



Dawes Demands Transparency as MediTech Sidesteps Key Procurement Issues in Medical Drill Scandal

Kingston, Jamaica. May 22, 2025: Medical Technologies Limited's press release of May 21, 2025, has done little to address the substantive concerns raised at my press conference regarding the procurement of the neurosurgical drill for the Bustamante Children's Hospital. While the company has acknowledged the *existence* of a drill transaction, its response conspicuously sidesteps critical questions of transparency, legality, and fiscal responsibility issues that remain unresolved and demand urgent clarity for the Jamaican public.

1. Cost Discrepancy & Procurement Legitimacy

The company's rebuttal fails to justify the reported J\$31 million expenditure on a drill with an alleged global market value of J\$3 million. No evidence has been provided to reconcile this staggering disparity. If, as MediTech claims, their bid was "transparent," they must immediately disclose the *import entry records*, including the declared customs value, to confirm compliance with Jamaica's trade regulations. The absence of such documentation fuels suspicion of overpricing and misuse of public funds.

2. Import Process Irregularities

MediTech's explanation regarding the EM200 motor component's repair is irrelevant to the core issue: the importation and clearance of the EM800 drill. Crucially, *no IM6 forms*, mandatory for reimporting temporarily exported goods, have been produced. This omission suggests the drill was improperly declared upon re-entry, bypassing standard protocols. We demand answers to the following:

- Who cleared the EM800 drill through customs?
- What value was declared, and under which tariff code?
- Was Bustamante Hospital for Children's tax-exempt status exploited to facilitate clearance?
- Where is the warranty agreement for the new drill?

3. Corporate Governance & Conflicts of Interest

The press release entirely ignores the matter of Mr. Donovan Williams' public admission that he holds shares in trust for an undisclosed majority shareholder. This raises grave concerns:

- Who is this individual, and do they hold any public office or influence within SERHA?
- Could this relationship have improperly swayed the tender process?



4. Failure of Regulatory Oversight

The Ministry of Health, as the architect of Jamaica's healthcare procurement framework, bears ultimate responsibility for ensuring adherence to due process. Their lack of vigilance and failure to enforce accountability in this matter borders on systemic neglect. By allowing opaque transactions to proceed unchecked, the Ministry has undermined public trust and enabled an environment where irregularities such as the Medical Drill Scandal can thrive.

5. The Path Forward

The Jamaican people deserve more than carefully curated press statements. This is not a partisan issue; it is a matter of national integrity. I therefore call on:

- The Auditor General's Department to conduct an independent audit of the procurement process.
- The Customs Agency to release all import/export documentation related to MediTech's transactions.
- SERHA and the Ministry of Health to publicly confirm whether due diligence was exercised in awarding this contract.

MediTech's threat of legal action will not deter this pursuit of accountability. If the company has nothing to hide, it should welcome scrutiny. Until then, the cloud over this transaction and the J\$31 million of taxpayers' money at its centre remains unacceptably opaque.

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For more information, contact:

Dr Alfred Dawes
Opposition Spokesperson on Health and Wellness
PNP Media Unit - Tel: 876-408-3160