



2021 Independence E - Journal

EMBASSY OF JAMAICA

1520 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20036

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2021 Independence Message
His Excellency the Most Honourable
Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ
Governor-General of Jamaica



For the past 41 years, the Jamaican community in the Washington Metropolitan area has joined Jamaicans at home and around the world in celebrating our political Independence. On the occasion of our 59th year of Independence, we pay homage to the strength of character and sacrifices our forebears made so we can enjoy the freedoms we do today.

Since our emancipation from slavery, Jamaica has made great strides and has overcome many obstacles to become a sovereign nation with an admirable legislative framework and a unique culture, which is globally recognized. Today, our achievements span a robust and stable democracy, growing infrastructural development, extraordinary sportsmen and strengthened bilateral relations. We have proven and continue to prove that “*Wi likkle but wi tallawah*”.

Jamaica is stronger because together, each of us is playing our role in ensuring our country cements its part on the world stage. I thank the Jamaican community in Washington for its ongoing support and loyalty.

You, along with thousands in the Diaspora have kept our Flag flying high and have made an invaluable contribution to the land of your birth as well as your adopted countries. Continue to keep up the good work.

Although we are divided by sea, we remain inextricably connected to each other through our shared values, vision and the desire we have to work together to build a resilient nation of which we can all be proud.

The members of the Diaspora continue to exemplify the words of our National Pledge to “*stand up for Justice, Brotherhood and Peace, to work diligently and creatively, to think generously and honestly.*”

As we move forward, I encourage you to reaffirm and renew your commitment to God and to country. Let us continue to be resolute and be undaunted in the face of hardships and challenges.

Let us do all we can to make our country a place of peace, happiness, and prosperity. It is only through our determination and commitment that we will continue to advance “*Jamaica, land we love.*”

Lady Allen joins me in wishing for you all a safe and Happy **Independence**.

2021 Emancipation and Independence Message

The Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, ON, PC, MP

Prime Minister of Jamaica



Our Island home is 59!

As we mark the 59th Anniversary of Jamaica's political Independence, we do so with great national pride. At this time each year, Jamaicans the world over are in a celebratory mood. We don our outstanding colour combination; the black green and gold and we wave our flags high as we honour our country and all she has accomplished.

This year, as last year, we celebrate our "Emancipendence" against the backdrop of the global Covid-19 pandemic, which has dramatically affected all our lives and presented unexpected challenges. Our position in addressing the pandemic, has always been to balance both lives and livelihoods and we remain vigilant in the implementation of public health measures and containment protocols.

Despite these unprecedented times, through proper fiscal management and the marshalling of resources, Jamaica was able to absorb the shock, and will be in a suitable position to recover stronger and smarter together. We recognize that this will be a joint effort, where Government, private sector, Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora, as well as other stakeholders, partner to support our efforts to realize the sustainable development targets for Jamaica.

Indeed, Jamaicans have never been daunted by the challenges that confront us and we have always faced difficult moments squarely and with courage. We recall the epic struggles of our forefathers as they fought for emancipation from slavery and for political independence, hoping for equal rights and a more just society. The fact that we are now celebrating the dual milestones of the 183rd Anniversary of Emancipation and the 59th Anniversary of Independence, speaks volumes about our collective resilience, perseverance and tenacity. We see these traits in our athletes who are currently participating at the summer Olympics in Tokyo Japan, defending our record and prowess on the track and in other events, while carrying the pride of every single Jamaican with them. These ideals are reflected in our foreign policy and presence on the world stage, where we stand up for principle and fairness, even when faced with formidable challenges. We see these characteristics in every Jamaican who has migrated to other shores and who have worked hard to provide for their families, including here at home.

2021 Emancipation and Independence Message
The Most Honourable Andrew Michael Holness, ON, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Jamaica (Cont'd.)

The Government of Jamaica values very dearly its relationship with the Diaspora, and continues to deepen even further, the engagement. Although we were not able to host the 9th Biennial Diaspora Conference this year, the Government convened a virtual Diaspora Symposium which saw the participation of almost two thousand Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica.

I was pleased to have been able to interact with you during the Town Hall that I hosted, which showed the strong affinity, interest and continued engagement that you have with Jamaica. The Government looks forward to your participation in the 9th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference which will be staged next year, and will coincide with Jamaica's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

As we reflect on the progress we have made as a very young nation with record breaking, strong and resilient people, as well as tremendous national achievements, we also note, that there is still much more to be done. As a people known for breaking barriers and never being satisfied with being average, we will never allow ourselves to rest on our accomplishments. We will continue to work steadfastly and with unity of purpose, to navigate the turbulent seas of economic growth and sustainable development. In this regard, we continue to rely on partnerships with our stakeholders including our large, active, and committed diaspora.

