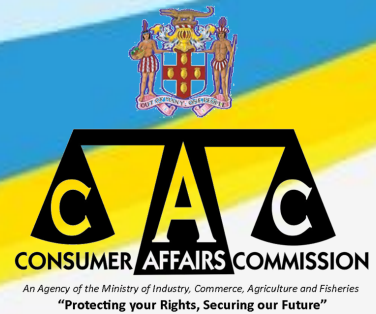


THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Bad Gas Overview



The Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC), started receiving complaints from consumers regarding “bad gas” bought at service station pumps causing their vehicles to malfunction in November 2015. These complaints continued into the final quarter of the 2015/16 Financial Year, when consumers were urged to make their complaints to the Commission by April 8, 2016.

The Petroleum Trade Reform Committee (PTRC) was created and the Commission named amongst its members. The PTRC was charged with examining the processes governing the petrol trade, identifying any loopholes and making recommendations.

The final report of the PTRC revealed that there was “no definitive conclusion” about a “specific contaminant” in the petrol sold to the public between November 2015 and March 2016. As such, no one was identified as being culpable.

However, a specially convened Working Committee was formed by the CAC to evaluate the complaints that were made by consumers. The Working Committee received 478 claims with a total value of \$35.546 million, of which 423 were submitted with the required documentation. Based on the evaluations conducted, the sum of \$24.5 million was approved.

In January 2020, the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology communicated that the approved sum of \$24.5 million would be made available through Petrojam Ethanol Limited. The Commission received said sum on May 14, 2020 and immediately activated mechanisms put in place for dissemination.