

## **JAMAICANS UNITED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

PRESS STATEMENT TO ALL NEWS EDITORS 26. 8. 2010

It was back in May of this year that we called for “the country ... to formulate a new and credible government to guide the country's affairs through the immediate challenges that face us.”

Three months later and more revelations on the Manatt Phelps and Phillips imbroglio and we are convinced that the government should have done the right thing then and allowed the country to get on with the business of building a new approach to governance and prosperity.

The most recent revelations implicate not just Mr. Golding but the Attorney General and the Solicitor General as well, who have not been honest in their representations and clearly were integrally involved in the sordid affair from very early, and we fear there is much more to come.

In the final analysis not only should Mr. Golding resign but so should the Attorney General and the Solicitor General.

Contrary to the opinion from some quarters that the resignations should be followed by fresh elections we believe that that is not necessary, nor advisable at this time and instead recommend the following course of action:

1. The JLP needs to select from within its ranks a credible leader to take us through to the next election;
2. There should be an agreed date for the next general election which is constitutionally due around September of 2012. This would give us the time to clean up our political and administrative systems which must be done so that the country can begin to move forward on a credible, solid foundation
3. Over the next two years we should agree upon national rules and full disclosure of party financing and selection of candidates, developed and started by the EAC. which would lead all political parties to clean house and approach the next election with more acceptable rules of engagement;

4. The Government in particular and the Opposition have to use the time to focus on building the economy and repairing Jamaica's reputation in the international arena; as well as building new partnerships for investment and development

5. The next election must be approached on the basis of having a fixed term for elections every five years, an impeachment or recall mechanism in place for all elected and appointed officials of the state, term limits for political representatives not exceeding two five year terms at any one point in time.

6 The immediate enacting of legislation to assist the police in crime management such as the use of DNA evidence, the plea-bargaining mechanism and the long overdue reform and update of the justice system.

7 The passing of the charter of rights to guarantee more justice and freedoms for our citizens

8 The expansion of the powers of the OCG with a special prosecutorial court to deal with breaches of the law.

9 The implementation of the proposed social intervention plan particularly in Tivoli Gardens; Western, Central & Eastern Kingston, St. Catherine, Clarendon and Montego Bay, areas most susceptible to high crime activity. The plan to be developed and managed by the broadest coalition of civil society and relevant government and International donor agencies

Jamaica needs a new type of political leader and a new type of politics now to build a united front to achieve sustainable development. Our recommendations are by no means exhaustive or exclusive, in our view they are an inescapable, minimum set of requirements to build this new politics.