I use this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support of your country and people through remittance, charity work and your frequent visits to "yaad." I am especially thankful for the tremendous interest and support many of you have given in our continued battle against the pandemic.

As we celebrate Emancipation and Independence 2021, let us do so with a renewed sense of purpose; charting the course for a Jamaica that will be even stronger and more prosperous.

Amidst the pandemic, it is my wish that we will still be able to celebrate the 59th anniversary of our country as proud Jamaicans, no matter where we are in the world. May God continue to bless you and bless Jamaica, land we love.

2021 Emancipation and Independence Message

Senator the Honourable Leslie Campbell

Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade



Fellow Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica,

It is with immense pride that I greet you at this time of year when we celebrate two defining moments in the history of Jamaica - the 183rd Anniversary of the Emancipation from Slavery, and the 59th Anniversary of Independence.

We honour the legacy of our forebears who fought for the right to live in dignity and to be masters of their own destinies. We reflect on the significance of this date, when on the morning of 1st August 1838, over 300,000 people were granted “full freedom”, from the dehumanizing horrors of slavery. That significant milestone in the life of our nation laid the footstones of the path to Independence.

This year we celebrate the birth of our nation under the theme, "**Jamaica 59, Come Mek Wi Celebrate Online**". It is indicative of the times in which we live given the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We, Jamaicans, however, will not allow this virus to rob us of the opportunity to commemorate our nationhood and I encourage you to do so responsibly, in keeping with the COVID mitigation measures in your respective locations.

Our Administration is taking deliberate steps to position the country on a path to recover stronger and better. We continue to forge ahead with our strategic objective of sustained and inclusive economic growth and job creation, and despite the pandemic, our economic indicators remain strong. However, we recognize that we cannot do it alone and that a whole-of-society approach is required, which is inclusive of our brothers and sisters living overseas. I am therefore confident that working together we will rebound stronger from this pandemic.

Your loyalty to our beloved country is unquestionable. I take this opportunity to commend you for your consistent support over the years, through good times and bad, across many sectors, including education and health. I applaud your support for the “One Device for Every Child” campaign spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. This has provided critical assistance to thousands of students as they pivot to online learning. Your efforts will enable our children to realize their potential, thereby securing a better future.

Emancipation and Independence Message
Senator the Honourable Leslie Campbell, Minister of State, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (Cont'd.)

I reaffirm that the Government is committed to deepening its relationship with you. We appreciate the work already being done by the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council to give support to the Government's efforts. The recently concluded Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium, held in June 2021, symbolizes the dynamism in the relationship between the Government and the Diaspora, and we will continue to work with these bodies, as well as community organizations and individuals, to ensure that the outcome of our joint actions redound to the benefit of Jamaica and Jamaicans.

As we celebrate yet another milestone in the building of our nation, we can move forward with confidence knowing that Jamaica and the Diaspora, working together, will realize a sustainable future for our beloved homeland and emerge, stronger together.

May God continue to bless you and your families!

Senator the Honourable Leslie Campbell is Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with portfolio responsible for Diaspora matters. He is a British trained Barrister and Attorney-at-Law practising in Jamaica since July 1994. His area of speciality is insurance.

Minister Campbell has served as a member of the Council of the Jamaican Bar Association and was a former President of the Advocates Association of Jamaica. Minister Campbell also served on several other Boards, such as, Chairman of the National Health Fund, member of the Board of Petrojam Limited, South-East Regional Health Authority, Firearm Licencing Authority, the Transport Authority Limited, Nutrition Products Limited and as a Commissioner at the Anti-dumping and Subsidies Commission.

Elected as Member of Parliament for North East St. Catherine in 2016, where he served until August 2020, the latter part of which he served as a Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries.



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2021 Independence Message
Her Excellency Audrey P. Marks
Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States of America
and Permanent Representative to the Organisation of
American States



My Fellow Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica,

As we commemorate the 59th Anniversary of Independence of our great Nation, Jamaica, it is an opportune time for us to come together to celebrate this milestone with the usual sense of triumph and jubilation. While fifty-nine years in the life of any nation is relatively short, we have much to celebrate and even more to reflect on, as we contemplate our progress over the past years. Jamaica, with its strong democratic principles and global influence in so many spheres within the multilateral fora, has long been “punching admirably above its weight.”

Alongside the rest of the world, Jamaica continues to be impacted by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will however not be daunted in this unparalleled period of challenges, as there is indeed much to be celebrated as our COVID-19 recovery efforts have been steady and consistent.

The Government of Jamaica has begun to mobilise investment locally which will help us to “build back better”. There are positive signs that our economy is steadily rebounding with our tourism industry set to welcome 1.7 million visitors by the end of 2021. Despite the challenges, Jamaica has also gone a far way in bridging the digital divide in the education sector owing to the significant support of you, the members of the Diaspora and Friends of Jamaica.

