

Abrahams off kick-back charges

BIN - ABRAHAMS, ANTHONY

Anthony Abrahams, former JLP MP and Tourism Minister, "breathed a sigh of relief", after he was cleared of charges of conspiracy and racketeering for his alleged role in a bribery scandal.

The racketeering charges were dismissed on Wednesday "without prejudice" in a United States Federal Court in the District of Connecticut.

Abrahams, together with Arnold Foote, Jr., was alleged to have played a prominent role in a bribery scandal involving the Jamaica Tourist Board's \$8-10 million advertising account.

Foote, chairman of Advertising and Marketing Jamaica Limited, is still to face charges in connection with the matter. Also facing charges are Young and Rubicam, one of the largest ad agencies in the United States, a top executive of the agency and two former employees.

With his name now cleared, Abrahams disclosed at a press conference at the Terra Nova Hotel, that the matter "will not be taken lightly".

Attorney at law and former Senator Abe Dabdoub, who represented Abrahams, declared that the character and reputation of a "distinguished and outstanding Jamaican", has been tarnished and that he "will now pursue civil remedies against the convicted criminals in the conspiracy".

Commenting on the trial, a jovial Abrahams said that at

times he was frustrated. He said, though, that he was "happy with the outcome", and was more elated now that Jamaica's name had been cleared of the charges.

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