

STATEMENT TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Blue Power Group Limited noted the summary of the decision by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in the claim by DCP Successors Limited (DCPS) against Jamaica.

The Government of Jamaica maintained the position that the Productive Inputs Relief Legislation allowed Jamaican manufacturers to import raw material used in production to be imported free of duty. This position was supported by CARICOM. The court ruled against Jamaica and in the case of Jamaican soap manufacturing, ruled that key raw material imports would attract a 40% duty. The court ruled that a duty exemption could be possible if a case was made that there was an insufficient supply of imports from Dominica or from within CARICOM. The court did not accept arguments put forward by Jamaica, that DCPS soap products were unsuitable for Jamaica because they were said to be rancid or of poor quality.

Blue Power Group was not a party to this lawsuit. The position of Blue Power Group before, during and after this lawsuit is the same. Blue Power is engaged in the production of high-quality soaps for market leading brand owners and distributors as well as consumers in Jamaica. We are a reliable supplier, and we offer competitive products. We always comply with the trade policy and trade rules applicable to Jamaican manufacturers.

The case that was made by the Government of Jamaica was intended to support Jamaican manufacturing and the Productive Input Relief legislation. This legislation is extremely important to Jamaican manufacturers and Jamaica was right to defend the use of this legislation by soap manufacturers. The decision by the CCJ against Jamaica may result in some changes to our manufacturing process to maintain our markets and profitability over time. There will however be no change to the core operating principles of the Blue Power Group.

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