

**September 29, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Cable operators ordered to compensate subscribers for lost programming**

The Broadcasting Commission today directed Subscriber Television (STV) licensees, subject to terms of contract, to refund subscribers who have paid for HBO and Cinemax channels that have been discontinued.

The Commission has also directed that Cable operators provide subscribers with specified information about the reasons for removal of the channels, including the placement of notices on the relevant cable channel notice boards and in the affected channel slots that have been blacked-out.

All cable operators have now been advised to remove unlicensed HBO and Cinemax channels, based on complaints from programme rights holder HBO of the United States.

The version of these channels being transmitted in Jamaica is not legally available in the Caribbean. HBO has advised the Commission that it has developed an English language package specifically for the Caribbean region and is currently in negotiations with cable operators to make it available.

The Commission Chairman, Dr. Hopeton Dunn, says the regulatory body has been assured that the negotiations are proceeding actively and anticipates that the negotiating parties will conclude an early agreement that would eliminate or minimize the existing inconvenience being experienced by subscribers in Jamaica. In the mean time, however, the

subscribers whose contracts include payment for the affected channels should be compensated appropriately.

The Broadcasting Commission will keep the situation actively under monitoring to ensure that relevant subscribers are compensated and that there is an early return to acceptable norms of service delivery in the cable sector.

The Commission is also in consultation with the Consumer Affairs Commission on the matter.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cordel Green', is written across the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards and then continues with several smaller loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Cordel Green  
Executive Director

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