



## OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

May 7, 2024

**The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP**  
**Prime Minister**  
**Office of the Prime Minister**  
**Jamaica House**  
**Kingston**

Dear Prime Minister,

### Constitutional Reform

In our brief meeting behind the Speaker's Chair in Gordon House on Tuesday April 23, 2024, I indicated that the move away from the British Monarch as our Head of State should coincide with the move away from the British Monarch's Court in London to the Caribbean Court of Justice as our Final Court of Appeal, so as to achieve a seamless transition to full decolonization rather than a piecemeal, phased approach with no guarantee of its attainment. I pointed out that this is a fundamental issue for us, and you indicated that you would consider the matter, have any necessary consultations, and let me know the Government's position.

Since then, the Opposition's two representatives on the Constitutional Reform Committee (CRC) have indicated to me that the Minister of Legal & Constitutional Affairs is anxious to have the CRC's Report signed by the members and taken to Cabinet. As you will appreciate, they attend the CRC in a representative capacity and cannot sign off on the Report without first obtaining authority to do so. Accordingly, one of our representatives, Anthony Hylton MP, indicated his reservation on a few issues, and further advised the Minister of the need to share the draft report with me, in response to which the Minister indicated that he could make a copy available to me, on a strictly "embargoed" basis, of what appears to be a near-final draft of the Report.

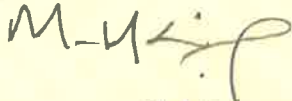
This very restrictive process has prevented the kind of fulsome internal consultations on important matters that is the normal practice within our Party. Nevertheless, I have reviewed the draft Report, and have indicated to our two representatives that they are not to sign it unless and until the issue referred to in the first paragraph above is resolved in a manner that will allow us to proceed with a bipartisan position embracing full decolonization as a unitary exercise.

.../2

I have not yet heard from you on this matter, and look forward to that, so that we know where we stand.

I also wish to advise you that there are some other issues of concern to the Opposition in the draft Report, and I will be sharing those concerns with the Minister via our two representatives. Assuming that the main issue referred to above can be overcome, we would want those issues to be further discussed and, hopefully, agreed before the Report is finalized.

**Yours truly,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Golding', written in a cursive style.

**Mark J Golding, MP**  
**Leader of the Opposition**