On the matter of national security, the Government continues to prioritise this issue with significant investments being made in improving our infrastructure including police stations, enhancing our human and technical capacities and advancing the procurement of the necessary tools to fight crime.

Jamaica still has the distinction of having the world’s fastest man and woman and Brand Jamaica remains internationally known and respected. These are but some of the achievements of the past year for which we ought to be justly proud.

2021 Independence Message
Her Excellency Audrey P. Marks
Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States of America and Permanent
Representative to the Organisation of American States
(Cont'd.)

As is customary, independence celebrations are marked with family gatherings, balls and parades as we gather to celebrate the achievements of our country. Regrettably, this year, we are again called upon to celebrate in our own unique ways even as we continue to be apart. Nevertheless, this need not mean we have to diminish the flair of our festivities. As touted by the Independence theme, I invite you to “*rally around the flag*” and “**Come Mek We Celebrate Online.**”

As was the case last year, the spirit of Independence, albeit in the virtual space, remains alive and is illuminated through our individual actions. I therefore encourage us all to participate in the online activities being hosted both at home as well as here in the Diaspora.

Importantly, let us also celebrate our collective efforts in the continued fight against COVID-19. Our health workers and other frontline workers who have remained committed and continue to work tirelessly to keep us safe, must be saluted. We thank all the members of the Diaspora and Friends of Jamaica for their understanding and unrelenting support during this challenging time. You, the members of the Diaspora, have used your self-confidence, creativity and determination to make a home for yourselves here, while not turning your backs on those you left behind in Jamaica and for this, we applaud you.

Just as the **black, green, and gold** epitomize our past achievements and inspires future successes, let us be reminded of its true message: *The sun shineth, the land is green and [we] the people are strong and creative.* It is this spirit of resilience that makes us truly Jamaican.

With this in mind, let this Independence be a day of national pride which serves as a reminder of the passion for life that pulses through our veins wherever we are.

Let us all continue to unite as we all work to make Jamaica ***the place of choice to live, work, do business, raise families, and as our Prime Minister likes to add, “retire in paradise”.***

Happy Independence Day to all Jamaicans!

Highlights with the Ambassador Embassy of Jamaica, Washington, D.C.



Ambassador Marks at 2021 United States Presidential Inauguration



**Ambassador Marks Greeting Donald Harris, Professor Emeritus of Economics
at Stanford University and Father of Vice President Kamala Harris**



Virtual Ceremony of Ambassador Marks Assuming Chairmanship of Organisation of American States Permanent Council October 2020-December 2020



Ambassador Marks with Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

“Let’s Connect with Ambassador Marks” Keeping the Diaspora Connected and Informed

“Let’s Connect with Ambassador Marks” is an initiative by the Embassy of Jamaica aimed at reaching out to as many Jamaicans in the Diaspora as possible on a monthly basis, in a candid setting, to discuss topical issues in Jamaica. The first event which was held on 4th March 2021, was largely focused on the Government’s ongoing efforts to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, during the discussions, several other issues were raised, which the forum has sought to address.

Accordingly, the monthly townhall-style discussion features various guests including Members of Congress, Ministers of Government in Jamaica, Diaspora leaders and other key representatives.

The series serves as a source of credible information and an opportunity for Jamaicans to connect and speak openly about issues relevant to them. There is an effort to reach a wide audience and connect the many Jamaicans at home and abroad to build a sense of community and support one another in whichever ways possible.

The “Let’s Connect” series is orchestrated through the new Jamaica Connect website. Jamaicans, Jamaican Americans, and Friends of Jamaica are asked to use the website to sign up for the monthly chat series. Please feel free to join the conversation and spread the word with friends, colleagues, and family.



The Embassy of Jamaica
Washington, D.C.

Let's Connect With Ambassador Marks
"Monetizing Our Culture"

JOIN JAMAICA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, H.E. AUDREY MARKS, ON HER MONTHLY CHAT SERIES

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
SHAGGY

THURSDAY, MAY 6TH, 2021, 7:00PM EDT

Click the link below to sign up
www.jamaicacconnect.org

JAMAICA-CONNECT

The Embassy of Jamaica
Washington, D.C.

Let's Connect with Ambassador Marks
"Investing in our Children's Future"

Thursday June 10, 2021
7:00 PM EDT

Join H.E. Audrey Marks during her monthly Q&A opportunity, live interview, and open-forum discussion

Featuring special guest:
Honourable Fayal Williams, MP
Minister of Education, Youth and Information

Click below to register on the Jamaica Connect website

JAMAICA-CONNECT
Helping the Diaspora Stay Informed, Connected and Informed

www.jamaicacconnect.org

The Embassy of Jamaica
Washington, D.C.

