

**STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT &
COMMERCE REGARDING ADVERTISEMENTS FROM THE SCRAP METAL
FEDERATION OF JAMAICA**

The Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce notes with concern the innuendos made by the Scrap Metal Federation of Jamaica in an advertisement published in the Observer of Friday, July 29th.

The Ministry notes in particular the Federation's statement: **"Today fi mi ... Tomorrow fi yu!"** and while this could have different interpretations, it is necessary for the Federation to clarify what exactly is meant by this statement, as persons reading the advertisement could interpret it as a personal threat.

The Ministry also notes the allegation being made concerning corrupt public officials and urges the Federation to provide any such information to the police. We also wish to state, unequivocally, that the Ministry has no hidden agenda concerning the scrap metal trade as implied by the Scrap Metal Federation in one of its advertisements.

The fact remains that the indefinite closure of the scrap metal trade resulted from rampant and escalating theft of metal, causing the loss of millions of dollars and the destruction of our infrastructure over the past years. The Federation mentions the good suffering for the bad owing to the closure of the trade, but the Government has taken the decision that it cannot allow one industry to exist at the expense of others. Members of the Federation have also failed in self-regulation of the industry.

Contact: Hugh Bembridge
Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce
382-8464