

PNP Condemns Governments Move to Oust Auditor General from Integrity Commission

Kingston, Jamaica. June 12, 2025: The People's National Party (PNP) unequivocally condemns the Government's latest move to oust the Auditor General as a Commissioner of the Integrity Commission. This decision represents yet another calculated step in a broader pattern of deliberate, strategic, and dangerous assaults by the Holness Administration on Jamaica's anti-corruption architecture.

The Auditor General has been a member of Jamaica's principal integrity oversight bodies since independence. The JLP's argument for the removal of the Auditor General from this critical role is spurious, as there is no constitutional or other impediment to having the Integrity Commission audited by an independent professional audit firms, a well-established practice utilized by various public sector bodies. The synergistic benefits of the Auditor General being a member of the integrity Commission in the fight against corruption outweigh the contrived arguments to the contrary, which is why it is specifically provided for in the Integrity Commission Act passed under this Administration.

President of the People's National Party and Leader of the Opposition Mark J. Golding, MP said - "This latest move must be seen in the context of a broader, deeply troubling pattern under the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) government. Leading members of the JLP continuously attack the Integrity Commission. Everald Warmington, MP has led a crusade of misinformation in an attempt to dismantle the Integrity Commission. Justice Minister Delroy Chuck provided misguided encouragement of parliamentarians not to submit statutory declarations of their spouses, a clear breach of their statutory duty under the Act. The Prime Minister himself has gone as far as to file a lawsuit to challenge the Integrity Commission Act itself and the very offence of illicit enrichment for which he is under investigation. Then there is the recent appointment of someone who is fundamentally compromised and unqualified to lead the Financial Investigations Division."

Mr Golding stated – "These are not isolated incidents. This is an unprecedented and dangerous trend that seeks to intimidate and discredit the very institutions tasked with promoting integrity in public life. They are deliberate and coordinated actions by a government that has shown increasing hostility to scrutiny and accountability. What we are witnessing is a step toward tyranny, as institutions designed to protect the people from the financial abuse of power are being stripped of their independence, weakened, and politicized."

Mr Golding further expressed that – "The PNP will not allow this to continue. If the Government carries through this latest move, the PNP, when in government, will restore the Auditor General as a Commissioner of the Integrity Commission. We will safeguard our anti-corruption institutions, ensuring that they remain independent, fully resourced, and above political interference. We will introduce long-overdue legislation for Unexplained Wealth Orders, another critical anti-corruption tool that this government has reneged on, and amend the Constitution to enable the impeachment of delinquent parliamentarians".

The Jamaican people deserve better than a government that is at war with good governance. The PNP calls on the private sector, the church, civil society, unions and all right-thinking Jamaicans to stand up and speak out against the systematic dismantling of our democratic safeguards. We must defend the institutions that protect our future.