Let's Connect with Ambassador Marks
Thursday July 22, 2021
7:00pm EDT

Jamaicans in Technology
Making a Difference and Giving Back to Jamaica

In collaboration with
"The Jamooglers"
Jamaicans at Google

Featuring:

- Co-Host: Mr. David Sangster, Former CEO of Nutanix and Honorary Consul San Jose, California
- Dr. Lloyd Carney, Former CEO of Brocade, Chief Acquisition Officer at Carrey Technology at Blue Lagoon Capital
- Mr. Kevin Reid, Former Co-Founder, CEO, and CTO of VirtuStream, Co-Founder and Partner of VirtuStream, Co-Founder and Partner of VirtuStream, Co-Founder and Partner of VirtuStream
- Mr. Andrew Walker, Software Engineering Manager at Google, Convener of the Jamooglers

RSVP at www.jamaicacconnect.org

JAMAICA-CONNECT
Helping the Diaspora Stay Informed, Connected and Informed

www.facebook.com/AmbassadorMarks

Farewell and Welcome – Embassy Staff

The Embassy bid farewell to the following persons who completed their tour of duty:

- Mrs. Andrea Dubidad Dixon, Deputy Chief of Mission, who has been reassigned to Headquarters in Kingston.
- Ms. Saffia Bloomfield, First Secretary/Consul, who has been reassigned to the Jamaican Embassy in Havana.
- Mrs. Karen Allwood Stewart, Accountant/Office Manager, who has been reassigned to the Jamaican High Commission in London.

We extend best wishes to them as they embark on a new and exciting chapter in their careers.

Congratulations to Mrs. Nicholette Williams, former Minister-Counsellor, who has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The Embassy also welcomed the following persons to the Mission:

- Ms. Aliecia Taylor, Minister-Counsellor
- Ms. Attilah Beckford, First Secretary/Consul
- Ms. Georgette Smith, Accountant/Office Manager
- Mr. Douglas Chen-Young, Intern/Assistant to the Ambassador



A vibrant scene of a couple enjoying a bamboo raft ride on a river. The woman, on the left, is wearing a bright orange life vest and has her arms raised in excitement. The man, in the center, is also wearing an orange life vest and is pointing towards the camera with a wide smile. They are seated on a raft made of bamboo poles. To the right, a man in a grey t-shirt and dark shorts stands on the riverbank, looking towards the raft. The background is a lush, green forest with dense foliage. The overall atmosphere is one of adventure and natural beauty.

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Jamaican Community Organisations in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area

Immaculate Conception High School Alumni Association (DC Chapter)

President: Ms. Karen Wilson Robinson
Email: ichsdcaa@gmail.com

Institute of Caribbean Studies

Institute of Caribbean Studies
1413 K Street NW Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20005
Founder and President: Dr. Claire Nelson
Tel: (202)638-0460
Email: icsdcorg@gmail.com | ics@icsdc.org

Jamaican Nationals Association Inc. (JNA)

P.O. Box 77641
Washington, D.C. 20013
President: Dr. Elaine Knight
Tel: (240)988-6880
Website: www.jnadc.org
Email (President): elainek4@verizon.net

Jamaican Association of Maryland (JAM)

4229 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
President: Mr. Rick Nugent
Tel: (410)241-7916
Website: jamdonline.org

Jamaica Progressive League

2581 Iverson St.
Temple Hills, MD 20748
President: Mr. Hugh Thomas
Tel: (240)838-7785

Jamaica Volunteers Association Inc.

4200 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Suite # 106-324
Washington, D.C. 20016
President: Ms. Dahlia Gill
Email: jvav012@gmail.com

Merl Grove Past Students Association

President: Mrs. Andrea McDonald Black
Email: alumni@merlgrovepsaneac.org

National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO)

Office of the President
4229 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
President: Dr. Joyce El Ali
Tel: (410)908-0123
Email: president@najaso.org

National Caribbean-American Foods & Foodways Alliance

President: Doreen Thompson
Website: www.ncaffa.org
Email: devathompson@yahoo.com

Jamaican Community Organisations in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area (Cont'd.)

Partners of Good Shepherd Jamaica Inc.

1519 Ingram Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20906
President: Joy Marie Dufour
Website:
www.partnersofgoodsherpherd.org
Email:
info@partnersofgoodshepherd.org

Professional Jamaicans for Jamaica, Inc.

