



CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BCJ REGIONAL FORUM ON POLICY AND REGULATION IN THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA SECTOR

Kingston, Jamaica

July 5, 2010

Salutations

Hon. Mia Mottley, our Special keynote speaker,

Distinguished visiting participants from Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Belize, Turk & Caicos, St. Lucia, Suriname, Chile, Canada and the United States.

My Colleague participants present from Jamaica

Online Participants in Jamaica and overseas

Broadcasting Commissioners and Staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure this morning, as Chairman of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, to welcome you all to this Regional Forum on Policy and Regulation in the Electronic Media Sector. I welcome, in particular, those persons who have joined us via the Internet using the facilities of the Broadcasting Commission website and those who have travelled to be here from abroad.

Let me convey the apology of the Portfolio Minister, who is unavoidably engaged in matters to do with the on-going CARICOM Heads of Government meeting, simultaneously taking place at the other end of the country, in Montego Bay.

Colleagues, although we did not originally plan it that way, it is fitting that while our Heads of Government are deliberating on the macro economic, social and political issues affecting the region, we are here at the same time contemplating the vital issues of the new digital economy - technology, services provision, content production and distribution, standards and public policy in Electronic Communication in the Caribbean. Because, without these components, which underpin development, we will continue to be severely challenged in planning the region's future

And so, over the two days of this Forum, policy specialists, regulators and media practitioners will be deliberating on several issues through five major roundtables. The first will be entitled, “**Media Policy for the Digital Age**”. The second roundtable will focus on “**The Digital Communications Market: Challenges and Opportunities**”. The third one will be looking at “**Broadband and Digital Futures**”. The fourth will be focusing on “**Media Content Standards**”, and the fifth “**Digital Switchover and the regionalisation of Regulation**”.

We at the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, which is among the region’s leading Broadcasting regulators, are very pleased to be facilitating a meeting on topics of such crucial relevance to the future of Jamaica and the Caribbean. It is our desire, that one outcome will be a course towards **early harmonisation of regulations across the region**, to ensure that our people enjoy the fruits of Information and Communication Technologies and the continued healthy growth of Caribbean content and competences in policy formulation and implementation within the Caribbean media space.

Once again, welcome to all.

It now gives me great pleasure to introduce the keynote speaker for this Opening Session.

The Hon. Mia Mottley, is a distinguished Barbadian but we claim here as a citizen of the Caribbean. She is an attorney at law and member of parliament in Barbados since 1994. Prior to that she had served as one of two (2) Opposition Senators in the Upper House and as Shadow Minister of Culture and Community Development.

Ms Mottley was appointed Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture in 1994. . In 1996 and again in 1997 she served as Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standing Committee of Ministers of Education.

In August 2001 Miss Mottley made history when she was appointed Attorney-General and Minister of Home Affairs, the first female in Barbados to hold the AG position.

Two years after becoming Attorney-General, Miss Mottley was invited to serve as the island's second female Deputy Prime Minister. In that capacity she was also Chairman of the Social Council of Barbados and the Deputy Chairman of Barbados' Economic Council. Her responsibilities also extended to the chairmanship of a number of key Cabinet sub-committees, notably Telecommunications Reform and oversight of the administrative and legislative initiatives to help prepare Barbados for the advent of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy.

Ms Mottley the Leader of the Opposition in Barbados. ladies and gentlemen, please welcome, the Hon. Mia Mottley

Presented by: Dr. Hopeton S. Dunn