

OPENING REMARKS



HON. ANTHONY HYLTON
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT
&
COMMERCE

LAUNCH OF SPORTING EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015 at 9:55 AM

Salutations

- Hon. Rev. Ronald G. Thwaites, Minister of Education
- Hon. Natalie Nieta Headley, Minister without Portfolio with Responsibility for Sports, Office of the Prime Minister
- Professor Winston Davidson, chairman, Bureau of Standards Jamaica
- Ms. Yvonne Hall, Executive Director of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica
- Members of the Sporting Fraternity
- Members of the media
- Ladies and gentlemen... Good morning

It is a truism to say that sports has an overwhelming global appeal, which transcends national, cultural, religious, and gender boundaries, as well as socio-economic classes. It wouldn't be difficult for many of us to recall the last time we celebrated the achievements of Usain on the track, Roger Federer on the tennis court or the Reggae Boys team during a football match.

We all see sports as being part of something greater than ourselves and enjoy the rush of adrenalin as we compete in something as part of a team. The provision of standards to guide the sports we hold so dear is, therefore, very pertinent. But too often we have forgotten that the standards for sporting equipment lie at the center of performance standards in sports. the importance of standards for sporting equipment.

The simple fact is that incorrect specifications and improper construction materials used in the construction of sporting equipment have caused injuries and deaths of people worldwide. It follows that we must implement standards to protect players, both adult and children, and by extension, the sports we hold so dear.

Against this background, I commend the Bureau of Standards for taking on this very important area of developing sporting equipment standards for football and playgrounds.

Ladies and gentlemen, adhering to standards for the development of sporting and playground equipment is a viable platform from which to tap into the business of sports. I speak of the opportunities in the manufacturing of footballs, tennis balls, cricket balls, tennis nets, and other sporting equipment that will become more pronounced as we work towards the development of the Jamaica Logistics Hub.

The Hub, will make it easier for manufacturers to open distribution and assembly centres in Jamaica to supply the region. However, adherence to international standards is critical to our success. I am, therefore, pleased that the standards which we celebrate today will further strengthen the National Quality Infrastructure.

Ladies and gentlemen, the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) is predicated on a highly integrated network of people, systems and organizations with the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) being at the centre of this transformation process. With an efficient NQI, businesses will become more competitive. This infrastructure is anchored by the following four pillars:

- Standards development;
- Conformity assessment which involves testing, inspection and certification;
- The science of measurement, metrology; and
- Accreditation

Strengthening the NQI is critical if we see sports more than an entertaining pastime. The efforts by Government to create an enabling business environment, improve trade facilitation, modernise the intellectual property regime and strengthen the NQI are all linked. We are committed to creating the best possible conditions for our companies to thrive on the international market.

Therefore, if we truly see sports as business and the supply of equipment as a business platform to create jobs and wealth, then today's launch is truly game changing. Indeed, it is with this view towards the future that I welcome today's launch of sporting equipment standards.

I thank you