Chief Executive Officer: Mr.
Horace A. Daley
Tel: (866)285-9312
Email: horace.daley@pjfi.org

Read Across Jamaica Foundation

C/O Institute of Caribbean Studies
1413 K Street NW Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20005
Literacy Ambassador: Ms.
Dionne Peart Hayes
Tel: (952)250-9787
Website: www.readacrossja.org
Email: Dionne.Peart@outlook.com

St. Andrew Alumnae Association

President: Dr. Althea Belcher
Tel: (301)870-3966
Email:
saintandrewalumnaedc@gmail.com

UWI Alumni Guild Association (Washington DC Chapter)

President: Ms. Malene Alleyne
Email: alleyne.malene@gmail.com

West Indies American Military Members Association (WIAMMA)

11316 Kettering Terrace
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
President: Winfield St. Hill
Vice President: Mr. Pierre McLeod (Jamaican)
Tel: (301)758-8273
Website: www.wiamma.com
Email: Pierremcleod@msn.com

Women At Real Risk (WARR)

1501 Columbia Rd NW,
Washington, D.C. 20009
President: Mrs. Totlyn Taylor-Newby
Tel: (202)462-4606
Email: tmnewby@netzero.net

Caribbean-American Political Action Committee (C-PAC)

1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C.
Chair: Goulda Downer
Tel: (202)349-1498
Website: www.Caribbeanpac.org

OneByOne Initiative

401 Oakcliff Ave
North Chesterfield, VA 23236
Michael J. Asante
Tel: (804)370-2430
Email: asantejman@gmail.com

Silver Spring
965 Thayer Ave. 20910
301-585-3000



Laurel
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“Happy Diaspora Day”: Connecting Jamaicans Across the Globe at the 2021 Virtual Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade held the Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium on 16th – 17th June 2021 under the theme “Jamaica and the Diaspora Stronger Together for a Sustainable Future.” The focus of the event was fully aligned with the United Nations Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which together aim to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. In this context, the Symposium reflected the importance of working in partnership with the Diaspora to realise these goals through our Jamaica’s Vision 2030.

During the event, participants shared common goals centred around stronger partnerships between Jamaica and Jamaicans abroad. Officials, Global Diaspora Council members, and special guests offered numerous solutions to encourage diaspora involvement in the sustainable development of Jamaica. The central theme was more active engagement and creative inclusion.

The first day included three (3) plenary sessions: 1) “Preparing All Children for the Future Economy: A Pipeline to Transform the Skills Landscape for Success in a World of Globalization”, 2) “Re-imagining our Partnership for Health”, and 3) “Creating Effective Partnerships to Maximise the Human and Professional Capital of the Diaspora for Sustainable Development”. The discussions encouraged commitment to coordinated action that will help Jamaica to grow through the development of human capital, social capital, intellectual capital, and the pursuit of economic development.



“Happy Diaspora Day”: Connecting Jamaicans Across the Globe at the Virtual Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium 2021 (Cont’d.)

The day concluded with the Governor General’s Achievement Award Ceremony and the Prime Minister’s Virtual Townhall Meeting. The Governor General’s Achievement Award winners in the United States included Ms. Cassandra Campbell, Programme Manager at Facebook and Dr. Trudy Hall, VP of Clinical Operations and Philanthropy, University of Maryland Capital Region Health.

At the Townhall Meeting, the Prime Minister recognized the depth of support from the Diaspora. He noted that their continued, invaluable contribution has been a critical lifeline for Jamaica during the Covid-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Holness also used the opportunity to encourage members of the Diaspora to take advantage of the myriad opportunities that exist for investment in the country in areas such as tourism, real estate, housing development, and the BPO sector.

The virtual townhall offered Diasporans the opportunity to engage directly with the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Dr. the Honourable Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, and Senator the Honourable Leslie Campbell, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.



“Happy Diaspora Day”: Connecting Jamaicans Across the Globe at the Virtual Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium 2021 (Cont’d.)

The second day featured youth-led discussions by the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council. This was chaired by Ms. Kashane Denton.

The discussion was based on the National Diaspora Policy’s five pillar objectives including people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. The focus being on people, peace, and planet with Youth Council Representatives inviting youth members to share their perspectives. Speakers noted the importance of the rising generation as the executors and benefactors of future-oriented plans.

The one-and-a-half-day event featured participants from China, Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States. Multiple Government officials were able to directly interact with participants who expressed thoughts or concerns. Viewers were able to share ideas that turned into key takeaways by professionals in various sectors.

The event provided the opportunity for Diaspora members to connect with each other, laying the foundation for increased involvement and connections in the future.



The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council

In January 2020, the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council were formed to bolster the Jamaican Diaspora network and to reinforce the critical partnership between Jamaica and its Diaspora for national development. The Councils aim to connect the increasing spread of Jamaicans across the globe while tapping into the potential of the expertise of Jamaicans serving in various industries and sectors. Council members serve three-year terms, serving as liaisons to generate specific deliverables focused on connecting and helping Jamaicans overseas.

