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MEDIA STATEMENT
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Statement from the Spokesperson for Information Regarding Recent Remarks Made by Minister of State Juliet Cuthbert

Kingston, Jamaica. May 17, 2024: It is with profound disappointment that we address the recent comments made by Minister of State, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert, on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. The utterances made by Minister Cuthbert not only sharply diverge from the values embedded in our national motto, "Out of Many, One People," but also fail to meet the standard of decorum and respect expected of our nation's leaders, especially considering her role overseeing citizenship matters in the Ministry of National Security.

In remarks targeting the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Mark Golding, Minister Cuthbert claimed a superior right to Jamaican land based on her skin colour and referred to Mr. Golding derogatorily as "Massa Mark." Such statements promote division rather than unity and are particularly inappropriate given Mr. Golding's heritage as a Jamaican born to a Jamaican mother and an English father, who has dedicated his career to politics, law, and advocacy for the disabled community—a true embodiment of the ethos of 'Out of Many, One People.'

Nekeisha Burchell said, "It is inconceivable that Minister Cuthbert, tasked with promoting national security, societal harmony and respect and protection of all citizens, would engage in spreading hate and bigotry towards a compatriot who has significantly contributed to our nation. Such conduct is unbecoming of a leader, and it is imperative that she retracts her statements immediately."

Ms. Burchell further remarked, "Known for her profanity-laced and bitter rhetoric, it is high time for Minister Cuthbert to elevate her discourse to a level that genuinely reflects the dignity and spirit of our Jamaican ethos, rather than personal animosities."

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We call on Minister Cuthbert to demonstrate her capacity to engage in debates that focus on arguments and issues rather than on personal attacks. This is an example she must set, not only for the children of Jamaica who are watching and learning from their leaders but also for all citizens who expect and deserve a higher standard of discourse.

We are therefore calling on civil society, the Prime Minister, and all Jamaicans to join us in condemning these divisive and inappropriate remarks. We further urge Minister Cuthbert to issue a full retraction and a sincere apology to Mr. Golding and to the nation. This is an opportunity for her to show true leadership by promoting unity and respect among our people.

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