

## **News Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

February 9, 2011

### **BROADCASTING COMMISSION RECEIVES COMMENDATION FROM HOUSE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

Both the President of the Senate, Prof. the Hon. Oswald Harding and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Delroy Chuck have congratulated the Broadcasting Commission on its consistent efforts to control and regulate inappropriate media content. The Parliamentary officials' comments came during a recent visit by a delegation led by Commission Chairman, Professor Hopeton Dunn.

Professor Dunn briefed the Parliamentarians on the work of the Commission and outlined the programme of legislative reform required to advance the development of the electronic media sector. Included in the proposed reforms recently submitted to government, are changes which will provide further protection to children who are victims of trauma and persons who are victims of or witnesses to crimes. Recommendations have also been made for the strengthening of the Commission's enforcement powers; in particular to enable stronger and more effective sanctions to be applied in instances of violation. This includes the introduction of financial

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sanctions. The criminalisation of Payola and the establishment of a Public Broadcasting Production Fund also form part of the Commission's submissions. Draft legislation on these matters is expected to be tabled in Parliament by the portfolio Minister shortly.

Both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House acknowledged that regular reports of the Commission have been submitted to Parliament and are available to Members.

The Commission was also represented by Commissioners Claude Robinson and Elaine Foster-Allen and Executive Director, Cordel Green. Also in attendance were the Clerk of the Houses, Heather Cooke and other Administrative Staff of the Houses of Parliament.

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