

MAYOR'S GREETING

Launch of International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

Mandeville Hotel, Mandeville, Manchester on Wednesday, January 18, 2017; beginning at 10:00 am

Theme: "Travel, Enjoy, Respect"

Ladies and gentlemen, special guests, it is a pleasure to have been afforded the opportunity to participate in the *Launch of International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development*, and to bring greetings on behalf of the Political Directorate and citizens of the parish of St. James.

Before going further, I must also use this occasion to welcome you all – particularly those visiting for the first time – the beautiful island of Jamaica.

With the many events occurring worldwide, events that are now shaping the way forward, we must see ourselves *not as a severing nation on its own*, but *as a nation contributing to the greater good of global partnership(s)*. With regards to issues specifically related to the Global Diaspora, I must say it is always good that we seek to encourage serious and impactful changes in how we approach not only matters concerning Jamaica, but the global economy also.

As we move forward, I must state vehemently, that we at the St. James Municipal Corporation do believe in, and do support public-private partnerships; the truth is, this relationship is fast becoming the new way of doing business practically in the modern era. This ideal, of **bringing together Global Diaspora and Community Villages as businesses** is rather encouraging, for it goes beyond the aim of simply strengthening ties amongst Jamaicans at home, and opens the way for partnerships that encourage trade both internationally and regionally, as we invite others to collaborate with us.

To improve of our networking amongst partners, and to see improvement in our economy, **we must structure our relationships for greater rewards.**

Once we seek to shift our focus beyond the local economy, we will find that it is integral that we partner not only with our nationals abroad, but all nations that have similar objectives, and those who are interested in trading with our country.

Any effort put towards improving relations in the global Diaspora needs to reflect an approach which indicates serious professionalism in the handling of the administrative business of the Diasporic transactions.

There must be an accountable, businesslike body in place that encourages the furtherance of our relations with foreign entities; this body – being accountable and properly staffed – will help to create the realities we seek to attain, as we lift Jamaica from the crux of its firm foothold in the Caribbean, to the apex of the new world.

As we continue to seek ways to move forward in this global community, it is up to each Jamaican – home and abroad – to play a part in the mission towards development.

We commend the organizers of this event, ladies and gentlemen, for it creates a space for discussion(s) on the **combination of local and foreign economic and social trade.** In addition, it allows us the opportunity to dig further into the subject of our own development, while we are provided a platform from which we can also share ideas with the intent of improving the livelihood of each Jamaican and our trade partners.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is said that ***“there can only be one state of mind as you approach any profound test; total concentration, a spirit of togetherness, and strength”*** (Pat Riley - former coach and player in the National Basketball Association).

In supporting this ideal, I will add also that once we work together with a spirit of togetherness, we will improve in strength, and the benefits will be rewarding, as we increase our possessions, and improve the standard of life for each Jamaican.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish for you the Lord's richest blessings. Thank you, and please enjoy your day.