A Jamaican Diaspora charity organisation in the United Kingdom (UK) has expressed its displeasure over the red tape it is facing. An ambulance, which was donated by Friends of the Noel Holmes Hospital and West Haven Children’s Home Charity UK to Noel Holmes Hospital in Lucea, Hanover, has not been cleared for 11 months because the authorities insist that a nearly J$5 million duty on the vehicle has to be paid.

See RED TAPE, 3

Ambulance donated by UK charity stuck in Customs for 11 months

Six receive GG Achievement Awards – P5
NEWS

Six receive Governor General’s Achievement Awards

Six volunteers from the Diaspora received the coveted Governor General’s Achievement Awards on Sunday, July 23. The recipients are from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Gov’t looking to develop medical tourism policy

With members of the Jamaican diaspora expressing serious interest in pouring investments into the local health sector, the Government, through its trade and investment promotion vehicle, JAMPRO, is working feverishly with the health ministry to craft a policy to facilitate health tourism in Jamaica.

BUSINESS

Permits granted for 46 ganja applications

A fifth of the applications for ganja licences have got conditional approvals from Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA), while two licences have been approved.

IMMIGRATION

What is ancestry visa?

What is ancestry visa?

Routes adjusted for rural buses travelling to downtown Kingston

THE TRANSPORT Authority is to adjust the routes of rural buses from Manchester, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and St Catherine that terminate at the Downtown Municipal Transport Centre on Water Lane. Effective July 25, these buses will be rerouted along Spanish Town, Road onto Industrial Terrace and then onwards to Marcus Garvey Drive.

Money transfer services suspended at six Western Union locations

WESTERN UNION’s Agent in Jamaica, GraceKennedy Money Services (GKMS), has announced the closure of six of the remittance outlets as it seeks to combat fraud across its network.

New UWI Chancellor Robert Bermudez takes office

Robert Bermudez will be the seventh chancellor to preside over the University of the West Indies (UWI) when he takes office at UWI’s Mona campus on Thursday, September 1.

Traffic authority opens office in May Pen

THE ISLAND Traffic Authority (ITA) last week opened a new administrative building in May Pen, Clarendon.

J$200m spending planned for rural schools transportation pilot project

EDUCATION AND Information Minister, Senator Ruel Reid, has announced that J$200 million is to be spent this year on the pilot project to provide transportation for needy students in rural Jamaica.

Government approves concession increases for MPs and councillors

THE GOVERNMENT has increased the upper limits of the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), as well as the 20 per cent concession to various categories of public officials.

Jamaican sentenced in Boston Court for Lottery scamming In US

JAMAICAN KEMAL Barnes has been sentenced to 15 months in prison by a federal court in Boston in the United States on a lottery scamming charge.

Government approves concession increases for MPs and councillors

Policy, which gives effect to the increases.

| Public officials to benefit include: |
| Prime minister – US$60,000 |
| Cabinet ministers and president of the Senate – US$65,000 |
| Attorney general – US$65,000 |
| Municipal councillors and other public officials – US$65,000 |
| There is also an increase in the 20 per cent concession upper limit for: |
| Former prime ministers – US$60,000 CIF |
| The leader of the Opposition – US$55,000 CIF |
| Speaker of the House of Representatives – US$65,000 CIF |
| Members of Parliament – US$55,000 CIF |

Government approves concession increases for MPs and councillors

ATTORNEY GENERAL

He said the move to provide transportation for students on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) is being made in a bid to stem absenteeism among rural students.

Traffic authority opens office in May Pen

THE ISLAND Traffic Authority (ITA) last week opened a new administrative building in May Pen, Clarendon.

J$200m spending planned for rural schools transportation pilot project

EDUCATION AND Information Minister, Senator Ruel Reid, has announced an investment of over J$20 million in five parishes, St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas, St. Mary Hanover, and St. James.

Government approves concession increases for MPs and councillors

THE GOVERNMENT has increased the upper limits of the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF), as well as the 20 per cent concession to various categories of public officials.

Jamaican sentenced in Boston Court for Lottery scamming In US

JAMAICAN KEMAL Barnes has been sentenced to 15 months in prison by a federal court in Boston in the United States on a lottery scamming charge.

The sentence was handed down on Monday, July 17. The 34-year-old man, who lives in Malden, Massachusetts, was also ordered to three years of supervised release and to pay US$118,367 in restitution.

Barnes will be subject to deportation upon completion of his sentence.

There is also an increase in the 20 per cent concession upper limit for:

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HEALTH MINISTER SEEKS DIASPORA SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL FACILITY

Health Minister Dr Christopher Tufton is lobbying Diaspora support for a new J$9 billion (US$64 million) 220-bed medical facility to be built on the compound of the Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay, St James, to provide specialist services for children and adolescents.

He has also urged Diaspora members to support the expansion of the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston to include a cardio-care facility aimed at increasing the number of surgeries administered to youngsters up to age 12, from 50 to 250 per annum.

The Minister extended the invitation while addressing delegates attending the Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference’s opening plenary session, focusing on healthcare delivery and its importance in the context of the current health challenge.

If the Diaspora is able to contribute the amount of US$8 million to public health through their missions, donations and close to five per cent in the private sector, the facility is expected to “fill out the gaps” that exist in terms of healthcare delivery for the target age cohort, adding that “we are hoping to break ground (for) that by the end of the first quarter of next year.”

Tufton said it is anticipated that the Bustamante Hospital’s infrastructure build-out to facilitate the cardio-care facility will be completed later this year, pointing out that this engagement is being done with the support of charity organizations Chain of Hope and the Shaggy Foundation.

The minister said consequent on the Government’s build-out and overhaul of the paediatric healthcare service, there is need for specialists to deliver the requisite services.

In this regard, Tufton encouraged persons with these specialist skills, who are interested in resetting in Jamaica and offering their services, to contact the Ministry.

RED TAPE

Continued from 1

But, Health Minister Christopher Tufton said his ministry’s hands are tied in this matter, but he is doing what he can to address the issue, as he called for more support and collaboration with the members of Jamaican Diaspora.

Tufton, speaking with the members of the Diaspora at the Jamaica Conference Centre on Monday July 24, informed that an International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement barred the Government from granting a waiver to clear the vehicle.

“I have explained to the donor a thousand times why I can’t call Customs and tell them to clear the vehicle because the rules do not allow it,” Tufton said.

Though, in a subsequent development Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Sancia Bennett-Temple said the her ministry would be getting a moratorium to from the Finance Ministry to clear the ambulance which is at Kingston Wharves in another three weeks.

The ambulance does not escape duty charges although it falls under the category of gift and charity. According to Tufton, motor vehicles do not fall outside the IMF stipulations.

“I have personally made appeals to the Ministry of Finance and spoken to my colleague minister (Audley) Shaw, and it’s been constant battling, back and forth with the Ministry of Health,” Tufton informed that in 2016 the Diaspora contributed close to US$8 million to public health through their missions, donations and close to five per cent in the private sector.

Of medical supplies and motor vehicles, among other things.

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At least six per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Healthcare to be optimally addressed, Jamaica should be guided by at

Other challenges, including inadequate medical staff to provide healthcare to persons who visit the facility.

Tufton, quoting World Health Organization, said that for public health to be optimally addressed, Jamaica should be guided by at least six per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

He said that in the public sector it is 3.3 per cent of the GDP and close to five per cent in the private sector.

Tufton informed that in 2016 the Diaspora contributed close to US$8 million to public health through their missions, donations of medical supplies and motor vehicles, among other things.
Gov’t looking to develop medical tourism policy

EDMOND CAMPBELL
Senior Gleaner Reporter

WIT Members of the Jamaican diaspora expressing serious interest in pouring investments into the local health sector, the Government, through its trade and investment promotion vehicle, JAMPRO, is working feverishly with the health ministry to craft a policy to facilitate health tourism in Jamaica.

Gladstone Taylor
Bennett-Templer

Senior permanent secretary in the Ministry of Health, told a Gleaner Editors’ Forum at the newspaper’s North Street offices on Sunday that the ministry had received expressions of interest from the diaspora to invest in the health sector, but noted that the policy framework was not in place to encourage and facilitate that type of investment.

