



PRESS RELEASE

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Attention: All News Editors

Health Ministry condemns reported racist remarks by contractor

KINGSTON, Jamaica. Monday, March 25, 2024. The Ministry of Health & Wellness (MOHW) joins with the diaspora in condemning recently reported racist, sexist and violent remarks about Jamaican and UK Member of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Ms. Diane Abbott, made by head of The Phoenix Partnership (TPP), Mr. Frank Hester.

In February 2023, TPP was contracted to implement Jamaica's Electronic Health Records (EHR). This contract with the Government of Jamaica was undertaken after TPP's selection as the most suitable firm, following the due process of an international procurement transaction involving the IDB. Subsequent to the award of this contract, the MOHW learnt of this incident.

Following consultation with the IDB, co-financier of the contract, and the Attorney General's Chambers, the MOHW continues its monitoring of developments in this matter, which is now the subject of a police investigation.

The MOHW takes this matter very seriously and calls for appropriate action to be taken within the firm to hold Mr. Hester accountable based on the findings from the investigations.

The MOHW condemns any form of discriminatory behaviour, including racism and sexism. The MOHW remains committed to promoting a culture of respect, equality, and understanding within the MOHW and throughout our business relationships.

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