



Integrity in Question: Holness Administration Should Face Scrutiny Over Latest Integrity Commission Report

Kingston, Jamaica. December 13, 2024. The Parliamentary Opposition notes that, while the Government seeks to downplay the concerns raised by the Integrity Commission's investigation into the non-compliant Estatebridge Development Limited (Estatebridge) residential development at 2 Weycliffe Close in Beverly Hills, it is inescapable that the report highlights critical governance issues.

Also of particular concern are the following:

1. The Report highlights concerns previously raised by the Opposition in the relation to critical agencies, such as NEPA, NLA, NWC, HAJ and UDC which are part of the process of considering and monitoring approvals for real estate developments, are all within the Prime Minister's ministerial portfolio while he and his wife have each been personally involved as investors in the private business of real estate development.

This situation creates untenable possibilities for conflicts of interest. In the instant case, the Prime Minister's personal company, Imperium Investments Holding Limited, held shares in the developer, Estatebridge, at the time building approvals were applied for from the relevant regulatory bodies.

This unprecedented situation underscores the need for greater transparency and accountability at the highest level of government. The Prime Minister must divest himself of ministerial portfolio responsibility for all Government entities, departments, and agencies which have the potential to interface with his private investment companies and their business activities. The Opposition is also calling on the Prime Minister to enforce strict compliance with the Standards of Cabinet Conduct enshrined in Ministry Paper 19/2002, which governs the behaviour of members of Cabinet.

2. The Opposition also notes that, while the Prime Minister has claimed that he has no connection with the development company Estatebridge, that fact is that the development property in Beverly Hills was transferred to Estatebridge by the Prime Minister's off-shore company Admat Incorporated (Admat), "by way of gift" and for no consideration.

The Prime Minister needs to explain to the Jamaican People why Admat, having previously invested considerable resources (the source of which is unknown to the public) in the purchase of this development property, would have proceeded in 2021 to give away its asset to an allegedly unrelated company Estatebridge, if the Prime Minister really has no ownership interest in that company and in the development which has violated the conditions of its development permit.



3. The Opposition is also concerned that there appears to have been a deeply compromised approval and enforcement system at the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation (KSAMC) during the tenure of the previous administration. The investigations by the KSAMC should be allowed to proceed to their conclusion, as recommended by the Integrity Commission, free of political interference or pressure from the Government.

The Opposition remains steadfast in its commitment to good governance, transparency and accountability in the interest of all Jamaicans.

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