“We really have needed to ensure that we have a clear government policy with respect to investment in health which is what JAMPRO is working on now. With myself at Health and my previous experience at JAMPRO, I think I can bring some experience to help to move that initiative along,” she asserted.

However, the senior government technocrat admitted that health tourism in Jamaica would face the challenge of obtaining international accreditation. This could act as a barrier for persons overseas who want to use their health insurance in Jamaica.

The discussion on health tourism comes at a time when key government ministers and senior technocrats will this weekend engage Jamaicans from overseas at the annual Diaspora Conference between July 23 and 26, at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston. The conference is being held under the theme ‘Partnering for Growth’.

Bennett-Templer said that in terms of diagnostic services in the health sector, the ministry was looking at public-private partnerships with persons from the diaspora. “We are doing the groundwork to identify the gaps and what would be the areas, parishes and facilities that we could encourage, so that kind of investment,” she outlined.

Additionally, she said the ministry was moving towards the setting up of centres of excellence for health care.

Declaring that Jamaica has some of the best health-care professionals, Bennett-Templer argued that investments in health tourism would attract persons from the diaspora and international communities to access health care in Jamaica.

Commenting on the contribution made by members of the diaspora to the local health sector, the permanent secretary disclosed that approximately 200 health missions visit Jamaica annually.

Approximately 90 per cent of those missions are from the diaspora.

“They go into communities, health centres and hospitals to help to provide additional areas of care, and, in many instances, in specialist areas, providing services that are either not available or are of limited availability in Jamaica. That is a tremendous boost on an ongoing basis in the health sector,” she added.

The diaspora has also made significant contributions to the public health sector, providing equipment, furniture and medical supplies to health facilities in Jamaica. Last year, the total value of those contributions was US$8 million. The US$8 million did not include the value of the services provided.

“The conference will give us a chance to reconnect to persons who are very much our partners in the health-care delivery system in Jamaica.”

Six receive Governor General’s Achievement Awards

ROMARIO SCOTT
Governer General’s Award

SIX VOLUNTEERS from the Diaspora received the coveted Governor General’s Achievement Awards on Sunday, July 23.

The recipients are from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Canadian recipients were community and cultural activist Donika Jones and PhD candidate Bishop Glenroy Duffus. From the United Kingdom, business developer Taneasha Westcarr and lawyer Vendrys Henry copped the award while adult education programme developer Erin Leo-Hing and lawyer Joan Pinnock received the award from the United States of America.

Governor General Sir Patrick Allen Sir Patrick Allen says the receipts embody the values and attitude that Jamaica hold dear.

Governor General Sir Patrick Allen “I invite and I encourage you the Diaspora to participate in the process. The Government simply cannot do it alone,” the Prime Minister declared. “We need the participation of all our citizens whether home or abroad. It is therefore imperative that we build a strong symbiotic relationship among all Jamaicans across the globe,” said Holness as he appealed for support.

Since 2008, the Governor General Achievement Award has been given to members of the Jamaican Diaspora who have made great effort to advance Jamaica and Jamaicans within the Diaspora.

PRIME MINISTER Andrew Holness kicked off the Jamaica 55 Diaspora conference in Kingston on Sunday calling on Jamaicans living overseas to continue to participate in the process of economic and social development as the Government seeks to chart a path to sustain growth.

The four-day conference, being held under the theme ‘Partnering for Growth’, coincides with some of the activities to mark Jamaica’s 55th year of Independence.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has hailed members of the Diaspora for continuing to support Jamaica’s development. According to the Prime Minister, this year’s Diaspora conference, which ended on Wednesday, July 26 is in line with a number of development plans across various sectors and that Jamaicans have a thirst for growth.

Convened every two years by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Diaspora conference brings together Jamaicans, both home and abroad to discuss matters relating to national importance.

PM invites diaspora to support Govt growth thrust

Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com

What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
PHILLIPS URGES JAMAICANS IN THE DIASPORA

Peter Phillips

PHILLIPS URGES JAMAICANS IN THE DIASPORA

Opposition leader Dr Peter Phillips has warned that Jamaica and the rest of the region cannot ignore the fact that the agenda of the recently held G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, omitted the concerns of developing countries. Speaking at the 40th anniversary luncheon of the National Association of Jamaican and Associate Organisation (NAJASO) in Montego Bay last Friday, Phillips argued that the G20 response was born out of the 2008 global crisis which severely affected developing nations, but the original agenda remains, “so while the world has moved on from the crisis of 2008, the region that was most affected still languishes from the impact.”

Phillips hailed NAJASO, which was formed in the 1970s in response to global crisis, as a body that remains one of the best internationally organised group of Jamaicans agitating for the interests of the homeland. The opposition leader said Jamaica and the Caribbean still remain one of the most indebted subregions of the globe and face serious security threats by the fact of location through narcotics flows.

“We in the Caribbean voices have the power to confront the breakdown in law and order and public safety in our country and to return Jamaica to the place of choice for you to come home, to choose to live here, raise your families here, do business here and retire here in paradise, safe and secure.”

He said the greatest growth stimulating activity is to make Jamaica safe and secure.

PM HOLNESS

The government is serious about strengthening the relationship between Jamaica and the Diaspora and that improving citizen security is priority number one for the government, at this time. “The recently passed Special Operation Zones Bill, (Law Reform (Zone of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) will, for the first time since our independence, empower the government to confront the breakdown in law and order and public safety in our country and to return Jamaica to the place of choice for you to come home, to choose to live here, raise your families here, do business here and retire here in paradise, safe and secure.”

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Diaspora Policy to reflect commitment to building the relationship – PM Holness

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He said the greatest growth stimulating activity is to make Jamaica safe and secure.

Peter Phillips
Faith renewed

THE EDITOR, Sir:

RECENTLY, the League Hope left two groups of missionaries in its intensive training programme at two locations near Montego Bay with no food, no water, no money, no clothes, and no cell phones. These groups, consisting of 60 persons, met all the way from different countries, had to make their way 50km to 100km away from the ship without a good map and just a final destination where they had to reach. They had to return to the ship four days later. One team had to avoid the hills of Petersfield in Westmoreland and the other to Ocho Rios.

When I heard about this, I was shocked and I questioned the leader of the training programme about the wisdom of such actions. He responded that they had done this in other countries for the past 46 years and they would be fine. I tried to seem less anxious, but my thoughts lingered on the American missionaries who were murdered last year, not far from where one group trekked. I had a sleepless night.

The day they were supposed to get back to the ship, I waited for their arrival, along with their leader. The first group got back with a number of residues from Petersfield with them. They all had smiles on their faces, and the pastor of the church, who housed them, told me parts of their story with the joy of giving on his face. They had gained a huge new family.

The next group did not make it back on time. Two hours later, and still they did not return. I could see that the leader was concerned. Then, after 7 p.m., the four burst through the door to lots of smiles and hugs. They were behind schedule because they attended a late church service and were taken out to lunch, and then were given funds to make their way back on a bus. Plus, they got so much food, they wanted to share it with folks in need before returning to the ship. They were blessed and wanted to be a blessing.

I was amazed by how many stories they had: a homeless man trying to find them clean water to drink, women on the beach giving them money and promising to give them more, rules given to them without compensation, bus trips being paid for by a concerned man who sacrificed for their needs. Funds taken up so that a van could be rented to take them back to the town by the bus who helped them. They marveled at the generosity of the Jamaicans they encountered, and I, in turn, have reserved faith in many people and more hope for my country.

NICOLAI CARARA
near2909@ol.com

Raped boys, men suffer in silence

THE EDITOR, Sir:

SINCE 2007, I've had the opportunity of meeting three rape victims who were all male. The first was raped when he was seven years old, but no one reported it because of the shame. The sexual assault continued into his teenage years.

Now can a man walk into a police station and say he was sexually assaulted? What help is there for our men? What help is there for our sons? The other victim was raped by his uncle and is today a homosexual. He says that because of the assault, he just thought this was the right way.

The third didn't reveal his rapist, but said it affected his studies deeply. His anorexia, resulting in him needing stitches, but because of the embarrassment, he kept it a secret and pretended to be ill to mask the pain.

My belief is that many boys are being exploited and raped, but you dare not talk about it in Jamaica or you'll be beaten, chased, scorned and ostracised. Bruised men are crying out for help, but it is said that a man must be tough, he should never allow himself to be ill to mask the pain.

