

May 22, 2009

STATEMENT BY THE BROADCASTING COMMISSION

The attention of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ) has been drawn to printed and online media reports of a list of local and international recordings which are being represented as music disallowed by the Commission in consequence of the recent directives.

The Commission wishes the public to know that it has not compiled or approved any list of songs or musical recordings, does not intend to do so and has never identified any specific recordings to be disallowed from airplay.

The Commission operates on an internationally accepted system of broadcast regulation in which licensees are provided with the approved current legislation, the regulations, codes and lawful directives. Licensees are then required to observe these provisions as a condition of their licences. These arrangements are in the interest of established broadcasting standards and in protection of children and the public interest.

It is the responsibility of Station Managers or their designated Programme Managers to determine which songs are appropriate and which ones are unsuitable for airplay and to ensure that as licensees they operate within the bounds of the laws and regulations.

Monitoring of the electronic media outlets is conducted on an on-going basis by members of the public, trained volunteers and the officers employed by the Commission to help safeguard against infringements. Media Houses and their managements have also been on heightened vigilance against breaches, often now acting on their own initiatives to detect and offer remedies for perceived breaches. These initiatives are taken into account if and when licensees become subject to regulatory sanctions after being notified of breaches and asked to provide their explanations. This situation will not change.

It would appear that the list of recordings in circulation is associated with a demand for the Broadcasting Commission to revise and or clarify the recent series of regulatory directives issued in February 2009.

The Commission has no intention of changing or retracting any aspect of the existing directives and applicable regulations. However, the BCJ will continue its on-going programme of meeting with licensees and interested stakeholders to clarify the regulations and directives, where necessary. Accordingly a new schedule of meetings and consultations with licensees and stakeholder groups will shortly be announced. In the meantime, **we will also continue to take whatever steps necessary to correct any misguided suggestions that the Commission has approved or generated any list of disallowed musical recordings further to the regulatory directives.**

We ask for the continued vigilance by members of the public and by our teams of volunteer monitors island wide to prevent, under any pretext, the erosion of the significant gains achieved in the quality of musical content now available to the public on the broadcasting airwaves nationally.

Complaints related to alleged breaches on radio, television and cable may be sent, as usual to info@broadcom.org or 1-888-99-CABLE (22253).

SIGNED: BROADCASTING COMMISSION