



INTERIM ORDER

ISSUED PURSUANT TO SECTION 96 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT, 2009 AND PARAGRAPH 10.11 OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CONTENT REGULATION ECS/082020.

Issuance of Interim Order

1. This Interim Order is issued by the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) this 22nd day of July 2021, pursuant to Section 96 of the Communications Act, 2009 and Paragraph 10.11 of the Content Regulation: Code of Content Regulation (Revised) – ECS 08/2020 (“the Content Code”), to the following Licensee:

**Cable Bahamas Limited
Robinson Road at Marathon
P.O. Box CB - 13050
Nassau, Bahamas**

Rationale for issuance of this Interim Order

2. On 20 July 2021, McKinney, Turner & Co., Counsel and Attorney-at-Law representing the Hon. Phillip E. “Brave” Davis QC, MP, Leader of the Opposition and the Progressive Liberal Party formally filed a complaint with URCA against Cable Bahamas Limited (CBL) and the entity or persons who have engaged CBL, alleging that CBL has:
 - (i) since 12 July 2021 and continuing, broadcast political advertisements on multiple Cable TV channels and other media platforms via REVMedia which defames or slanders the Hon. Phillip E. “Brave” Davis QC, MP, Leader of the Opposition and the Progressive Liberal Party; and
 - (ii) failed and/or refused to clearly identify the said political advertisement (where possible at the beginning and automatically at the end) and political broadcast (at the beginning, periodically throughout and automatically at the end) as a political advertisement or political broadcast on behalf of a specified candidate, political party or other person or entity and clearly indicate that a specified candidate,

political party or other person or entity has authorized and paid for the political advertisement of the said political broadcast.

3. URCA considers that the alleged conduct by CBL, as set out under Section 2 above may, *inter alia*, be in breach of Paragraph 6.8(1) and 6.6 of the Content Code, respectively.
4. Having regard to CBL's widespread advertisement reach throughout The Bahamas (and potentially beyond), URCA further considers the alleged conduct, as set out under Section 2 above, to be of sufficient urgency to warrant the issuance of this Interim Order due to the risk of serious and irreparable damage (harm) to the character and reputation of the Hon. Phillip E. "Brave" Davis QC, MP, Leader of the Opposition and the Progressive Liberal Party if the conduct is not immediately addressed. Particulars of the likely serious and irreparable damage include, without limitation:
 - (i) the temporal or material loss to the character and reputation of the Hon. Phillip E. "Brave" Davis QC, MP, Leader of the Opposition and/or the Progressive Liberal Party; and
 - (ii) if permitted, the political advertisements may establish a precedent and legitimate expectation for other licensed broadcasters that would be contrary to the Underlying Principles for Broadcasting in The Bahamas, regarding Standards of Taste and Decency, as set out in Part 3 of the Content Code.

Effect of the Interim Order

5. The effect of the Interim Order is that CBL **shall immediately cease and desist** from broadcasting the instant advertisement regarding the Hon. Phillip E. "Brave" Davis and the Progressive Liberal Party unless and until further notified in writing by URCA.

Sanctions for Failure to Comply

6. **Failure and/or refusal to comply with this Interim Order may result in enforcement action taken by URCA under Part XVII of the Communications Act, 2009.**



Signed: _____
J. Carlton Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 22 July 2021