

A BILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT to Amend the Political Ombudsman (Interim) Act
and to provide for connected matters

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BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives of Jamaica, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Political Ombudsman (Interim) (Amendment) Act, 2024, and shall be read and construed as one with the Political Ombudsman (Interim) Act (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) and all amendments thereto.

Short title
and con-
struction.

Amendment
of section 4
of principal
Act.

2. Section 4 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (2) and substituting therefor the following—

“ (2) The Electoral Commission of Jamaica established under the Electoral Commission (Interim) Act shall be the Political Ombudsman.

Repeal of
sections 5, 6,
7 and 8
of principal
Act.

3. Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the principal Act are repealed.

Repeal of
section 9 and
First Schedule
of principal
Act.

4.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), section 9 and the First Schedule of the principal Act are repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of section 9 and the First Schedule of the principal Act, those provisions shall continue to apply in respect of the payment of pensions and other benefits to any person entitled, as on the date immediately preceding the repeal, to receive such payments.

Amendment
of section 12
of principal
Act.

5. Section 12 of the principal Act is amended in subsection (2) by deleting the numerals “25” and substituting therefor the numerals “19”.

Repeal of
section 19 of
principal Act.

6. Section 19 of the principal Act is repealed.

Repeal of
section 25 of
principal Act.

7. Section 25 of the principal Act is repealed.

Amendment
of Second
Schedule of
principal Act.

8. The Second Schedule of the principal Act is amended by inserting next after the words “Political Ombudsman” the word “(Interim)”.

Amendment
of
the Electoral
Commission
(Interim)
Act.

9. The Electoral Commission (Interim) Act is amended in section 6(1) by—

(a) deleting (a) deleting the full stop appearing at the end of paragraph (v) and substituting therefor a semi-colon; and

(b) inserting the following as paragraph (w)—

“(w) be the Political Ombudsman under the Political Ombudsman (Interim) Act.”,

and the amendments shall be read and construed as one with the Electoral Commission (Interim) Act.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Office of Political Ombudsman has been vacant since November 15, 2022. The vacancy has resulted in the functions of the office not being carried out. Those functions include the investigation of complaints of misconduct, or bias, by political parties, their members or their supporters.

A decision has therefore been taken to—

- (a) amend the Political Ombudsman (Interim) Act to provide for the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, established under the Electoral Commission (Interim) Act, to be the Political Ombudsman; and
- (b) make the necessary consequential amendments to the Electoral Commission (Interim) Act.

This Bill seeks to give effect to that decision

DELROY CHUCK
Minister of Justice.

ABILL

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As introduced by the Honourable Minister of Justice.

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