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council has representation in seven (7) specific sectors: education, health and wellness, citizen security, development issues, faith-based community, commerce, and a sector for arts, sports, and culture. Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade serves as the Chair, supported by 14 elected and 14 appointed members across the globe. Geographically, the Council includes representatives from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East, Europe, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States.

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council is a youth led initiative with the aim of increasing the affinity and connection of young Jamaicans in the Diaspora. The Council is to build partnerships and create synergies between and among youth and youth entities in Jamaica and the Diaspora.

The US representatives from both Councils include: Ms. Shauna Chin, Vice Chair, West and Mid-West USA Representative, Dr. Karren Dunkley, Northeast USA Representative, Dr. Allan Cunningham, Southern USA Representative, Dr. Christopher Parker, Health Representative, Mr. Mark Chambers, Senior Commerce Technology Advisor, Mr. Wayne Golding, Esq., J.D. C.D., Ms. Mona-Lee Belizaire, Regional Youth Leader, Northeast USA, Ms. Amaya Lewis, Regional Youth Leader, Southern USA, and Dr. Jay-Sheree Allen, Family Medicine Physician.

Elections were held in December 2019 for the Canadian, United Kingdom, and United States regional representatives, while the other regional and sector-specific members were appointed. A full list of the Council members can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade: www.mfaft.gov.jm.

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council

Regional Members, USA



*Ms. Shauna Chin, Vice Chair
West-Midwest USA*



*Dr. Karren Dunkley
Northeast USA*



*Dr. Allan Cunningham
Southern USA*

Sector Specific Members, USA



*Dr. Christopher Parker
Health Representative*



*Mr. Mark Chambers
Senior Commerce
Technology Advisor*



*Mr. Wayne C. Golding Sr.
Esq. J.D. C.D.*

Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council Members, USA



*Ms. Mona-Lee Belizaire
Regional Youth Leader,
Northeast USA*



*Ms. Amaya Lewis
Regional Youth Leader,
Southern USA*



*Dr. Jay-Sheree Allen, MD
Family Medicine Physician
Minnesota, USA*

The Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network



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[Twitter.com/jdtanorg](https://twitter.com/jdtanorg)
[Instagram.com/jdtanorg](https://www.instagram.com/jdtanorg)

The Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) is a worldwide network of sectoral-focused Taskforces with members across 23 countries. Jamaica Diaspora Taskforces have been operating since 2013 as a collaborative approach to engage and mobilize the Diaspora to join forces and support national development. It started with Education followed by Agriculture and has expanded to include Health, Technology, Youth Leadership, Legal Sector Support etc. Taskforces have evolved into a plug-and-play engagement model that allows the Diaspora to quickly and easily: mobilize, collaborate, identify needs and provide resources; focusing largely on intellectual remittances and capacity building.

Activities undertaken by Taskforces in the Network:

Delivered JAMINARS aka virtual Webinars, Summits, Conferences, etc. provided by hundreds of volunteers in the Diaspora delivering professional development and content to Jamaicans at home continue to be hugely popular with 30,000 plus attendees and over half a million views to date.

Held the Jamaica Diaspora and Friends Champion Awards (JDAFCA) in June. JDAFCA launched in 2017 with the first award disbursed in Kingston in 2019. This year and moving forward JDAFCA is completely virtual with online nomination and public voting. After thousands of votes, 12 volunteers were selected by the community by sector as the 2021 Jamaica Diaspora Champions.

Disbursed over five thousand free seedlings to Farmers, Churches, Schools, and Communities, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Trees that Feed Foundation. This is part of the Caribbean Philanthropic Plant Nuff tree initiative.

Created the five-week Connecting to Capital Series focusing on Youth Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Technology, which provided free resources to new and aspiring entrepreneurs around economic opportunities in the digital economy.

The Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (Cont'd.)

Shipped requested supplies to the Bellevue hospital in Jamaica and held the first Health Summit in partnership with the Nurses Association of Jamaica and the Jamaica Nurses Association of Florida delivering necessary professional development to nurses.

Launched the Coping with COVID series, providing much-needed behavioral and mental health support and resources during the pandemic. The series includes sessions on self-care, suicide prevention, and other mental health topics.

Provided critical legal information of concern to the Diaspora around Immigration Policy, Diaspora business in Jamaica, Human Trafficking, etc.

Supported the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Branch at the Ministry of National Security's School Supplies Drive which focused on the neediest families in the most vulnerable communities. The Drive raised over 20K+ and delivered over 1k+ Backpacks thanks to the collaboration with the Jamaica Canadian Association, the Canadian Coast to Coast Group, the Jamaica Awareness Association of California, Union of Jamaica Alumni Associations, and the Clinton Foundation.

