



Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade

Press Release

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POST DIASPORA CONFERENCE IMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL

(MFA&FT Kingston: July 23, 2013)

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Hon. Arnaldo Brown MP, welcomes the establishment of a Post Diaspora Implementation Council (PDIC), which will seek to execute the recommendations made from the recently staged 5th Biennial Diaspora Conference.

“Stemming from the first debriefing which was very productive, it is clear that it is important to have plans in place to implement the various recommendations coming out of the conference,” the State Minister explained, at the second Post Conference Debriefing at the Foreign Ministry, held on Monday, July 22.

The PDIC includes staff from: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT), Jamaica Diaspora Institute (JDI), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Kings House, Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), Jamaica Customs, Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS), Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS), Grace Kennedy Company (GKCO), Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo), Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), J. Wray and Nephew, National Education Trust, Jamaica

Information Society (JIS) and the Creative Production and Training Institute (CPTC).

Increased Numbers & Expressed Interests in Development Projects

Reports from the various sub-committees of the 5th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference, held at the Jamaica Convention Centre, Montego Bay, from July-16-19, under the theme; *Nation on a Mission: Jamaica-Diaspora Partnership for Development*, indicate an increase in attendance, participation and appreciation of the Conference.

Registering some 700 delegates and over 1,500 participants, Conference 2013 is the largest to date. There was significant interest amongst investors especially in projects in the tourism and agro processing sectors. Delegates also registered their approval of the on site express services offered by the 10 Government Agencies listed below:

- Administrator - General's Department
- Jamaica Customs Agency
- National Housing Trust
- National Insurance Scheme
- National Land Agency
- Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency
- Registrar General's Department
- Companies Office of Jamaica
- Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ)
- Trade Board Limited (TLB)

Additionally, the Ministries of Health and Education have already set up their own Advisory Board/Committee to address the issues arising from the Conference that fall under their remit.

In light of this and other key successes, the Implementation Council which is proposed to be Co-Chaired by the Minister of State, Arnaldo Brown and Mr. Richard Powell-Chairman of the Diaspora Preparatory Committee, is seen as vital to consolidating these gains and pushing them even further.

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