



## **NORTH-EAST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NERHA)**

Shops 34-38 Ocean Village Shopping Centre, Ocho Rios P.O., St. Ann, Jamaica W.I.  
Telephone: (876) 795-3107, 795-0102, 974-4114, 974-7758, Fax: (876) 795-2747  
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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**2020 JULY 2**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

***Attention: All News Editors***

**THE NORTH-EAST REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NERHA) STATES THAT THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE JAMAICA GLEANER ON 2020 JULY 01, IS MISLEADING AND AN AGENDA AIMED AT DISCREDITING ITS REPUTATION**

The North-East Regional Health Authority received a letter dated 2019 February 27 from the Director of Investigations of the integrity Commission seeking its response to ten (10) specific questions pursuant to *'Allegations Concerning Acts of Impropriety and/or Irregularity, Conflict of Interest, Corruption, and Favouritism at Petrojam Ltd.'*

A detailed response from the NERHA was sent vide letter dated 2019 March 08, to the Director of Investigations, which addressed all questions posed in the letter from the Commission. **To date, there have not been any follow-up questions, interviews, or queries with any officer of the North-East Regional Health Authority from the Integrity Commission.**

The NERHA is quite concerned and alarmed at the Gleaner statement positing that it cannot account for \$621,710 which was leftover from the Petrojam donation. The facts of the request, receipt, and expenditure of the donation are as follows:-

1. A letter of request was sent to Petrojam Ltd from NERHA dated **2017 March 30**, seeking a donation of J\$1.2M to procure one (1) Incubator for the Annotto Bay Hospital.
2. A cheque for J\$1.2M from Petrojam dated 2017 June 30 was handed over to the Annotto Bay Hospital on **2017 July 13**
3. An Official Government of Jamaica receipt was drawn acknowledging the donation which was lodged to the NERHA's Official Account on **2017 July 17**
4. Through a competitive bidding process in keeping with GOJ Procurement Guidelines, three (3) responses were received with costs for the incubator ranging from a low of J\$ 578,290 to a high of J\$1,467,900. The successful bid was at a value of J\$578,290.
5. The incubator was delivered to the Annotto Bay Hospital on 2017 October 26.



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The remaining J\$ 621,710 would, therefore, be in the NERHA's official account approved by the Ministries of Health & Wellness and Finance & the Public Service through the Accountant General's Department. **We further wish to place on record that neither the Board Chairman, Mr. Tyrone Robinson, JP, nor any other Board Member of NERHA is signatories on any accounts held by the NERHA.** To state therefore that the Regional Director **told** commission investigators that the NERHA cannot account for the remaining funds is at the least, misleading.

The NERHA further wishes to place on record that a tender process is currently being evaluated for the procurement of two ( 2) incubators, among other critical medical equipment, for the Annotto Bay Hospital. The bidding prices for the incubators range from a low of J\$515,000 to a high of J\$3,873,960 from eight (8) prospective bidders.

NERHA asserts that its governance, management, and conduct concerning its operations, especially in relation to donations have always been above board, open to scrutiny, and in keeping with the GOJ's protocols and guidelines. At no time has the integrity of any official associated with the NERHA have been placed into question by any of its donors, stakeholders, or partners. It is therefore quite disheartening to read the inferences of the article which seems to be a deliberate attempt to place high reputation and sterling achievements of the organization, led by Mr. Tyrone Robinson, JP, into disrepute.

The NERHA remains resolute and committed to providing the highest quality of health care services to all our stakeholders under our mandate of ***Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Environment...Healthy People.***

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