



EMBASSY OF JAMAICA

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CLAIMS OF NORTH EAST DIASPORA CONCERNS OVERSTATED AND REGRETFULLY MISINFORMED

WASHINGTON, DC, November 12, 2019 - There will be no change in the role that elected members of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) will play versus the current role of persons elected as Diaspora Advisory Board members when the new body comes into operation next January. Furthermore, the soon to be expanded membership of the Council is widely welcomed by Diaspora members in the USA, UK, Canada and globally, says Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Her Excellency Audrey Marks.

Ambassador Marks noted that, "Over the past few days, I have taken the opportunity to engage with a wide range of Diaspora leaders throughout the North East, to make sure that there are no concerns that we are not addressing,"

She further stated that, "All the community leaders that Jamaica's New York Consul General Alesion Roach-Wilson and I have spoken with, have expressed their support with their better understanding and realization that this is not a Government "top-down" imposition. Rather it is a suggestion that the Government is facilitating for greater engagement with the Diaspora."

Immediate Past President of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO), Dr. Robert Clarke said, "After careful evaluation of the process, it is prudent and we are going in the right direction with the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council. Initially, it was not that apparent to me, it was after careful consultation with Ambassador Marks and other leaders within the region and looking at it from an objective point of view, it is in the best interest of the Diaspora for us proceed. "

President of the Jamaica Association of Maryland and Vice President of NAJASO, Rick Nugent said, "The reorganization is a good move and my association supports the establishment of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council. This is important as it will make a change to the present structure

and bring it under one umbrella which would be in the best interest of us here in the Diaspora.” Mr. Nugent also said that many of these changes were coming from the Diaspora conference held in Jamaica and appealed to members of the Diaspora to support the new Council and to support candidates vying for office. He continued, “Everywhere in the world you go, there are Jamaicans. Not just in the USA, UK and Canada, but also in Africa Asia and Europe, and this facility will give them a chance to be involved and engaged in where Jamaica is going.”

Registration to vote and nomination of candidates are both under way in the three developed diaspora locations of USA, UK and Canada. Jamaicans from Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe will join the elected members on the Council in order to support growth of the movement in those locations.

Persons have until November 17, 2019 to register to vote or to register their candidacy online at www.globaljadiasporacouncil.com

The elections will be in the form of electronic ballots, beginning November 21 and ending on December 15, 2019.