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Dr ROPER, like the editorial, was supportive of a previous Gleaner editorial which spoke of the tendency of politicians to appropriate institutions that will advance their expansion and expansion of power.

TUESDAY – THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT, DR ROPER

The editorial welcomed the view expressed in an article published by Dr Garnett Roper, a commentator in an article carried by The Gleaner in which he took the line of a previous Gleaner editorial which spoke of the tendency of politicians to appropriate institutions that will advance their expansion and expansion of power.

Dr Roper, like the editorial, was commenting on the impasse surrounding changes to the management structure of the Arnett Gardens football club between Patrick Roberts, an activist club member and politician Mark Golding who is slated to contest an upcoming by-election in the constituency where the club is based, as a result of the retirement of his fellow party colleague MP Dr Omar Davies.

WEDNESDAY – SHAW SHOULD WELCOME CARICOM/ICT INITIATIVE

Audley Shaw, finance minister who has been in the news for his $38.3 million for the year cell phone bill, should find value in the information and communications technology (ICT) promoted by CARICOM countries.

The editorial points to benefits which could accrue if CARICOM’s effort to create a single ICT space – for example – becomes a reality and if the regulatory requirements are in place then Shaw would not have to disable the roaming mechanism which he claimed was a major cause of his high phone bill by attracting expensive data charges.

THURSDAY – WHEN TEACHERS REACH FOR THEIR GUNS

The editorial wants Garth Anderson, president-elect of the Jamaica Teachers’ Association, to stop the association’s exhibition which claims the police are going to protect teachers.

The opinions on this page, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of The Gleaner.

I WOnder WHO THESE CAN FIT NOW

A Jamaican first?

THE EDITOR, Sir:

I WAS watching television in Miami when the news of United States Senator John McCain’s cancer had just broken. One of the specialists interviewed was the University of Kansas, and McRae was diagnosed with cancer, the virulent type that McRae said he had been diagnosed with.

He spoke about the use of the polio vaccine as a way to fight cancer, and one of the medical features told me my father: “A.J., I’ve cured cancer!” In almost disbelief, my father asked, “Sam, is that true? You’ve really done it? What did you develop?”

Dr Street’s answer was, “I insert the TB germ into the cancer. It kills the cancer, and I can cure the TB.”

I am not a scientist, I don’t know what happened to Dr Street or his research, or whether Dr Street’s thesis was fact or hope, but what he said has always remained with me. Today’s discussion on revolutionary modern treatments reminded me of that discussion those many, many years ago. Another Jamaican first?

J. SHEPARD

Miami, Florida
First Union's J$500m plan to diversify
Real-estate development, pest-control added to portfolio

Joanne Monteith

First Union, which began as a micro lender at its core before diversifying into other lines of business, has announced plans to open a new line of business, First Union Homes.

The holding company, FUFG, which has been diversifying into other lines of business, will house the current headquarters at the new 10,000 square-foot building.

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Remittance costs hit by correspondent banking pullout

WHILE REMITTANCE costs have declined over the last decade, a new paper coming out of the International Monetary Fund indicates that those costs are climbing again because of correspondent banking challenges.

The paper, published in June, examines recent trends in cost migration from origin, and remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean – LAC – as well as their costs and benefits.

The authors say that the withdrawal of global banks from correspondent banking relationships has “dramatically increased transaction costs, and MTOs, ‘given the enhanced challenges they face to meet the stringent know-your-customer anti-money laundering’ combating the financing of terrorism standards”.

The retreat by the global banks has been linked to the stringent know-your-customer anti-money laundering/costs are climbing again because of correspondent banking pullout last decade, a new working paper coming out of the IMF working paper, said “global banks have shown an increasing aversion to remaining associated with the region’s most important remittances corridors. In the region, the costs are otherwise widely referred to as de-risking.

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The authors say that the withdrawal of global banks from correspondent banking relationships has “dramatically increased transaction costs, and MTOs, ‘given the enhanced challenges they face to meet the stringent know-your-customer anti-money laundering/competes for mobile remittance service providers with a US$10,000,000 remittance transaction to be worth $9.80. This is why migrant families can choose their service providers carefully in order to ensure they are getting the best possible service.”

The paper states that mobile remittance service providers are a low-cost option for migrants, at 3.45 per cent, well below the global average. Meanwhile, the cost of sending remittances through post offices, the third most common method of remittance, was also below the global average at 5.36 per cent. The researchers said that the $68 billion in officially recorded remittances to LAC in 2015, lowering the cost of remittances could significantly increase the funds received by migrants’ families back home.

The United Nations itself has made lowering these transaction costs a priority - reducing them to less than three per cent and eliminating remittance preconditions with transaction costs higher than five per cent by 2030 as a UN Sustainable Development Goal.
Happy 55th Independence
JAMAICA

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THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

On August 7, 1962 - which had also been declared a holiday - the first session of Jamaica’s parliament took place. Princess Margaret, wishing Jamaica well on behalf of her sister, the Queen, and handed over the constitutional documents to Sir Alexander. She said she was proud to be associated with this event and welcomed the new nation to the British Commonwealth family.

INDEPENDENCE ADDRESSES

Bustamante, responding to Princess Margaret and addressing Jamaicans at home and abroad as the island’s first Prime Minister, cautioned on that same August morning: “Independence means the opportunity for us to frame our own destiny and the need for us to rely on ourselves in so doing. It does not mean a license to do as we would like. It means work and law and order. Let us resolve to build a Jamaica which will last and of which we and generations to come will be proud, remembering that especially at this time the eyes of the world are upon us.”

Bustamante’s message was also carried in a special supplement in the New York Times commemorating Jamaica’s Independence. Norman Manley, then Leader of the Opposition, also reminded the nation: “We stand here today surrounded by an unseen host of witnesses who, through all our history, strove to keep alive the torch of freedom and what of the future? We have come to Independence prepared and ready to shoulder our new responsibilities and united I believe in one single hope that we may make our small country a safe and happy home for all our people.”

THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

The following are excerpts of a series of articles written by Lance Netha for Jamaica’s Independence celebrations and published earlier in The Gleaner.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret opened the first Independence Parliament on Tuesday, August 7, in the midst of a hectic five days of activities following her arrival on August 3. The next day she boarded the Royal Yacht and visited the island, accompanied by her husband Lord Snowden on a train ride which took them through the winding hills of inner Jamaica and the cockpit country and ended with a civic reception in Charles Square, Montego Bay.

By then the focus had shifted to rural Jamaica where the festivities and jubilation matched whatever had been taking place in Kingston on the official calendar.

The organisations had taken care to ensure that the ordinary districts were properly represented and, as activities were organised by Sugar Welfare and the Jamaica Social Welfare in over 1,000 villages island-wide.

LARGE TURNOUT

From Beacon Hill in St Thomas to Mt Airy in Westmoreland, people danced and sang to digging songs, quadrille, kumina, jankun, ring games, and maypole. They enjoyed steel bands, domino, bonfires, cricket, boxing, dancing, curry goat, speech festivals and drama presentations.

Some 2,000 attended the religious services led by Rev Neville DeSouza and Rev E.A. Ritchie-Haughton. Above Rocks in St Mary celebrated the day with foot and sack races, grease pig and pole climbing. Miss Lily Wall was declared “Miss Above Rocks” and sent on her way to Spanish Town to vie for the parish title.

The Palmöy Jaceyes organised a one-half mile float which curved through Duncans, Sherwood, Clarks Town, Duanevale, Runners Hill, Desides and Wakefield, culminating in a grand fair at Hague. Later in the evening, Trevaly’s custody, Val Farnell, led a crowd of young and old in dancing the mash potato twist or to calypso and rock and roll music at Water Square.

St Elizabeth drew the largest rural crowd with some 25,000 turning out at Pepper to watch a 30ft diameter bonfire and join in the Byron Lee dance party organised by Kaiser Baxxite. Back in Kingston, it was entertainment around the clock as a series of roadshows and concerts toured the Corporate Area featuring Louise Bennett, Charles Hyatt, the Prata Quintet, Rotty Thomas and Ivy Baxter dancers, the Stapleton Poulie orchestra, and Count Prince Miller.

