

Holness claims libel, retains attorney after airing of 18 Degrees North

The Observer



Prime Minister Andrew Holness

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Prime Minister Andrew Holness says he has retained the services of attorney-at-law Gordon Robinson following the airing of Television Jamaica programme 18 Degrees North, in which he said serious

and libellous allegations were made against him and his family.

Read: Holness' house under microscope again

Holness' statement in full:

I totally and completely reject the assertions, inferences and innuendoes made in the television Programme 18 Degrees North aired on TVJ on Monday, 30th May 2016. In particular, I wish to make it clear that all my property taxes are paid up to date and I have never entered into any arrangement with the intent of evading any of Jamaica's tax laws or benefiting from public contracts. I view this matter seriously and have retained legal counsel. Senior Counsel has already advised that there are factual basis on which the programme's content is libellous.

My family and I have been the subject of several attacks on our character and reputation in the past. As a public figure, I expect to be a target. However, it appears that there is a coordinated

and persistent attempt to tarnish me and my family. Now that the matter is in my attorney's hands, any future query or clarification should be addressed to Senior Counsel Gordon Robinson.

Subpoenas For Simpson Miller And Other PNP Officials Ready, With Police

The Gleaner



File

Leader of the Opposition and President of the People's National Party (PNP) Portia Simpson Miller.

- The subpoena to get Leader of the Opposition and President of the People's National Party (PNP) Portia Simpson Miller to appear in court in relation to the

Trafigura case is now with the police.

So too are the subpoenas for PNP Chairman Robert Pickersgill and party officials Phillip Paulwell and Colin Campbell.

A similar subpoena is also with the police for businessman Norton Hinds.

The development was confirmed by officials at the Supreme Court Registry this afternoon.

The officials indicated that the police have until tomorrow to indicate if the subpoenas were executed.

Yesterday, Supreme Court judge Justice Lennox Campbell ordered the subpoenas after the PNP officials and Hinds failed to turn up in court for the resumption of the Trafigura case.

Dutch Authorities want to question them about a \$31-million donation by Dutch company Trafigura Beheer to the party in 2006.

It is illegal for Dutch companies to donate to political parties.

At the time of the donation, Trafigura had an oil-lifting contract with the then PNP administration.

The designated central authority is posing the questions to the PNP officials on behalf of the Dutch authorities under Jamaica's mutual legal assistance treaty with The Netherlands.

Court orders cop charged for policewoman's murder or released

The Observer



Judith Williams

KINGSTON, Jamaica — The Court has ordered that the policeman arrested in relation to the shooting death of woman police Corporal Judith Williams be charged or released by Friday, June 3.

The order was made by senior judge Judith Pusey a short while ago in the Kingston & St Andrew Parish Court.

Williams, 54, was gunned down while standing at a bus stop in east Kingston on her way to work at about 6:15 am on April 28.

A civilian and a cop were subsequently arrested early May for the fatal shooting.

Lawyers file appeal after court subpoenas PNP officials

BY KIMONE FRANCIS Observer Staff reporter francisk@jamaicaobserver.com



LLEWELLYN... subpoenas were issued after the witnesses failed to appear in court

ATTORNEYS representing Opposition Leader Portia Simpson Miller and three People's National Party (PNP) officials in the long-standing Trafigura matter

yesterday filed an appeal seeking to halt the proceedings after High Court Judge Justice Lennox Campbell ordered that subpoenas be issued for them.

"I'll be going to court on Monday. A court order will be shown to the judge, and that should end the matter for that day. An appeal has already been filed and the court order is a consequence of that appeal," Queen's Counsel K D Knight told the Jamaica Observer when contacted yesterday.

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Paula Llewellyn, QC, yesterday explained that the subpoenas were issued after Simpson Miller, Robert Pickersgill, Phillip Paulwell, Colin Campbell, and businessman Norton Hinds failed to appear in court.

The witnesses were required to give sworn testimony regarding the investigation by the Netherlands Government into the payment, in September 2006, of \$31 million to an account bearing the name CCOC to which certain members of the PNP were signatories.

The Trafigura scandal rocked the then governing PNP after it emerged that the party accepted the money from the Dutch firm which, at the time, had an oil-lifting agreement with Jamaica.

