

Joint Agreement and Declaration on Political Conduct

The People's National Party, The Jamaica Labour Party
and all other legitimate political parties in Jamaica:

1. Affirm their belief in the sanctity of human life and abhor taking human life or the violation of the person of anyone because of that person's political allegiance.
2. Declare their opposition to and rejection of the use of violence or intimidation by any of their members or supporters as a means of expressing political support or furthering political objectives.
3. Denounce the procurement, possession or distribution of weapons or ammunition of any sort by their members or supporters for use in political activity.
4. Affirm their commitment to non-violent relations between the members and supporters of all political parties.
5. Repudiate any action by their members or supporters calculated to provoke, threaten or intimidate the members or supporters of any other party.
6. Recognize and respect the rights of each party, its members and supporters to express and demonstrate their political views and to conduct

lawful, non-violent activities in support of their objectives.

7. Agree that they will only offer support to candidates who manifest the highest moral standards and who have not been convicted of any serious crime.

In furtherance of the foregoing, the People's National Party, the Jamaica Labour Party and all other legitimate political parties in Jamaica hereby agree that:

1. A Code of Political Conduct as set out in Appendix 1 of this agreement will be established and will come into effect immediately upon the signing of this Agreement by the Leaders, Chairmen and General Secretaries of the parties.
2. All breaches of the Code of Political Conduct will be investigated by the Political Ombudsman.
3. The Officers, Executives and Constituency Representatives of all parties will use their authority and will make every possible effort to ensure restraint on the part of their members and supporters, to encourage respect of each other's rights and freedoms to effect compliance with the provisions of the Code of Political Conduct and to support the principles of this Agreement.
4. All political parties undertake appropriate action on any recommendation made by the Political Ombudsman.

5. Every candidate, along with an influential member of the community, who is part of the party organization, will sign the Code of Political Conduct and will be (mutatis mutandis) subject to the same sanctions as if he or she were the candidate.

In addition to and without prejudice to the foregoing, the People's National Party, the Jamaica Labour Party and all other legitimate political parties will continue to work together on additional measures (including the vexed question of distribution of scarce benefits) which may be taken to reinforce this Agreement, to improve relations between the members and supporters of all parties, to eliminate politically motivated violence and to encourage peaceful political co-existence, political campaigns and elections.

APPENDIX 1

Code of Political Conduct

This Code shall apply to all officials of political parties.
The term “officials of political parties” means:

- a) Persons holding any type of office within political parties, including persons approved by political parties for appointment to any such office or who intend to apply for such appointment;
- b) Members of the House of Representatives and of the Senate;
- c) Mayors and Councillors;
- d) Persons who intend to seek election to any office referred to in paragraphs a), b) and c).

The political parties shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure full compliance with this Code by all officials of political parties.

1. Non-Violence and Non-Intimidation

- a) No person should engage in, adopt or otherwise encourage, any form of violence or intimidation in their political activities.
- b) There should be no procurement or distribution of weapons or ammunition of any sort for use in political activities.
- c) No threats of violence or intimidation whatsoever, whether expressed or implied, should be made against anyone or any group of persons because of their political affiliation.
- d) No person should be forced, against his or her will, to declare his or her political affiliation or to acknowledge any affiliation whatsoever.
- e) Every individual should be free to go about his or her lawful business without restriction, harassment or intimidation and should actively discourage the erecting of roadblocks in this regard.
- f) Candidates or others acting on behalf of candidates:
 - i) Must not use funds derived from any source, public or private, to improperly influence electoral choices; and
 - ii) Shall exercise all reasonable care in ensuring that all financial donations are derived from legitimate sources.

2. Safety of Private and Public Property

No damage should wilfully be done to any property, whether private or public, in the course of, or, as a result of, any political event or activity.

3. Avoidance of Confrontation

- a) Nothing should be done or encouraged which can reasonably be expected to lead to volatile confrontation between opposing political factions.
- b) Every effort must be made to avoid any act which is likely to be provocative or which will increase tension between opposing political factions.

4. Public Utterances

Party officials (including platform speakers) should not make statements which:

- a) Are inflammatory or likely to incite others to confrontation or violence;
- b) Constitute slander or libel;
- c) Are malicious in reference to opposing candidates, their families and Party officials.

5. Freedom of Access

- a) Nothing should be done to unlawfully prevent or restrict anyone from canvassing or campaigning in any place.
- b) Nothing should be done to unlawfully restrict or jeopardize the movement along any public road, of anyone or any group of persons engaged in legitimate political activity.

6. Avoidance of defacing of Buildings or Installations

- a) There should be no defacing of any structure, roadway or installation (whether privately or publicly owned) for the purpose of displaying any political message or slogan except in such manner as is permitted by law.
- b) No action in relation to the distribution of any pamphlet, handbill, poster or any similar material shall be taken in such manner as would constitute a breach of the Anti-litter Act.

7. Political Tribalism

The Parties eschew the practice of political tribalism rooted in coercion, intimidation or violence of any kind and the parties commit themselves to removing any structures and resisting the development of any behavioural, cultural, social or organizational practices, which reinforce political tribalism.

8. Code of Ethics

In case of a breach or suspected breach, the parties agree that each side will, firstly, consult with the other and, if necessary, invoke the intervention of the Political Ombudsman before recourse to any other forum.

Nothing in the above should be deemed to mean that any party or any individual has relinquished ultimate recourse, to the courts.

Agreement and Declaration on Political Conduct

We confirm our intention to uphold and defend the Constitution of Jamaica and to discharge our responsibilities to the people of Jamaica in a conscientious and impartial manner.

Recognising that Jamaica faces significant challenges, among which are violent crime and other illegal activities, we will not knowingly associate ourselves with any person or persons in their pursuit of illegal activities and/or any kind of violence and will share with the Jamaica Constabulary Force or other relevant authority, any information that will help to lead to the prosecution of such persons.

We re-affirm and commit our obligation at all times to all our constituents and to act in the best interest of the Jamaican people.



President, People's National Party



Leader, Jamaica Labour Party



General Secretary,
People's National Party



General Secretary,
Jamaica Labour Party



Chairman
People's National Party



Chairman
Jamaica's Labour Party

The signature of the leader of a political party to this Code shall bind all officials of that party to the following:

- a) It is the duty of officials to uphold the law and to support the security forces in the lawful execution of their duties.
- b) In their conduct and activities, officials should respect the rights of others, especially functionaries of contending political parties.
- c) Officials who by virtue of their positions have control or influence over the appropriation of public funds or other public resources should not discriminate against any individual, group or community on the basis of political allegiance or support.
- d) Elected representatives should at all times seek to represent the interests of all their constituents in particular and those of the nation as a whole.
- e) Officials should unequivocally reject the use of violence and of intimidation in the conduct of their activities.
- f) Officials should repudiate any act of corruption in the discharge of their functions.