



Excerpts from The Jamaica Observer & The Jamaica Gleaner Newspapers...

= JAMAICAN PROVERB: "One Hand Cannot Clap" =

When the issue of {Jamaican} corruption comes up for discussion, there is an automatic focus on government entities. However, the {JCC} Director drew on the popular Jamaican saying that "one hand can't clap".

This means it is unlikely that two government entities would be engaged in corrupt practises. He said there was usually non-government collaboration with a party seeking to gain an unfair competitive advantage.

A recent commission said an assessment of Jamaica's corruption problem suggested that "corruption in the country is endemic, is systemic, is pervasive, and is essentially a deep-rooted problem".

An anti-corruption initiative is now intended to align efforts with the public and private spheres of influence. The singular objective is to develop a long-term actionable set of recommendations and practises to reduce and contain the prevalence of corruption within Jamaica.

The leading private-sector groups in Jamaica are ready to lead a strong lobby of the government to craft legislation similar to the United Kingdom's 2010 Bribery Act. Their objective is to reduce or eliminate corruption within the nation.

Gleaner commentator Peter Espeut says: "If I believe political corruption is the cancer destroying life chances of the Jamaican nation, and I want to vote against corruption, then I have no choices, because both our major political parties are profoundly corrupt. I therefore would have to choose not to vote.

Not because I don't care about Jamaica, but because I do care-deeply."

Editorial Comment:

Perhaps this newly affirmed determination to implement "constructive-change" will begin to abate the Peter Espeut pessimism concerning the public's VOTING perceptions and motivations.