

MINISTRIAL REMARKS



HON. ANTHONY HYLTON
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT
&
COMMERCE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE MOTOR VEHICLE IMPORT POLICY (MVIP)

PCJ AUDITORIUM
36 TRAFALGAR ROAD, KINGSTON 10

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 AT 5:30PM

SALUTATIONS:

- Mr. Benthon Hussey, Chairman, Trade Board Limited
- Mr. Victor Cummings, CEO/Trade Administrator, Trade Board Limited
- Mrs. Dolsie Allen, Chief Executive, Consumer Affairs Commission
- Mr. David Miller, Chief Executive, Fair Trading Commission
- Mr. Stephen Wedderburn, Chief Technical Director, Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce
- Ms. Michelle Parkins, Director of Commerce, Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce
- Mr. Lynvalle Hamilton, President of the Jamaica Used Car Dealers Association
- Members of the Public
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and gentlemen... good evening

“Consumers, by definition, include all of us”. This was stated by John F. Kennedy in his historic address on consumer rights. President Kennedy went on to note that consumers “are the largest economic group in the economy, affecting and affected by almost every public and private economic decision. Two-thirds of all spending in the economy is by consumers. But they are the only important group in the economy who is not effectively organized, whose views are often not heard”

As consumers we expect that the Government will implement a regulatory framework to protect our interests, ensuring high standards, fair treatment, competitive prices and the promotion of health and safety. In keeping with this expectation, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, the Fair Trading Commission and the Consumer Affairs Commission are here this evening to hear your views on the **Motor Vehicle Import Policy**.

The Motor Vehicle Policy was revised and came into effect in 2014. It seeks to address the importation of motor vehicles, within a regulatory framework, as we strive to

enhance predictability, fairness, and transparency, via specific and selective policy guidelines that address:

- Road Safety
- Consumer Protection
- Consumer Choice
- Competition Law and Policy
- Efficiency and effectiveness of the motor vehicle market in Jamaica

Ladies and gentlemen, the Motor Vehicle Import Policy is critical to streamlining the motor vehicle industry while safeguarding the rights of the consumer.

We, at the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, believe that continuous public consultation is critical to ensure that our policies, strategies and programmes meet the needs of the Jamaican public. This means we are always in a state of dialogue and consultation to ensure that our policies remain effective amidst the changing business climate. The code of consultations of 2005 and the People's National Party Progressive Agenda both require such consultations on matters with significant public policy implications. This we consider is one such policy.

With vehicles no longer being seen as a luxury but a necessity; it is critical for us to get the views of all stakeholders, one year on from the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Import policy.

We have, therefore, consulted with various stakeholders in the motor vehicle industry, including the Jamaica Used Car Dealers Association (JUDCA) and the Automobile Dealers Association (ADA). I am pleased to announce that these groups have submitted their views, issues and recommendations regarding the policy. However, it is important to get the views of other stakeholders in the industry who are represented here today- the consumers, bankers, insurance companies and valuers. Indeed, all views are important to create a balanced policy which caters to the needs of all stakeholders.

Today's public consultation is, therefore, critical for us to hear your views on the policy, what changes you believe should be made and also your experiences since the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Import Policy in April 2014.

The forum, while focusing on all aspects of the overall policy will place greater emphasis on those specific areas of contention highlighted to us namely:

- Warranty provision
- Determination of model year
- Dealer disclosure
- Pre- shipment inspection certificate

Let me be clear, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce is passionate about ensuring that within the Jamaican business environment, providers of goods and services operate according to the highest international standards.

It is in this vein, we thank you all for taking the time out to participate in this forum and we look forward to your feedback and anticipate robust discussions.

I thank you.