FLOAT PARADE

But it was the two-mile National Float Parade from Cross Roads to Victoria Park on August 11 that put the icing on the cake. According to The Gleaner, “every conceivable aspect of the country’s life was depicted in the pageant, magnificent in concept and in execution.”

The colourful parade had thousands lining the streets to greet the beauty queens, costumed groups, cyclists, youth clubs, students, and representative floats from the Chinese, Indian, and African communities.

Caricatures of Bustamante and Manley, Miss Lou and Miss Ran, drew gams of laughter while bands, uniformed groups, agriculture, tourism, religion, industry, commerce, trade unions, the civil service, sports teams including Senator Frank Worrill, saluted the viewing platform graced by the governor general, Sir Kenneth Blackburn. For mayor, Frank Worrill and Miss City of Kingston, 18-year-old, Misty Constantine, was an unforgettable show, and a fitting prelude to the next grand event, the opening of the IX Central American and Caribbean Games which took place at the Stadium that night.

PARLIAMENT

THE EVENTS leading up to Jamaica’s independence moved at a fast pace between 1958 and 1962. The West Indies Federation, formed on January 3, 1958, had raised many doubts in the minds of Jamaicans. First of all, the choice of Chaguaruma in Trinidad as the capital site had not gone down well on our side. Further, both Norman Manley and Alexander Bustamante had declined to run for a seat in the West Indies Parliament. The absence of these two leaders suggested a lack of commitment to the federation, although Manley continued to champion its cause.

Then came Bustamante’s dramatic announcement on the night of May 30, 1960, that he was recalling the Jamaican members of his party from Trinidad.

Bustamante’s withdrawal was a signal that the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) was now determined to oppose federation on all fronts. Stung by this move, Premier Manley announced the next day that he would call a referendum for the people to decide. The referendum was held on September 19, 1961, and the JLP captured 54 per cent of the vote. There was no question that having voted to secede, Jamaica would now seek independence outside of the federation. And there was no question that an election would have to be held to determine which party would lead the country into independence.

FAST PACE

Events continued to move at an even faster pace. The two leaders led a joint delegation to England in February 1962, to discuss the new Constitution and to set the date, August 6, for Independence. The JLP and People’s National Party (PNP) worked in unison during the conference, prompting Bustamante to quip in his final speech, “I am happy to be Mr Manley and I were able to work as if there was only one party - the Jamaica Labour Party.” Much laughter all around.

The election date, April 10, was announced immediately following the conference. The campaign was officially launched on the tarmac of the Montego Bay Airport on February 12, when the two leaders returned to Jamaica on separate British Overseas Airways Corporation flights.

Jamaica was once again plunged into election fever, this marking the fifth time in eight years that the country was going to the polls. Manley took off from the airport...
JAMAICANS in eight cities across Canada will be celebrating the island’s 55th anniversary of independence with a variety of events from the end of July to October coordinated by the Jamaica 55 Committee.

In Toronto, there will be a Jamaica 55 gala held at the Jamaican Canadian Association on August 5 with Justice Donald McLeod of the Ontario Court of Justice as the keynote speaker; a flag raising ceremony at City Hall on August 6; and a church service at Revivaltime Tabernacle on August 7 to attend an event organised by the Jamaican High Commission to mark the 55th anniversary and Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation. Janice Miller, high commissioner, will host a reception that evening.

On Canada’s Thanksgiving long weekend in October there will be an event organized by A-Supreme Foundation involving Juliet Holness, Member of Parliament for St. Andrew East Rural and wife of Prime Minister Andrew Holness, who will be the keynote speaker. The charitable foundation, which is concerned with the health care of seniors, will hold its event on October 7 at the International Plaza hotel.

On October 6, between 5:30 and 9 p.m., Holness will be a participant in a panel discussion coordinated by Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora at York University. It will be hosted by the Jean Augustine Chair in partnership with Humanities. McMaster University is likely to be another partner and will have materials from the Louise Bennett archive for display.

A reception will be followed by the panel presentation with questions and answers. The other panellists will be Avis Glaze, education consultant and former CEO of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, and Daniel Coleman, professor of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Professor Andrea Davis, Chair of Humanities, York University, will moderate the panel. The panellists will present on the social, cultural, economic, educational and literary issues of Jamaica and its Diaspora.

“We plan to reach out to the community,” Holness says.

The panellists will present on the social, cultural, economic, educational and literary issues of Jamaica and its Diaspora.

“Please see CELEBRATE, 16”
Remember the sacrifices and build on the good

As Consul General at Toronto, I feel a particular delight and great joy that I extend, on behalf of the Staff of the High Commission, to the Government of Jamaica and Jamaicans across Canada as we celebrate the 56th Anniversary of National Independence. This is a momentous occasion and it is heartening to note that Jamaicans in Canada have planned a number of celebrations for the 2017 Independence activities which are being commemorated under the theme “Jamaica 56 – Celebrating Jamaicans at Home and Abroad”. As Jamaicans, we are justifiably proud of the positive achievements made as a Nation much of which has allowed our country to make a considerable impact globally. The spirit of partnership between Jamaica and its nationals abroad similarly allows for reflection on and recognition of the significant contributions made by Jamaicans, at home and in the Diaspora, in consolidating the numerous gains made since the Union Jack was lowered and our National Flag was hoisted in 1962. Jamaicans, regardless of physical location, continue to work together to address the various challenges which still exist as work is undertaken towards the attainment of national developmental goals.

The Sacrifices

As we celebrate, it is also important to remember the sacrifices made to free Jamaica from the shackles of slavery and colonialism leading ultimately to National Independence. In this connection, the words of our first National Hero, the Rt Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey ON, ‘A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots’, resonate and allow for contemplation on the historic significance of Independence. The creative minds, their exuberant spirit as well as the dedication, and sacrifices of our forebears shaped Jamaica as a nation and, for this, we owe them an immense and unmeasurable debt of gratitude. The legacy of their vision and resilience has allowed us, over many years, to jealously safeguard the gains of self-determination and sovereignty while ensuring that future generations of Jamaicans are able to enjoy and benefit from the inheritance of Independence.

On this 56th Anniversary of Independence, it is important for us to continue to build on all that is right and good about Jamaica and ourselves as a people in order to move our country forward to where we want it to be. We have demonstrated time and again that we possess the requisite spirit and resilience to undertake this task as we continue to work together to protect the legacy of our National Independence let us continue to do so with unity of purpose.

I thank Jamaicans in Canada for all that they do to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Jamaica and Canada. Enjoy the various celebrations planned for the 56th Anniversary of Independence. God Bless you all and God Bless Jamaica, land we love.

Happy Independence 2017!

Janice Miller
High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada

Rededicate ourselves to a brighter future

AUGUST 6TH 2017 marks fifty-five years of Jamaica’s independence, an achievement for which celebrations started from as early as April here in Toronto. At this stage of our development, Jamaica compares favourably with its more developed international partners, particularly as it relates to some of the more significant development indices. As a country, we must continue to adhere to the rule of law, practice good internationally accepted governance principles, demonstrate our commitment to democracy, human rights, civil liberties and continue to conduct our bilateral and multilateral relations responsibly. Over the past hundred years Jamaican have been travelling the world where they have made enormous contributions to the social, economic and political landscape of many countries including Canada. The evidence of this can be found in the effect of Jamaican culture on the food, music and the arts as well as many other intangibles which are equally obvious in the way people live.

As Consul General at Toronto, I am proud to represent Jamaica in the Greater Toronto Area and even more so to serve the Jamaican people living here. Together we have done many interesting things which I know have had an enormous impact on the lives of ordinary Jamaicans both here and in the homeland. I have seen the contributions of numerous past student’s associations, groups and individuals concerned about healthcare in clinics and hospitals and must express gratitude on behalf of the government and people of Jamaica. It is because of our collective contributions why Jamaica can boast of its independence as a nation in an interdependent world. At this time, as we look back at our goals and acknowledge our progress, let’s rededicate ourselves to a brighter and more productive future. There are distinct goals which we have already identified regarding improvement in education, universal healthcare and our economic positions for growth and development and I would like to use this opportunity to implore you to join the process and stay the course with us.

We are one people. United we start.

