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US president needs to intervene – WTO committee member

By Alicia Simon - Wednesday, December 12th, 2012.

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ST JOHN'S, Antigua – The president of the United States is being called upon by a government official, who is appealing for an executive intervention in the ever-escalating WTO dispute.

In an interview with OBSERVER Media, chairman of the Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) and the newly formed special WTO committee, Dr McChesney Emanuel, said that Barack Obama's intercession would be indispensable.

"Perhaps it is time for the president Barack Obama to use his executive authority to ensure that whoever is responsible, or whoever he would delegate, can come to the table to discuss it in an earnest manner and agreement that would be satisfactory to both parties," Dr Emanuel declared.

In a communiqué penned by the chairman yesterday, Dr Emanuel puts the responsibility of the breakdown in communication between the two factions on the United States Trade Representative (USTR), that would advise the US on the WTO matter, citing its "less than venerable performance."

In the press release titled "Observer good faith and justice," Emanuel asked for just that from the international giant – saying that the eyes of the world are on the US.

"I think (this is) the way to, again, reassure the people of Antigua & Barbuda and the developing world that in fact the US does not apply double standards when it come to adhering to these rulings," he said.

Emanuel added, "The president now needs to, in my view, send the message that the US is prepared to comply and negotiate with Antigua & Barbuda to find an agreeable settlement to this dispute."

The committee that was convened in September falls under the auspices of the authority. It is charged with seeking and raising capital from the private sector to fund the continuing WTO fight and also to plot the way forward.

The committee includes Emanuel, Ambassador Colin Murdoch, counsel, Mark Mendel and PR firm, Levick.

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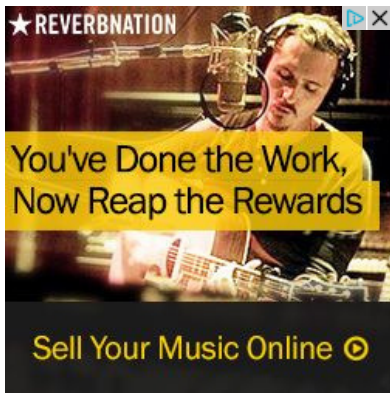
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