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**For Immediate Release**

**Private Sector Groups Support Call By Energy Monitoring Committee for  
Additional Examination of the Preferred Bidder**

**Kingston, Jamaica:**

The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC), Jamaica Manufacturers Association (JMA), and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), have all expressed their total support for the joint public-private Energy Monitoring Committee (EMC) under the co-chairmanship of respected senior public servant Hon. Carlton Davis and businessman Peter Melhado. The Presidents of these organisations view the EMC as a very credible and independent oversight group working in the public interest to ensure that the critical 360 Megawatt Generation Project is executed in the way that most benefits consumers of electricity in Jamaica, and calls on all stakeholders and indeed the public to also give the EMC their unequivocal support.

In particular, the Private Sector groups are expressing full support for the EMC's insistence in its latest public release that based on the information available to them, they believe there are a number of important items that require further examination and analysis, before the OUR can make a positive recommendation to the Ministry of Science Technology Energy and Mining, regarding the granting of a license to the preferred bidder.

Their release goes on to say that these additional items include:

- A thorough absorption of any substantive information in the Due Diligence Report followed by a forum to solicit the Preferred Bidder's responses to these potential issues;

- Gaining a better understanding of the progress of current projects being pursued by EWI-related entities to ensure there are no adverse ramifications for Jamaica's bid;
- Focusing on the financial capability of the Preferred Bidder, including evidence of commitment with the usual qualifiers, from its bankers/equity sources, as would be expected in a project that is greater than US\$700 Million in size.

In view of the fact that these three additional items are critical to determining whether the country will get cheaper electricity within the price range and timeframe promised to the nation, the JCC, JMA, and the PSOJ are calling on the OUR and the EMC to jointly ensure that these additional steps of examination and analysis are carried out in a professional and thorough manner, prior to any recommendation being made regarding the granting of a license to the preferred bidder for the 360 Megawatt Electricity Generation Project.

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