Lloyd Wilks
Consul General of Jamaica at Toronto

13
ELECTION CAMPAIGNING

The JLP countered with their slogan, "the party with the programme", presenting Bustamante as the man who had pulled the country out of an unpopular union. Eighty-eightish, the JLP crowds would chant, "Let eye water fall on that man with the plan. Busta come back again."

This was the election where a third party made its debut, with Millard Johnson's People's Progressive Party fielding 14 candidates running on a Black Nationalist slate. They all lost their deposits. The election also saw three future prime ministers in the Junos. Jenith, who acted as prime minister when Donald Sangster became ill, Sangster himself who acted for Bustamante on a few occasions, and Manley who won the election as JLP leader in 1967; and Edward Seaga, who took on Burnie's local issue, although modern polls would probably have shown that little, if any, had been provided for the JLP.

The ships slipped out as quietly as they came on April 8, and the campaign continued. A total of 112 candidates were nominated, with the PNP and JLP fielding a full slate of 49 each. Over in Spanish Town, 1,200 lit candles heralded Bustamante's arrival at a meeting with the crowd singing. "Coming, coming, he is coming back again." And Manley took a swing at the Opposition when he told a Poor Roads crowd that "I wouldn't put the JLP in charge of a foul coop much less to run a government."

On election morning, Bustamante's continuous populist campaign was succeeded by the People's National Party and the Jamaica Labour Party's revival with the Plan' – PNP or the 'Party of (Busta) at 78, were displaying the man with the plan. "I accept the decision of the people", said Manley. And from Bustamante, the Prime Minister-designate designate of Independent Jamaica, "There will be no victimisation nor will there be any communism in this island", he added, as a final campaign pledge or the PNP in the balance.

CELEBRATIONS

The Independence celebrations began in earnest immediately following the raising of Jamaica's flag at the National Stadium at midnight August 5, 1962. The skies above Kingston and major towns were lit up. Bands were playing in the streets at the offices of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union and at Bustamante's residence on Tucker Avenue. "I accept the decision of the people", said Manley. And from Bustamante, the Prime Minister-designate of Independent Jamaica, "There will be no victimisation nor will there be any communism in this island", he added, as a final campaign pledge or the PNP in the balance.

The top 10 tunes on the hit parade on August 12, 1962, were Mitzie Constantine; Donald marine, Cubby and the Dunies; Harry J and the Isley Brothers; Derrick Morgan's Forward March; Lord Creator's Independence; Jamaica; and Al T. Joe's Independence Time Is Here invited us from every jockey box and every bandstand to "rise, Jamaica, rise, and let us celebrate".

The flag-raising ceremony was not confined to the capital. Independence Ceremonies took place that night in towns, villages, squares, and remote districts across Jamaica. In Annotto Bay, the British flag wasamaevelously hoisted by Concert Waller, while the Jamaican flag was hoisted by Comic Clutch Eon Grant conducted the combined church choir of Mandeville and Evon Grant conducted the combined choir of Mandeville and at Cross Roads and ended at the national anthem. Each child was given an Independence Petro de sweets, aerated water, a packet of sweet biscuits, an Independence cup and ballpoint pen, and a Jamaican flag.

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A ROOM at the Harbourfront Centre, a popular cultural hub on the waterfront of Toronto, has been named “Miss Lou’s Room.” McMaster University Library in Hamilton, Ontario has the Louise Bennett Coverley fonds which “reflects her life as both a writer, performer, and a promoter of the Jamaican language.” The mover behind making these realities is Patricia Appelt, former vice-chair of the board and the vice-chair of the board of the Jamaica Diaspora Committee, which is coordinating events to celebrate Jamaica’s Independence across Canada. She served in that role for Jamaica’s 50th in 2012. Appelt remembers Mike Colle, a provincial government minister, saying at the celebration of Miss Lou’s life at Revitaltime Tabernacle on August 3, 2006 that the province would like to do something that would pay tribute to Miss Lou. She thought that they might consider a scholarship in her name but in her view it would not last very long. “I was thinking in terms of a long-term commemoration of Miss Lou’s life here in Canada and having been a member of the board and the vice-chair of the board then at Harbourfront Centre, I know that we were in the process of naming a building after important people if we can get a certain amount of money from them.”

She called up the CEO, Bill Boyle, and asked him how much it would cost for someone to have a building named after them. He told her the amount and she almost choked because she knew there was no way the government would have given that amount. Referencing what went on at the memorial, they got together to hammer out what was possible at the Harbourfront Centre. Initially she thought about the room on the main floor which is used as an art room, but Boyle suggested that she look at the room upstairs that is used for educational purposes.

**SENSE OF THE ISLANDS**

“Once I got up there and I saw it. I said this is the space because it overlooks Lake Ontario which would remind Miss Lou of Jamaican waters, of the Caribbean Sea, and in the setting you really get a sense that you’re in the islands.” Boyle told her what it would cost and she subsequently met personnel at the minister’s office.

“They asked me what is it I have in mind and I said we need a place where Miss Lou’s works and stories can be told, and the entire province and Canada can learn about Miss Lou. And they liked the idea, they said how much is this going to cost. I said, well, we’re speaking about the Hon. Louise Bennett Coverley so that comes with a price. I said nothing under a quarter of a million dollars will do, and they just looked at me like I was a mad woman. The long and short of it is we got $875,000.” Appelt was impressed with the short space of time it took to get things done. The meeting was in July 2006 when Miss Lou died and by February 2007 the 3,000 sq. ft. room at the Harbourfront was opened for Miss Lou. Former Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson attended the official opening ceremony.

Since then we have had there now a permanent exhibit honouring her life and her achievements. We have photographs, we have tapes of her storytelling and her performances, and there have been thousands of young people who have been there over the past number of years and listening to stories. We have dub poets, we have artists who have come there and told their stories.”

**SHARE OUR CULTURE**

Appelt says it is her hope that as long as she is involved in the Harbourfront she will continue to use that space “to make our people more aware of it and to share our culture through that room.” The new management at the Harbourfront shares her vision and they are working with other groups and organisations to ensure the space is well used. About four years ago, she took Earl Jarrett, CEO of Jamaica National, on a tour of the facility and he was so impressed that the company has been funding programs in Miss Lou’s Room for at least three years. She noted that Miss Lou’s Room would not have been a success if Mary Anne Chambers was not a Member of Provincial Parliament at that time.

“She gave full support to any suggestions that involved Miss Lou,” said Appelt. A Jamaica Archives project involving Miss Lou’s name will also be unveiled in Jamaica at a later date. This came about before the present government became the government and the request was made of me then to give permission to have a sculpture made for Miss Lou. That I did, and it was going to be in Gordon Town, but when the government came in now we thought best and we continued to honour Miss Lou and I said what would be wonderful was just to ensure that the sculpture be placed at Gordon Town for her, and everybody bought into it.”

The sculptor was commissioned to do it, and Appelt thinks this will help the tourism in Jamaica also. “It’s not just for Jamaicans to go and see but because they are so delighted about expanding tourism to Kingston, what a wonderful way to get a group of people to go up to Gordon Town and see the house where Miss Lou spent her years before she came to Canada and to see a sculpture in a park there for her. It will attract tourism and keep Miss Lou’s memory alive.”

Appelt was also instrumental in making the Louise Bennett Coverley room possible at McMaster University Library that is available to anyone researching the beloved cultural artist. Last year when Appelt was going to Jamaica for the National Library of Jamaica’s launch of the Miss Lou Archives, she invited the chief librarian from McMaster University, Vivian Lewis, who had never been to Jamaica. “Since Miss Lou’s archives are there I thought it would be great for her to see what’s happening. It so happens that she was put on the program. She gave a beautiful speech, was taken on a tour of UWI and other parts of the institute and so on. And it paid off because they will be assisting in the training of archivists. They will have their archivist come and learn from McMaster and McMaster will send someone there as a sort of exchange program.”
generally and to students in the colleges and universities in the Toronto area,” says James. “Ottawa meets the World - Jamaica” will be held in Ottawa on August 7 and is billed as “a fun-filled family event, free of cost to the public, showcasing the sights, sounds and flavours of Jamaica.”