Facilitated sessions focused on resources and support for Diaspora organizations. In August, a new a weekly podcast, JamTalks will highlight the work of Diaspora organizations via interviews on JDTAN TV.

The Taskforces in the Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jamaica Diaspora Agriculture and Climate Task Force • The Jamaica Diaspora Art and Culture Task Force • The Jamaica Diaspora Behavioral and Mental Health Task Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jamaica Diaspora Citizen Security and Safety Task Force • The Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force • The Jamaica Diaspora Health Task Force • The Jamaica Diaspora Legal Sector and Immigration Task Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jamaica Diaspora Technology and Entrepreneurship Task Force • The Jamaica Diaspora Worldwide Organizations Task Force (JDWOT) • The Jamaica Diaspora Youth Leadership Task Force
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<p>Consulate-General, New York</p>	<p>Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming</p>
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Jamaica: A Paradise for Business

Jamaica's reputation as one of the premier global destinations for business continues to rise, as local and international entrepreneurs seek to capitalize on the exciting opportunities that abound in the country. Beyond its vibrant culture and natural beauty, Jamaica's value lies in its business-friendly environment, educated and trained workforce, stable democracy, solid infrastructure and strategic location.

Ideally located in the centre of the Caribbean, Jamaica is the largest English-speaking island in the region and the third largest overall. Abundantly endowed with natural resources such as rich mineral deposits of bauxite, high quality limestone and marble, the country covers a total area of 10,991 sq. km (4,244 sq. miles).

For Jamaicans living abroad and persons of Jamaican descent who know about the island's potential and its resources, and have a cultural connection with Jamaica, there is an interest in doing business in the country as it continues to strengthen its economy. By investing in Jamaica's major sectors, or through establishing a business to export goods to international markets, the Diaspora can build their personal success while contributing to the country's growth. Jamaica continues to expand and diversify its industries and members of the Diaspora have a wider choice of ventures to choose from.

For export opportunities, persons often look to Jamaica's flavourful fresh produce or other food-based products, which is widely known and accepted for its exotic taste and premium quality. Jamaica's climate and rich soil also allow for the cultivation of non-traditional high-value fruits and vegetable in demand in North America and Canada. But, there is more to Jamaica's export sector; there are now opportunities to export IT Enabled Services, including the export of Digital Marketing, Customer Assistance, Legal Processes, Accounting and Human Resources services.

If you're interested in manufacturing, you can explore prospects in electronics, furniture, artisanal goods and apparel for export. There is a booming interest around personal care and beauty products, largely incorporating Black Castor Oil and Aloe Vera.



Jamaica: A Paradise for Business (Cont'd.)

Film and animation also present an opportunity for the Jamaican Diaspora, based on its ability to provide jobs for the community and a distinct opportunity to create wealth through the development of intellectual property. These sectors have projects that include elements of investments and exports, serving both the local and international markets.

For the entrepreneur that is interested mainly in investments, Jamaica is one of the safest and most attractive places in the Caribbean to invest. The country has been recognised internationally by bodies such as UNCTAD, for its performance in attracting diverse investments in a variety of growing sectors, and its commitment to improving the business environment for a more competitive Jamaica.

JAMPRO focuses on connecting clients with excellent investment projects in energy (including renewables, a growing global industry), mining, manufacturing, business process outsourcing (BPO) and tourism. There are also investment opportunities in the creative industries, with projects seeking investors to share their growing success and the development of Jamaica's creative economy.

These sectors hold very profitable prospects, especially with duty-free incentives on the importation of goods and products, income tax credits and other lucrative benefits for doing business in Jamaica. The country also has a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regime to encourage the creation of productive zones that have special concessions for investors.

Many members of the Diaspora have returned to Jamaica and have invested in the country's growing economy. Companies such as SportsMax, Isocon-JLB, Pedro Plains, Eight Rivers Energy Company, Zierlich International Dialysis Centre, and other successful brands are led by Jamaicans who saw an opportunity in their homeland and capitalised on this potential for success.



Jamaica: A Paradise for Business (Cont'd.)

What has Jamaica been doing to improve the processes - e.g. ASYCUDA, JSWIFT

Jamaica has implemented the ASYCUDA world system as a solution to provide a more reliable and efficient service to the Public, Government Agencies, Trade Operators and other Stakeholders.

Jamaica has also implemented The Jamaica Single Window for Trade (JSWIFT) system which serves as an electronic platform, which allow traders to submit transactional information through a single access point. The portal provides services to support the regulatory requirements for cross-border trade in Jamaica. Traders will electronically submit applications for Licences, Permits, Certificates and other regulatory requirements (LPCO), to facilitate processing by requisite Cross Border Regulatory Agencies (CBRAs) and Participating Government Agencies (PGAs).

