



Hon. Fayval Williams, MP
Minister of State
Ministry of Finance and the Public Service

**DIVESTMENT OF THE OPERATIONS OF CAYMANAS TRACK LIMITED TO
SUPREME VENTURES LIMITED
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

Today's Signing Ceremony marks a significant turning point in public sector transformation and is indicative of the direction that the Government of Jamaica will be taking as it relates to streamlining public bodies and improving corporate governance.

Today is for the media, I know, a moment that they long awaited; I can only anticipate the questions that may be raised during the Question and Answer section. I know for sure that Mrs. Cheryl James and her team are happy that we are now at this juncture.

I want us look at the significance of this event. Today, I was reminded by the Finance Minister that public bodies can play a greater role in growing the economy. One way is to have the procurement process to be more effective and efficient so that when funds are budgeted and earmarked for projects, we do not at the end of financial year unspent because some public bodies have failed in their mandate to deliver.

Minister Shaw, as the Minister within whose portfolio Public Bodies falls, I can commit to you that this time next financial year, our public bodies performance with respect to failure, stalled or multiple delays in the process; the performance achievement of projects will not be 29% of the budget allocated.

So I welcome this divestment of the Caymanas Track Limited and applaud Supreme Ventures Limited for engaging in this development partnership which will result in greater efficiencies, improved operations and will lead to a greater contribution to the coffers of the Government.

We must also note the process to getting here today has been one that is transparent and open; there has been no 'cloak and dagger' approach to this divestment. During the transaction technical consultants, Ernst and Young Services Limited, and legal consultants Dunn Cox which provided support to the DBJ, the Enterprise Team were contracted by the Government of Jamaica so that we could explore all possibilities that would lead us to this very point of Signing today.

The CTL privatisation opportunity was advertised locally and internationally and on the completion of the evaluation consistent with our procurement guidelines Supreme Ventures Limited emerged as the Preferred Bidder, and we must publicly recognise the work of the negotiating team in the process.

The government intends to execute its affairs; which are the affairs of the people, in a spirit of openness and transparency. And it is clear that this process that was followed remained true to that.

I want to say something on the benefits that the divestment will bring; the Minister of Finance mentioned them. This divestment will allow for a positive annual cash flow of approximately \$42M, (which Minister Shaw mentioned) to the operations of the Jamaica Racing Commission. **And this \$42 million *approximately and it could be more*** will be used towards improved regulation and importantly towards developmental projects. This therefore means that as a result

of this divestment our economy will benefit from an increase in jobs which will be associated with the expansion of developmental projects.

The divestment will also bring benefits to the Betting Gaming and Lotteries Commission (BGLC) as a result of an increase inflow of licensing fees. The Government of Jamaica, which means the people of Jamaica will benefit from this divestment as an increase in revenues means that the government can do more under our social programmes, including bolstering the support for the most vulnerable in our society.

As I close my brief remarks...I want say finally that under my watch...public bodies will be streamlined, and I will work closely with the team within the Public Enterprises Division to improve corporate governance and regulation; we may find ourselves making some hard decision...but I can assure you that everything that will be done that will redound to the greater good of the Jamaican people.

We recognize the importance of the racing industry in Jamaica and its potential to provide significant employment and investments in the economy. And as such the Government remains committed to the continued sustainable operation and expansion of racing in Jamaica and it is expected that Supreme Ventures Limited will use its expertise in the gaming industry, as well as its substantial capital investment to transform the horseracing facility into a world-class entertainment complex, and in so doing improve the inflows to coffers of the government and continue to play its part in the partnership for growth that we all crave as a people.

Thank you!