“Experience the vibrant and rich cultural heritage of Jamaica throughout the course of the day, by rocking to a wide repertoire of musical presentations and savouring the aroma and the exotic cuisine for which Jamaican products, experience the warm Jamaican hospitality and enjoy a first hand encounter with our culture,” notes the promo. A church service will be held on August 6.

CIVIC CEREMONY
An Independence church service will be held in Calgary, Alberta on July 30 at Borean Church of God International with senior pastor. Bishop Joseph Hackett, officiating. A flag raising ceremony will be held at City Hall on August 5 and later that day a civic ceremony will be held at Winston Heights Community Centre. In Montreal, a gala dinner will be held on August 5 with Hume Johnson as the keynote speaker, and on August 6 a church service. In October, a Heroes Day event will be held in that city with Dr. Julius Garvey as the guest speaker.

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“Experience the vibrant and rich cultural heritage of Jamaica throughout the course of the day, by rocking to a wide repertoire of musical presentations and savouring the aroma and the exotic cuisine for which Jamaican products, experience the warm Jamaican hospitality and enjoy a first hand encounter with our culture,” notes the promo. A church service will be held on August 6.

CIVIC CEREMONY
An Independence church service will be held in Calgary, Alberta on July 30 at Borean Church of God International with senior pastor. Bishop Joseph Hackett, officiating. A flag raising ceremony will be held at City Hall on August 5 and later that day a civic ceremony will be held at Winston Heights Community Centre. In Montreal, a gala dinner will be held on August 5 with Hume Johnson as the keynote speaker, and on August 6 a church service. In October, a Heroes Day event will be held in that city with Dr. Julius Garvey as the guest speaker.
Want to become a permanent resident

Dear Me Powell,

I'm an undocumented person living in the USA. I have a degree and several years' experience. Can I apply to become a permanent resident of Canada? Can I just go there and apply to stay? I just can't take the madness with Trump in the USA.

Anon

Dear Anonymous,

Canada has one of the most generous and efficient immigration policies in the world. Most of the individuals who are granted permanent residence are highly educated, have work experience as a professional or tradesman, and obey the law. Many professionals are able to become permanent residents of Canada, if they are able to provide the requisite proof and are not deemed inadmissible under Canadian laws.

To apply under any of the immigration programmes you will be required to show proof of your country of birth and if you are not currently residing in your country of birth, you will need to show documents to show the reason you are not residing in your home country. Most importantly, you will need to show that you are authorized to live in the country where you are.

Why are you undocumented?

You did not state the reason for being in the USA and the circumstances surrounding your undocumented status. There are several questions that you would need to answer in order for your situation to be properly understood and for any lawyer to provide you with advice. What are the circumstances surrounding your presence there? Are you a refugee claimant? If so, what circumstances are you seeking refuge from? What is your birth country? Did you enter the USA as a visitor, worker or student and just stayed without applying for the requisite permit to remain? Have you ever submitted an application to the US immigration authorities? If so, what type of application and what was the reason your application was denied? How long have you been there?

You indicated that you have a degree and several years' experience. Where did you get your degree? If your degree is from a non-Canadian school, you will need to get an educational credential assessment report from an authorized institution.

In what field do you have your work experience? Did you gain this experience while you were in your country of birth? Was this experience an undocumented individual? If you are claiming work experience in your particular field, you will be required to submit a letter from your employer to confirm the date, salary, and duties while you were working there. Would your employer provide that proof?

If you were self-employed, you will need to submit proof of company registration, contracts or billings and tax returns. There are programmes for self-employed individuals. To qualify as a self-employed person, you must have two years of relevant experience and show that you intend to become self-employed in Canada. This experience will need to be properly documented and legally registered in the country where the business is operated.

How old are you? Do you have relatives in Canada? How much money do you have? Do you have experience operating a farm? Finally, you should be careful not to act in breach of the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations. So you should not just come to Canada on a visitor's temporary resident visa with the intention to "just stay and apply to become a permanent resident". Your motives for entering Canada may be scrutinised at the border and you could be prevented from entering Canada and risk not being able to do so in the future.

Deidre S. Powell is a lawyer, mediator and notary public. You may send questions and comments to info@deidrepowell.com. Put in the subjectline “immigration”. You may also find her on Facebook.com/jamaicanlawyer or call 613-695-8777.

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What is an ancestry visa?

Dear Mr Bassie,

On what basis can someone apply for a United Kingdom ancestry visa? - O.S.

Dear O.S.,

Persons can apply for a United Kingdom ancestry visa if they are Commonwealth citizens, applying from outside of the United Kingdom, able to prove that one of their grandparents was born in the United Kingdom, are able and planning to work in the United Kingdom, and can meet the other eligibility requirements. The earliest persons can apply is three months before they travel. Persons should get a decision on their visa application within three weeks when the application is made from outside of the United Kingdom. It is advisable to check the guide processing times online to find out how long getting a visa might take in a particular country.

A United Kingdom ancestry visa will cost £496, and persons may also have to pay the health-care surcharge as part of their application. It is advisable that persons should check how much they will have to pay before applying.

Persons can stay in the United Kingdom for five years on this visa. They are permitted to also apply to extend their visa, and they can also apply to settle in the United Kingdom permanently.

STRICT RULES

There are strict rules as to what persons can and cannot do. For instance, persons are able to work, study, take family members. However, persons cannot change, “switch” into this visa if they are already in the United Kingdom on another visa; get public funds. To prove eligibility, persons must prove that they are 17 years old or over; have enough money without help from public funds to support and house themselves and any dependents, able to and plan to work in the UK. With respect to ancestry, persons must also show that they have a grandparent born in one of the following circumstances: in the United Kingdom, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, before the March 31, 1923, in what is now the Republic of Ireland; on a British-registered ship or aircraft.

Persons can also claim ancestry if either the applicant or the relevant parent were adopted; were born within or outside marriage in the United Kingdom. Please note that persons cannot claim United Kingdom ancestry through step-parents.

When making their application persons will need to provide a current passport or other valid travel identification, bank statements to show that they have enough money to support themselves, their tuberculosis test results, if they are from a country where they have to take the test. Persons will also need to have a blank page in their passport on which to put the visa.

In addition, persons will need to provide the following ancestry documents: their full birth certificate, their marriage certificate or civil partnership registration document if their husband, or civil partner wants to join them; the full birth certificates of the parent and grandparent that their ancestry claim is based on; marriage certificates for their parents and grandparents, and legal adoption papers if persons or their parents are adopted.

John Bassie is a barrister/attorney-at-law who practises law in Jamaica. He is a justice of the peace, a Supreme Court-appointed mediator, a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a chartered arbitrator and a member of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association (UK). Email: lawbassie@yahoo.com.
GLEANER Reporter

KEISHA HILL

With 891 rich Jamaican accent, it is hard to believe that Menelik Graham, whose parents are Jamaican, has only visited the island a few times in his 19 years. The second-year economics major, who is currently attending Princeton University in the United States, has fit in nicely, along with his colleagues who are being hosted by GraceKennedy Limited for a month-long professional and cultural internship.

“I want to learn more about my Jamaican heritage. Most of what I know about Jamaica came from my parents. I also want the professional experience and to see how business is conducted in Jamaica,” Graham said.

Tianna Thomas of Brock University in Canada left Jamaica when she was four years old and is happy to reconnect with her Jamaican roots. “I love the experience so far, especially visiting the historical sites. We visited Port Royal and have a few more places to go. I will definitely have a lot of memories to take back with me.” Thomas said.

The GraceKennedy Jamaican Birthright Programme is designed to reconnect second and third generation Jamaicans to their heritage. The programme is a cultural and professional internship geared at highlighting all aspects of Jamaican life while furthering the career goals of the interns. These interns work at a GraceKennedy subsidiary linked to their field of study, therefore granting them hands-on experience in a wide range of industries.

During their time in Jamaica, GraceKennedy provides airfare, housing, transportation and stipend for the interns. They will also be taken on a variety of weekend programmes, which will expose them to the Jamaican heritage by immersing them in historic sites, natural and human resources.

Matthew Robinson of Georgetown University in the United States and Cleveland Douglas of the United Kingdom-based Imperial College are the other GraceKennedy Birthright Interns. Robinson’s parents are also Jamaicans and he is interested in learning about the historical and political landscape of Jamaica.

