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PRESS RELEASE

Broadcasting Commission Chairman Spells Out Safeguards in Flow's Licence

Chairman of the Broadcasting Commission, Dr. Hopeton Dunn says regulatory measures have been put in place to safeguard against the abuse of dominance by any player in Jamaica's subscriber television sector.

Dr. Dunn was speaking yesterday at the 5th Annual Forum of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) being held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Montego Bay.

The Broadcasting Commission Chairman confirmed to the delegates present that a new all-island subscriber television licence had been issued by the government to Columbus Communications Jamaica Limited (CCJL) operating as *Flow*. He said the Commission as regulator welcomed the infusion of new investment and the prospect of further growth in the sector. He said the safeguard provisions were intended to prevent any return to monopoly operation or unbridled dominance by any player in the communications sector.

The Flow Licence

Under the licence issued to *Flow* provisions have been made for application of the Fair Competition Act, whenever there is any credible evidence bearing on abuse of dominance.

Provisions have also been made in the licence for the company to make good any road excavation detected in the laying of cables and also to ensure safety of cables installed on public utility poles.

Arrangements have also been made in the licence for Flow to provide free access to subscriber television service to public libraries and schools.

Under the terms of the licence, *Flow* will report to the Broadcasting Commission on a quarterly basis on a range of deliverables, including its roll-out of services to all parishes.

Other development

There have also been changes to the Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulations to allow existing subscriber television operators to expand their services under a simplified application process for adding cable zones.

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Contact: Cordel Green, Executive Director
Jacqueline Jackson, Information Officer

Tel: 920-9537-9