



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **Statement By The President of The People's National Party**

**Kingston, Jamaica, September 4, 2024** – The People's National Party (PNP) notes the announcement this morning by the Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, MP, for a by-election in the Constituency of North East St. Ann with Nomination Day on September 11 and election day, September 30.

It is striking and unprecedented that this by-election was announced less than 24 hours after the resignation of the Member of Parliament. It is also of some importance to note that the first notification to the Jamaican people about the resignation of a cabinet Minister and Senator, Mr. Matthew Samuda, is within the context of announcing a by-election.

The Prime Minister has clearly orchestrated the holding of this by-election which is a slap in the face of the electors of Southern Trelawny, who have had no parliamentary representative for a full year, a quarter of the life of this House of Representatives. It is also a slap in the face of the people of Morant Bay, whose right to elect a Councillor within 90 days of a vacancy was abridged by the Holness Administration using an amendment to the Representation of the People Act, a by-election which is legally due now.

The government is in the fifth and final year of its term of office. It is becoming increasingly unpopular, and recent events show that it is on the ropes. The People's National Party is preparing for general elections to enable the people to vote in a new government, and will not be contesting by-elections at this late stage in the run-up to the general elections.

It is significant that parliament in 2016 legislated that there should be no by-elections for Municipal Corporations within a 12-month period leading up to local government elections. The Party will contest the local government by-elections which are due as required by law, as local government elections are not due for another three and a half years.

The People's National Party remains steadfast in our mission to protect and strengthen Jamaica's democracy. We will not enter any process that seeks to undermine the very principles we hold dearly. Instead, we will focus on ensuring that every Jamaican has a voice and that every constituency is treated with the fairness and respect it deserves.

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