

## Statement to Press re National Housing Corporation

This statement is designed to set the record straight as regards my termination as Chairman of the Board of the National Housing Corporation.

When I willingly accepted the role of Chairman of National Housing Corporation, in December 2008, I viewed that position as an excellent opportunity to broaden my service within the community through alleviating many of our society's ills that are rooted in the twin issues of inadequate housing and overcrowding.

Despite my social intent, unfortunately, there were fundamental differences between the Minister of Housing and Lands and the Board in terms of our interpretation of established rules and protocols, as well as the role and function of the Board in respect of certain NHC projects. The fully established rule is that in respect of all NHC funded projects, the Board recommends and the Minister is free to accept or reject any such recommendation. Regrettably, in some instances, the Board was never afforded the opportunity to give due or any consideration to and/or make an appropriate recommendation in respect of some NHC projects. Simply put, the Board was bypassed by the Minister. This attitude and disposition on the part of the Minister ultimately led to an impasse between the Minister and me and ultimately, my termination as Chairman of the Board. Case in point work at Fordes Road, Clapham, St. Michael

Prior to my termination and as a result of the said impasse already referred to, I considered resigning on several occasions but felt that I owed it to Prime Minister, The Hon. David Thompson, who was instrumental in my appointment, as well as my commitment to the cause of social justice, to persevere in what was fast becoming an impossible situation, in the hope and expectation that the matter would be resolved amicably. Sadly this was not to be and I exited the Board on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Whereas some strides were made under my stewardship at the NHC, I leave somewhat disappointed that certain issues were not adequately addressed, for example, the awarding of contracts to small contractors. I feel passionately about this issue given my direct dialogue with many small contractors, many of whom are on the brink of failure. I have repeatedly