The PNP had said the money was a donation, but Trafigura said it was payment on a commercial transaction. The party has since said the money was returned.

The saga resulted in Campbell's resignation from the Cabinet and as PNP general secretary. It was also widely believed to have contributed to the party losing the 2007 General Election.

Since November 2011 the matter has been dragging through the courts, as defence lawyers have tried unsuccessfully to have it heard in chambers.

Yesterday, the DPP said that attorney Bert Samuels, along with Juranell Smalling, who appear for Paulwell, were the only ones from the defence who appeared in court for the completion of the matter.

All parties in the matter, the DPP said, were invited by the registrar of the Supreme Court. "Counsel Mr Bert Samuels, who was not attired for open court, addressed the court and enquired whether these proceedings today were in open court or in chambers. His Lordship indicated that these proceedings were in open court. Shortly thereafter Mr Samuels left the court," the DPP said in a news release.

The matter, the DPP said, is next set for hearing on June 6.

\$10m bail for St Ann bus driver

The Observer

ST ANN'S BAY, Jamaica - The driver of the bus which recently crashed along the Llandoverly main road in St Ann killing five people was granted bail when he appeared in the night session of the St Ann Parish Court on Wednesday, June 1. Rohan Robinson was granted bail in the sum of \$10 million with up to five sureties by parish judge Peter Wilson.

Robinson's was also given stringent bail conditions by the judge. There is a stop order for him at all ports; he is to surrender all travel documents; he is to be at home between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am; he is not to visit St Ann except to visit court or to consult his attorney; and he is not to have any contact with the witnesses or potential witnesses.

Attorney-at-law Ernest Smith, who described the bail application as a lengthy and painstaking one, said the stringent conditions of his bail were designed for Robinson's own protection as concerns were raised about his safety. Robinson is to return to court on July 5.

Five persons were killed when the Golden Dragon passenger bus Robinson was driving crashed last Friday, May 27 at about 6:50 am. Robinson who was employed as conductor for the bus was the one reportedly driving the vehicle when the drive shaft broke causing the bus to overturn.

Robinson fled the scene but later surrendered himself to the Police on Sunday, May 29. He has been charged with five counts of manslaughter, driving without a driver's license, no insurance coverage and no road license.

A policewoman who is said to own the bus has since been warned for prosecution.

RENAE DIXON

Woman sentenced, fined for cocaine

The Observer



A drug mule was on Tuesday handed an 18-month prison sentence after pleading guilty to exporting more than one pound of cocaine.

Twenty-six-year-old Sherice Blake Brown pleaded guilty to

possession of cocaine, dealing in cocaine, and taking steps to export cocaine when she appeared in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court.

The cocaine was found on May 15 when Blake Brown was stopped and interviewed after arriving at the Norman Manley International Airport at approximately 5:15 pm.

The court was told that the cocaine was found in her body cavity.

Attorney Peter Champagnie, during mitigation, told the court that his client had no previous conviction and that her reason for attempting to smuggle the cocaine, which weighed one pound and 13 ounces, would insult the intelligence of the court.

She was subsequently fined \$150,000 or six months for possession of cocaine, \$250,000 or six months for dealing in cocaine, and \$300,000 or six months for taking steps to export cocaine in addition to the 18 months.

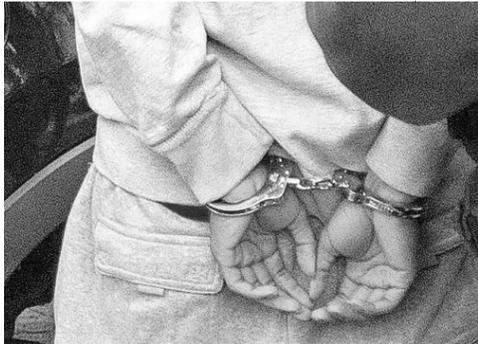
If the fines are not paid, she will serve six months concurrently and 18 months to run consecutively.

Blake Brown, whom the court heard is employed to a loans company, is also charged under the Proceeds of Crime Act, and is scheduled to appear in the Circuit Court on June 17.

