, Syria, South Sudan, Yemen, North Korea, Nicaragua, Haiti, Equatorial Guinea, and Turkmenistan, in that order.
15. TI says its 2023 CPI shows corruption is thriving across the world: “Over two-thirds of countries score below 50 out of 100, which strongly indicates that they have serious corruption problems. The global average is stuck at only 43.”
16. TI added that “both authoritarian and democratic leaders are undermining justice. This is increasing impunity for corruption, and even encouraging it by eliminating consequences for criminals.”
17. Commenting on the 2023 CPI, TI’s Chairman, François Valérien, said “corruption will continue to thrive until justice systems can punish wrongdoing and keep governments in check. When justice is bought, or politically interfered with, it is the people that suffer.”

18. Turning to the Americas, TI says that “with two-thirds of the countries in the region having a score under 50 out of 100 on the CPI, the Americas shows considerable challenges in the fight against corruption.”
19. TI says “only two countries in the region, Guyana (2023 CPI: 40) and the Dominican Republic (2023 CPI: 35), have (appreciably) improved their CPI scores over the past decade. All others have either stagnated or significantly worsened their scores.”
20. Since its inception in 1995, the CPI, TI’s flagship research product, has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. The Index offers an annual snapshot of the relative degree of corruption by ranking 180 countries and territories.
21. TI’s 2023 CPI draws upon 13 independent sources to measure public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories. To examine TI’s 2023 CPI Rankings in detail, please click on this link: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

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