Connecting the Diaspora to Jamaican business opportunities

As Jamaica's investment and export promotions agency, JAMPRO looks forward to connecting the Diaspora to business and investment opportunities in exciting sectors that are anticipated to take the Jamaican economy to the next level.

Through the Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference, and events and initiatives executed by the Agency's European Regional Office in London, and North American Regional Offices in New York and Toronto, JAMPRO works with members of the Diaspora. The agency's main goal for the Diaspora is to build their business portfolio, expand their returns on investment and help define their role as a major agent in Jamaica's economic development.

To connect with JAMPRO and realise your export and investment goals and opportunities, visit <http://www.dobusinessjamaica.com>.



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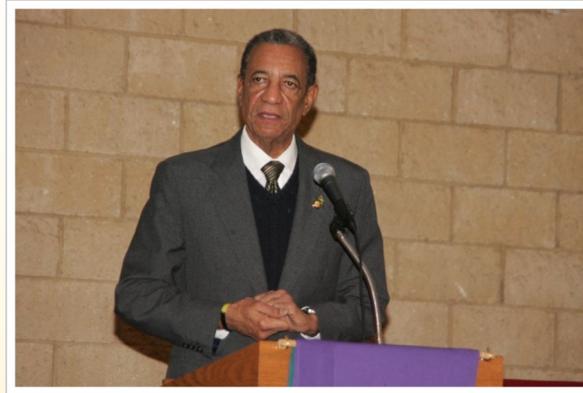
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One Love, Walk Good – Lewis Buchanan – Founder

Jamaica's 59th

In Memoriam

Ambassador Anthony Johnson



“Ambassador the Honourable Anthony Johnson will fondly be remembered as a man for all seasons, who walked the hallowed halls of greatness with a strong measure of humility.

He leaves the Jamaican political and social landscape with a clear legacy as a genuine patriot, an intellectual, an educator, a statesman, a diplomat, and a humanitarian, among the number of distinguished hats he wore during a well lived life.

After his appointment as High Commissioner for Jamaica to the United Kingdom in 2010, I succeeded Ambassador Johnson as the Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States of America and recall with gratitude his graciousness whenever I had reason to call on him about any matter of issue during his tenure.

I am, therefore, conveying heartfelt condolences personally and on behalf of the staff of the Embassy of Jamaica and members of the large Jamaican diaspora here in the United States, to his dear wife Pamela, his daughter Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson-Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, his other children and members of the extended family.

Much will certainly be shared about Ambassador Johnson in the days to come, but there is no doubt that he had led admirably in each of the many fields in which he had operated. As Prime Minister Andrew Holness has observed, ‘his passing has left us heartbroken’ which captures precisely the sentiments of many, hearing of Ambassador Johnson’s passing.

Service is a hallmark of the life he led, and he will long be remembered by compatriots and friends of Jamaica in the United States, especially fondly in Washington, D.C., where he earned many friends as he represented Jamaica. His was also a well-respected voice in the Organization of American States, where he was our country’s Permanent Representative, speaking often on behalf of CARICOM Member States.

Thus, the Johnson family can be comforted in the knowledge that Ambassador the Honourable Anthony Johnson led a life of significance and service which will long be remembered.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.”

Audrey P. Marks
Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Enid L. Dwyer
Jamaica's former Honorary Consul for Seattle, Washington



"Mrs. Enid L. Dwyer will long be remembered for her selfless service and devotion to the Jamaican community, going beyond the call of duty to serve as patient advocate, court translator, advisor and confidante to those in need of her help and expertise.

As the face of Jamaica in the State of Washington and the Pacific Northwest, Mrs. Dwyer served the Jamaican community with distinction for more than two decades, representing their interests and needs in various spheres.

I recall with fondness the pivotal role she played in ensuring the success of my working visit to Seattle in 2019.

I had the distinct pleasure of presenting her with the Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service, on behalf of the Government of Jamaica. Even up to her final days, she remained keenly interested in developments in Jamaica. Minister Horace Chang and I were surprised and very pleased to see her in attendance at our virtual Diaspora townhall, Let's Connect with Ambassador Marks. To the very end she stayed connected.

On behalf the Government and People of Jamaica, I convey heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of Mrs. Dwyer. Her passing has left a void in the Jamaican community in Seattle which will be very difficult to fill."

Audrey P. Marks
Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Public Notice



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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica officially commenced its operation at its new headquarters in Downtown Kingston on Tuesday May 4, 2021.

With its new look and new location, the Ministry remains committed to executing its vision and its mission of building partnerships across the world.

The contact details remain the same and may be seen in the graphic above. The Office may also be reached at 876-676-4028-30.