

29th May 2026

The Chief Executive Officer

J Carlton Smith
Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA)
4th Floor, UBS Annex Building
East Bay Street
Nassau, The Bahamas

Dear Sir,

**RE: FORMAL COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT, 2009
AND THE CONTENT REGULATION / BROADCASTING CODE OF PRACTICE —
BROADCAST OF DEFAMATORY AND FACTUALLY UNSUBSTANTIATED
ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE BAHAMAS AND MEMBERS OF CABINET**

Programme: “It Is What It Is”

Station: 102.7 FM “Da Riddim”

Host: Mr. Darren Cooper

Guest: Mr. Sylvens Metayer

Date and Time of Broadcast: 29 May 2026, during the morning broadcast.

I write in my capacity as Director of Communications in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and on behalf of the Office of the Prime Minister, to lodge a formal complaint with the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority concerning the content of the above-referenced broadcast.

During the broadcast, the host and his guest made and repeated a series of grave allegations of fact — presented to the listening public as established truth — asserting, among other things, that the Prime Minister of The Bahamas is personally implicated in, and is a “business partner” to, criminal narcotics activity, and that a sitting Member of Cabinet is engaged in an improper personal relationship connected to such activity. These statements were broadcast without any evidential foundation, without any attempt at verification, and without affording the persons named any opportunity to respond.

1. THE OFFENDING STATEMENTS

The broadcast included, among other things, statements to the following effect, each communicated as assertions of fact rather than opinion:

- That the Prime Minister, the Hon. Philip E. Davis, K.C., M.P., is the “number one” figure in, and the “business partner” of, a named individual alleged to be engaged in criminal narcotics importation.

- That a named sitting Member of Cabinet is romantically involved with the said individual, with the further implication of impropriety in public office.
- That the Government of The Bahamas is “corrupt” and is knowingly “helping the movement” of illegal narcotics.
- That the Prime Minister and the Government are deliberately concealing involvement in serious criminal conduct from the public.

Each of the foregoing statements is false, is gravely defamatory of the named public officials, and was broadcast as fact to a wide listening audience. A full transcript of the relevant segment is available and can be provided to the Authority upon request.

2. REGULATORY BASIS OF THE COMPLAINT

The Communications Act, 2009 confers upon the Authority the responsibility to regulate the content of broadcasting services and to ensure that licensees observe the standards prescribed under the Act and the applicable content rules and codes of practice. We respectfully submit that the broadcast breached those standards in the following respects:

- (1) Accuracy and factual foundation. Licensees are required to ensure that factual matters are presented accurately and are not materially misleading. The allegations broadcast were presented as fact while being wholly unsubstantiated.
- (2) Fairness and the right of reply. The broadcast levelled serious allegations of criminal conduct against named individuals without affording them any opportunity to respond, contrary to the fairness obligations applicable to licensed broadcasters.
- (3) Harm, offence and the public interest. The broadcast of unverified allegations imputing serious criminality to the Head of Government and a Member of Cabinet is materially harmful, is liable to mislead the public, and is capable of undermining public confidence in national institutions.
- (4) Responsibility of the licensee. The licensee bears responsibility for content carried on its service, including statements made by hosts and invited guests, and for ensuring that its programming complies with the Act and the applicable code.

3. AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

This is not an isolated occurrence. The programme in question has, on prior occasions, been the subject of concern regarding the broadcast of unverified and inflammatory content. The recurrence of such conduct demonstrates a pattern that, in our respectful submission, warrants the formal attention and intervention of the Authority.

4. ACTION REQUESTED

We respectfully request that the Authority:

- (1) Register and investigate this complaint pursuant to its powers under the Communications Act, 2009 and the applicable content rules;
- (2) Require the licensee to produce a recording and transcript of the broadcast for the Authority’s review;
- (3) Determine whether the broadcast contravened the applicable broadcasting standards and code of practice; and

- (4) Take such regulatory action as the Authority considers appropriate, including a direction to the licensee to broadcast a correction and an apology, and such further or other measures as may be warranted to prevent recurrence.

5. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

This complaint is made without prejudice to, and with full reservation of, all rights and remedies available to the Prime Minister, to the affected Member of Cabinet, and to the Office of the Prime Minister at law, including in respect of defamation. Nothing in this complaint shall be construed as a waiver of any such right or remedy, all of which are expressly reserved.

We are prepared to provide the full transcript, supporting materials and any further particulars the Authority may require. We would be grateful for written acknowledgement of this complaint and for advice as to the procedural steps that will follow. Given the gravity of the allegations and the continuing reputational harm, we respectfully request that this matter be treated as one of urgency.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Latrae Rahming". The signature is stylized with a large initial "L" and "R".

Senator The Honourable Latrae Rahming
Director of Communications
Office of the Prime Minister

cc:

The Office of the Attorney General