



**Opposition Spokesperson on Labour and Sports, Wavell Hinds, Blasts Government for Failure to Invest in Cricket and Sports Development**

**Kingston, Jamaica. June 17, 2025:** Opposition Spokesperson on Labour and Sports, Mr. Wavell Hinds, is today calling out the Government for its continued neglect of cricket and the broader sporting sector in Jamaica, following the Prime Minister's recent visit to Sabina Park.

During the visit, the Prime Minister proclaimed that the Government has not neglected the sport, citing the installation of upgraded lighting at a cost of US\$450,000 (J\$70 million) from taxpayers' funds, and a scoreboard gifted by the Government of India. He also declared that Sabina Park is now ready to host international games.

The Opposition Spokesperson dismissed this fanfare as an inadequate attempt by the Government to cover up its massive failure in deciding not to bid for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup 2024. "It is nothing short of scandalous that the Government failed to submit a bid to host cricket matches despite the ICC extending the bid deadline to accommodate late bids in the case of Jamaica and despite negotiations with the Government of India for the scoreboard from as early as 2023", said Hinds.

Highlighting the return of cricket to the Olympics in 2028, as the second-largest sport in the world, with potential to earn millions for Jamaica, Mr Hinds said the government's lack of vision and flimsy excuses are unacceptable. While any investment in sports is welcomed, Hinds questioned the Government's motive for investing US \$450,000 in upgrades at this time, when just last year, the country was told it would cost US\$1.8 million to upgrade Sabina Park to meet international standards for hosting.

Jamaica missed out on a golden opportunity. Caribbean nations that bid are now reaping massive economic returns. Trinidad and Tobago saw a return of US\$69 million and Barbados as much as US\$426 million. Had Jamaica participated, thousands of Jamaicans including vendors, hotels, taxi operators and small businesses would have benefited enormously. "Instead, this Government has only offered political grandstanding and ribbon-cutting. The JLP has once again put politics before people, and short-term headlines before long-term development," said Hinds.



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He continued, "Cricket now delivers the highest financial returns for Jamaican athletes, more than any other sport. The US, our closest neighbour, is emerging as the new epicentre of global cricket investment. And still, this Government is asleep at the wheel".

Hinds also criticized the Government for claiming expert advice was the reason behind the decision not to bid. However, to date, the public has not been told who these experts were and the rationale behind their advice.

"This administration has failed cricket, failed sports, and failed our youth. Apart from photo ops, statues, and handshakes with athletes who succeed despite the lack of support, they have done little to advance the sporting sector. Jamaica deserves leadership with vision, not vanity."

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