

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION 22/2013

Brought by the Member of Parliament for St. Elizabeth, North Eastern and approved by the House of Representatives on the 26th day of November, 2013:

WHEREAS it is widely accepted that Jamaica's vibrant democracy depends on an active role for civil society;

AND WHEREAS it has been generally agreed that democracies can be compromised by the undue influence of lobby groups acting at the behest of unknown funders with unspecified agendas;

AND WHEREAS it is becoming normal in many other jurisdictions for legislation to be promulgated which mandates civil society groups and other special interest groups or lobbyists to be registered and to publish certified and audited financial statements;

AND WHEREAS this Parliament is considering a similar regime with respect to political parties:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House debate the appropriateness and need for legislation in Jamaica that will, at the very least, require civil society groups, special interest groups and lobby groups – in keeping with emerging global financial and ethical requirements – to vouchsafe and protect Jamaica's democracy from any such compromise as could be caused by unknown or tainted sources of funds or hidden agendas.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the motion be referred to the Internal and External Affairs Committee for consideration and report.