— Racquel Porter

Repeat offender found hiding in Island Dairies outlet ceiling

The Observer



A repeat offender was sentenced to six months in prison after he broke into an Island Dairies outlet and was found hiding in the ceiling.

Twenty-nine-year-old Barrington Buchanan pleaded guilty with explanation to a charge of office breaking with intent when he appeared in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court on Tuesday.

Reports are that on May 10 at approximately 2:30 am, the police were summoned to the Constant Spring Road, Kingston, outlet. Following a search, Buchanan was found hiding in the ceiling. He was subsequently arrested and charged.

“How many times you get into trouble?” Senior Parish Judge Judith Pusey asked Buchanan.

“One or two,” Buchanan replied.

“What were you charged for?” Pusey asked.

“Firearm,” he replied.

“When you came out?” Pusey asked.

“About three years now,” Buchanan responded.

“So what have you been doing with yourself?” Pusey further questioned

According to Buchanan, he was working on a site two weeks prior to his arrest.

Asked why he should not be jailed for the crime, Buchanan explained that he had a 10-year-old daughter.

“So she experienced you going to prison already,” Pusey said.

Buchanan, in expressing remorse, declared that he had embarrassed his daughter.

Pusey, while reprimanding him, said that his daughter is a victim of his bad behaviour.

Buchanan was subsequently sentenced to six months in prison and a fingerprint order made.
— Racquel Porter

Clampdown on cops using Gov't cards to fraudulently obtain goods, cash

The Observer



KINGSTON, Jamaica – The Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency says that over the past month, its detectives have been probing a number of incidents in which police personnel, with the aid of civilians, have been using Government-issued Advance Cards to

fraudulently obtain goods and cash.

MOCA said in a news release Tuesday that these cards are provided by the government to fuel Jamaica Constabulary Force service vehicles. However, according to MOCA, in several cases, the system has been “corruptly abused”.

According to the release, the first probe began in April 2016 by MOCA West detectives.

The investigations led to Chayon Anderson, a gas station employee of a St James address, being arrested and charged for conspiracy to defraud and obtaining money by false pretence.

Anderson reportedly appeared in the Montego Bay Resident Magistrate’s Court on Thursday, May 5, where she was offered bail in the sum of J\$750,000 with sureties.

Anderson is to return to court on Thursday, July 7, 2016.

MOCA said a second investigation into the fraudulent use of Government Advance Cards led operatives to police constable David Madden, who is attached to the St James Division.

Madden was arrested during an operation on Friday, May 13. MOCA said during the operation, he was searched and a data storage device containing incriminating items to substantiate breaches of the Law Reform (Fraudulent Transactions) (Special Provisions) Act was reportedly found.

MOCA said a search was also conducted of his home and further items of “crucial evidential value to support his involvement in the fraudulent use of Government Advance Cards” were allegedly found.

The police constable was charged on Monday, May 16 for breaching the Law Reform (Fraudulent Transaction) (Special Provisions) Act and will appear in the Montego Bay Resident Magistrate’s Court today.

He is also expected to be charged soon for the alleged fraudulent use of Government Advance Cards.

A detective sergeant of the Technical Services Division and gas station employee, Antoine Lindo, were also charged by detectives from MOCA for conspiracy to defraud, following a ruling by the Director of Public Prosecution.

The detective sergeant, Mark Gordon, and Lindo were charged on Saturday, May 28. MOCA said investigations revealed that between August 2015 and May 21, 2016, Gordon and Lindo allegedly conspired to fleece hundreds of thousands of dollars from two Government Advance Gas Cards.

The two cards were reportedly found in Lindo’s possession on Friday, May 20. MOCA said an operation was then conducted on May 21, which resulted in the arrest of Detective Sergeant Gordon.

Both men were scheduled to appear in the Spanish Town Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday. Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent Cleon March, director of investigations for MOCA, stated: "These investigations have unearthed corrupt practices by police officers supported by civilians to abuse an important system designed to fuel the JCF vehicles and it is concerning (sic) to see how widespread it has become.

"My investigators and I will continue robustly investigating all incidents of police corruption and major organised crime and I urge anyone with information to please call," March said.

The End