“The lone Englishman, Douglas, who is in his third year studying chemical engineering said he was happy for the opportunity to work in an area that is relevant to his field of study. He will work with Diary Industries on a project.

“The four students were selected from a field of 48 applicants. According to executive director of the GraceKennedy Foundation and coordinator of the programme, Caroline Mahfood, based on the calibre of applicants it was a hard task short-listing the interns.

“GraceKennedy is committed to anchoring the roots of these students, many of whom have never been to Jamaica before. Coming in contact with the dynamics of their parents or grandparents’ culture first hand helps to foster strong connection between Jamaica and the diaspora, and empowers these young people to think differently about themselves, their heritage and their contribution to the world,” Mahfood said.

From left: Matthew Robinson, Tianna Thomas, Menelik Graham and Cleveland Douglas during an interview at The Gleaner’s Kingston headquarters on Friday, July 7.

PORTLAND students get Stanley Taylor scholarship

GARETH DAVIS
GLEANER WRITER

PORT ANTONIO, Portland

TWO UNIVERSITY students from humble beginnings are the recipients of the Stanley Taylor Memorial Fund, which was launched during a special ceremony at Bethesda Church in Port Antonio, Portland.

The scholarship fund and its affiliates, which are based in the United States of America, had its official launch and handover on local soil earlier this week, and is aimed at honouring students for their academic achievement.

“Taylor was a life changer for many, including me. Gone, but not forgotten. Taylor inspired many to fulfil their lifelong dreams and goals. Today, we are launching the first of what will become an annual scholarship. These two recipients will each receive J$50,000 to assist with their development academically,” said Lindo.

“Their memorial fund will fund the full cost of their graduation. Through faith, we believe that this fund will grow from strength to strength.”

The recipients are Kasey Williams and Patricia Lawrence, who are past students of the Portland-based Titchfield High School. Williams is a 19-year-old student currently studying at Northern Caribbean University, where he is majoring in mass communication. Lawrence is a student at the University of Technology.

Williams, who has completed his first year at university, has attained an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.83, while Lawrence has managed a GPA of 2.97.

The scholarship is valid for four years.

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EVENTS

CANADA

A Different Booklist presents 2017 Emancipation Day - the 5th annual Underground Freedom Train - on July 31. Gather at 10:45 p.m. at Union Station ticket booth and travel to Sheppard West Station (formerly Downsview Station) to welcome in Emancipation Day, August 1. Call 416-538-0889.

Island Soul, August 4-7, at the Harbourfront Centre. On August 5, 3-4 p.m. “ Stories of Coming to Canada” at the Boulevard Tent, 235 Queen West, Toronto.

Jamaican Canadian Association will hold its Jamaica 55 Independence Gala under the patronage of the High Commissioner for Canada, Janice Miller, on Saturday, August 5, 6:30 p.m. at 995 Arrows Road., Toronto. Keynote speaker: Justice Donald McLeod, Ontario Court of Justice. Call 416-746-5772. communications@jcantoario.org

The Consulate General of Jamaica in partnership with the Jamaican Canadian Association presents Jamaica’s 55th anniversary of Independence Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday, August 6, 12:30 p.m. at The Podium Roof, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W. A reception follows at the council chambers-Members Lounge.

Jamaica Independence Church Service will be held on Sunday, Aug, 6 at 3 p.m. at Revitltime Tabernacle, 4340 Dufferin St., Toronto. Call 416-598-3008

BLACKNESS Yes! presents Blockobaana on Sunday, August 6, 12:00-11:00 p.m. in Regent Park.

The consul general of Jamaica, Lloyd Wilks, invites you to an exhibition by artist, Cheery Stewart Josephs, Aug, 9-11 at the Consulate General of Jamaica, 303 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto. Opening reception: August 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Call 416-598-2064.

RastaFest presents the Canadian Reggae Music Conference on Thursday, August 17, 1-4 p.m. at Toronto Plaza Hotel, 1677 Wilson Ave., and on Friday, August 18, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. Speakers include Lloyd Stanbury and Kabaka Pyramid. www.rastafest.com

NEW YORK

The New Dimension and Triumphant Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist churches present Keys to the Kingdom Three weeks of unforgotten life-changing messages unlocking the secrets of Joyful living, with Evangist Deron Hill, until August 5th - Nightly 7 p.m., Except Monday and Thursday, Saturday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

You are invited to Jamaica Emanacipation Celebration - a lecture marking the 185th Anniversary of the Execution of Sam Sharpe and exploring his death as Martyrdom by Rev. Dr. Delroy Reid-Salmon, Friday, August 4th at 7 p.m., St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 777 E. 222nd St., Bronx.

The Consulate General of Jamaica invites you to a Flag Raising Ceremony and Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Jamaica’s 55th Anniversary of Independence, Sunday, August 6th at 3 p.m., Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, Manhattan. Host Pastor, Rev. Bertram Johnson. Guest Preach - Rev. Canon Audley Donaldson. Officiant - Bishop Dr. Cecil G. Riley. For further information call 312-935-8000 X 8211.

You are invited to an Emancipation Ceremony at Grace Baptist Chapel by Rev. Dr. Delroy Reid-Salmon, “Somebody Has to Pay: The Moral and Theological Basis for Reparation”, Sunday, August 6 from 5-7 p.m., 3355 Boller Ave., Bronx.

Merf Grove HS PSA NY 6th Annual “ Bring Your Own Basket Family Fund Day Picnic”, August 12th, Cunningham Park - Picnic Yellow #1, Queens, NY 2 p to twilight. For further information contact: 917-670-2480 or 347-508-1924.

The Atlanta Jamaica Association, Inc. invites you to the Annual Independence Ball & Scholarship Awards, August 12th from 6 pm - 1:30 am, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland St. NE, Atlanta. For further information call 404-436-1427.

CHICAGO

You are invited to Jamaica Day 2017 sponsored by the Jamaican Consulate of Chicago, celebrating Jamaica’s Independence, Saturday, August 5th from 11 - 3 pm, 3815 W. 63rd Street, Markham, IL (Truck Stop).


FINANCE

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Aneta Jones-Leslie

Doctors mourn gynaecologist killed in Grand Cayman

WANTED TO SELL OR LOOKING TO BUY? It’s all at your

The MEDICAL community has been shocked by the sudden and untimely death of a consultant obstetrician, gynaecologist Vary Anne Jones-Leslie, 62, who died in the Cayman Islands Hospital on Tuesday, July 18. She was struck by a taxi driver after de-planing.

“I’ve received so many phone calls. The entire medical community, both here and our colleagues in the Cayman Islands, have been moved to tears,” said the president of the Medical Association of Jamaica (MAJ), Dr. Myrton Smith. “We truly are in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology.”

The well-loved consultant, who had hit outside the Owen Roberts International Airport shortly after landing, was a very popular figure at Spanish Town Hospital in St. Catherine. She retired from government service last year, but was still in high demand and was always highly regarded, according to the MAJ president.

“It’s actually quite sad and many of the colleagues have been unable to function. I know some of her colleagues had to close office; they just couldn’t cope, couldn’t work, because she’s been a very integral part to the medical community for years, for decades. So we are extremely shocked and we extend our condolences to her immediate family and her closest friends.”

“She would have taught and mentored many of the younger obstetricians and gynaecologists here in Jamaica, so truly it is a great loss. It ripped right through the entire medical fraternity,” he added.

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Bolt dips beneath 10 seconds for the first time this season

TRACK LEGEND Usain Bolt ran his season's best 9.95 seconds as he dipped below 10 seconds for the first time in winning the IAAF’s Diamond League 100 metres meet in Monaco on Friday night, July 21. From a not too brisk start, Bolt had to work to do in claiming his season's best from USA's Isiah Young 9.98 seconds and South Africa's Akani Simbine 10.02 seconds. Bolt will now focus on sharpening up as he awaits the World Championships in London, August 4-13 which he has said will be his last official meet before retirement.

Speaking after the race Bolt said there was lot work still to be done while noting that it was good to run sub-10s. "A lot of these athletes are in the non-traditional events, so to speak. They are among the best that we have and they are among the best in the world, and so it should be a really good thing for us that they can leave London at the World Championships and head over to Chinese-Taipei to continue the representation for Jamaica."

