

June 6, 2015

Broadcasting Commission Free From Political Manipulation

I write in reference to the Gleaner Editorial published on Tuesday June 2, 2015, which contained a statement to the effect that the Minister of Information, Senator Sandra Falconer had overruled the Commission's Directive to local cable operators requiring the removal of 19 unlicensed channels. This did not occur. The Commission was not overruled. There is no provision in law that would support such an action.

A portfolio Minister may express a view on Broadcasting Commission action, provide policy direction, and accept or reject a recommendation from the Commission, but the Broadcasting Commission operates within a legal framework which insulates it from political interference.

As outlined in our news release issued on May 26, 2015, the Commission has extended the timeline for the implementation of the Directive, following consultations with and feedback from stakeholders including the Minister, cable operators, rights holders and subscribers. It is not unusual for the Commission to listen to and consider the concerns of its stakeholders.

The Commission has and continues to carry out its duties in an environment free of any form of political manipulation or interference. To suggest otherwise would be misleading and ignores our history as an independent regulator that has always enjoyed bipartisan support.

Cordel Green
Executive Director