Discus thrower Fedrick Dacres, who will compete both at the IAAF and the World University Games in London and at the World University Games, a week later, said that he is looking to make history for Jamaica. However, the world number-two ranked discus thrower said his growing reputation in track and field, does not make him feel pressured to do well.

"I'm a competitor, so I'm just going out there to try to give a good account of myself and try to get as far as I can," he said. "I think it's going to be a bit downplayed as it is being held after the World Champs. I'm just trying to get everything in my head right and do what I'm supposed to."

The national record holder said that he expects good performances from the team because he is familiar with most of its members and he knows what they are capable of.

"It's a strong team. These are the guys I've had meets with before at the junior level, so it's nice coming up and seeing familiar faces in the national gear again," Dacres said.

Jamaica picks up two more medals on the final day of competition of the 19th Pan American Junior Championships in Trujillo, Peru, as Petersfield High's Kevin Nedrick and the Boys 4x400m relay team minted silver. The country ended the meet with seven medal – one gold, five silver, and one bronze – falling well short of the 13 medals picked up two years ago in Edmonton, Canada.

Following his bronze medal on Friday's opening day of the competition in the discus event, Nedrick gave the country its only individual medal on Saturday, July 22 with his second-place finish. He had a heave of 20.94m in the Boys Shot Put as Jordan Goist of the United States won the gold medal with a throw of 22.02m. This broke the championship record 20.36m, set in 2009 by fellow American Mason Finley. Goist’s team-mate, Adrian Piparu, picked up bronze with his third-place mark of 20.28m. Jamaica's Kyle Mitchell was fifth with 18.41m.

Two silver for Ja on final Pan Am Champs day

RAYMOND GRAHAM Contributor

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Like they did in the 4x100m relay the previous day, it was silver for Jamaica in the Boys 4x400m. The team of Shimier Chambers, Anthony Carpenter, Jauvaney James, and Christopher Taylor (in that running order) finished second in 3.08.77. The United States won the event in a world record time of 3.00.33 to erase their old mark of 3.01.09, done in 2004. There were several other Jamaicans in action in individual events. They, however, failed to be among the medals with Nicole Foster being the best of the lot, finishing fourth in the Girls 400m hurdles finals in 58.16 seconds. The United States' Brandy Johnson took gold in an impressive 56.65 seconds. Canada’s Xabria Santiago finished second in 57.01 seconds. Johnson’s team-mate, Masai Russell, got third in 57.55 seconds.

In the Boys event, Jauvaney James ended fifth in 50.74 seconds. Quincy Hall of the United States won in 49.92 seconds. Ahead of Fernando Felix of Mexico, second in 49.96 seconds. Third went to the United States’ Cory Pools in 50.14 seconds.

Lushane Wilson ended sixth in the Boys High jump after clearing the bar at 2.13m. Akeen Colley, the other Jamaican who competed, failed to finish in the Boys 1500m, where Eric Van Der Eis of the United States won a Championships record of 3:43.16.
Bolt does first sub-10 for the season

**TRACK LEGEND** Usain Bolt ran his season’s best 9.95 seconds as he dipped below 10 seconds for the first time in winning the IAAF’s Diamond League 100 metres meet in Monaco on Friday, July 21. From a not too brisk start, Bolt had to work to do in claiming his season’s best from USAII’s Young 9.98 seconds and South Africa’s Akani Simbine 10.02 seconds.

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Coach Riley surprised by Bailey’s big leap

WHEN RAMONE Bailey bounded to a long jump personal best of 8.16m at last month’s JAAA National Senior Athletics Championships, he surprised everybody, including his coach, David Riley. The mark, which punched Bailey’s ticket to the World Championships in London, came one year early as both coach and athlete expected improvements in 2018.

Riley says that the training plan for Bailey has exceeded expectations.

“As a coach, you sit down and you devise a plan and sometimes the plan works,” said Riley after the Nationals, “but when the plan exceeds what you had projected, that’s an even greater feeling.”

Coached by Riley at Wolmer’s Boys School for which he won the long jump at Boys and Girls’ Championships, Bailey spent four years at Texas Christian University and then took the year off before reuniting with his high school coach, who now plies his trade at Excelsior High School. “Ramone came back from the US last August,” Riley shared, “and he was about 20th overweight and had not been active doing any training for about a year.”

Candidly, Riley admits to not having had any plans in place for Bailey in 2017 after the Nationals. “I told him after the meet, ‘I didn’t even have a programme for you after this meet’, he said smiling.

“We were just looking at this year,” Riley said, “losing some of the weight, learning to jump again, and just really using that as the foundation for next year.” He believes that continued study of the event has led to Bailey reaching past the World Championships qualifying mark of 8.15m at the right time. “We’ve learnt so much that’s specific to jumping and the components,” he enthused.

The 8.16 metre National winning leap places Bailey behind James Beckford, Alan Bailey, Damar Forbes, and Ron Chambers on the all-time Jamaica performance list.

Can’t guarantee clean World Champs, Coe

IAAF President Sebastian Coe has said that he cannot guarantee that next month’s World Athletics Championships in London will be drug-free.

“It’s a very Utopian view. People will always seek to cheat,” said Coe in an interview with BBC One’s Andrew Marr Show. However, Coe said that the system for detecting cheats is a lot safer.

“We have the technology that allows us to be very much more specific about what we are looking for,” he said. “I would love to tell you that we will have a drug-free sport in the future. Everything we are doing is engaged in trying to achieve that, but we know a few people will cheat,” Coe said.

**INTEGRITY UNIT**

He added: “What we do have in place now is an independent athlete integrity unit. We have independent sanctioning and discipline, and we will be able to a lot tougher and speed up the process.”

Russia’s athletics federation is banned from the event in London, having been suspended by the sport’s global governing body in 2015 amid allegations of state-sponsored doping. Russia was barred from international athletics after last year’s McLaren report claimed that more than 1,000 athletes benefited from a state-sponsored doping programme between 2011 and 2015.

Bolt King, Queen lead Ja’s 56-member team to World Champs

Sprint King Usain Bolt headlines Jamaica’s 56-member team to the August 4-13 World Athletics Championships set for London with three other Olympic gold medal winners securing their spots as expected. Twenty-nine females and 27 male athletes make up the squad that was named by the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association with a 22-strong management team which will be lead by Ian Forbes also announced.

Bolt will compete in the 100m and 4x100m in what he has announced will be his final competitive appearance with fellow Olympic stars Elaine Thompson, who will also only feature in the 100m and 4x100m relay and 110m hurdles Olympic champion Omar McLeod also expected to play leading roles in London.

Defending 100m hurdles champion Danielle Williams is also a big name in the Jamaican squad, which includes sprinter medallist prospects such as discus standout Pedrick Darreus, O’Dayne Richards, Yohan Blake, Shericka Jackson, Hanalei Parchment and Ronald Levy.

Former world 100m record holder Asafa Powell as well as fellow veteran Veronica Campbell-Brown and top 800m medallist Jo-Ann得不到 Claire are among the big named athletes who will not be representing Jamaica at London 2017.

Devalier Quinelle has been named as Technical Leader while Maurice Wilson is listed as head coach with support to come from Fitz Coleman, Paul Francis, Jerry Blake Holness, Lennox Graham, Julian Robinson, Michael Clarke and David Riley.

Seven massage therapists have been named to treat the athletes along with two medical doctors and a physiotherapist.

**THE TEAM**


**MEN:** Rushele Burton, Rhonda Whyte, Ristananna Tracey, Leah Nugent, Aisha Praught, Kimberly Williams, Shaniece Thomas-Riccutte, Kellion Knibb, Shadasa Lawrence, Tarasse Barnett, Danniel Thomas-Dodd.


JAAA President Dr Warren Blake on his arrival at the Norman Manley International Airport earlier this year.
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JULY 22 JR. CARNIVAL & FAMILY DAY
Neilson Park

JULY 28 CARNIVAL BALL
Liberty Grand

AUG 3 KING & QUEEN SHOWCASE
Allan Lamport Stadium

AUG 4 PAN ALIVE
Allan Lamport Stadium

AUG 5 GRAND PARADE
Exhibition Place

AUG 6 WE JAMMIN STILL
Allan Lamport Stadium