



INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST HONOURABLE
SIR PATRICK ALLEN ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J
GOVERNOR-GENERAL**

6TH AUGUST 2022

My fellow Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora,

This 60th Anniversary of our Independence today marks a very special milestone for Jamaica. It provides an ideal opportunity for us to reflect on our journey as a nation, and aspire to a future of even greater success for generations to come.

The first raising of the Black, Green and Gold Flag of our newly-Independent country was, for us, a new day of hope in our history. I am proud and honoured to be part of this bold and resilient nation.

In reflecting on our six decades of self-governance and national development, we have many achievements in our short history, of which we should be proud:

- We have a stable democracy that has allowed us to transfer power successfully, when the people wish, from one political party to another without any coups.
- We have upheld the '*rule of law*' and rejected injustice and abuse.
- We have respected, embraced and followed the Constitution, which was carefully crafted by our Founding Fathers.
- We have made outstanding contributions to the Visual and Performing Arts, Culture, Sports, Education, Tourism, Medicine, Research and Development, Science and Technology,

International Relations, global peace initiatives, advocacy on behalf of developing countries, and Human Rights.

Our young people, the future of our sovereignty, are leading within the halls of our development, and in existing industries, while building new ones to adapt to the challenges and demands of changing times. They, as the custodians of Jamaica's growing legacy, should be given space to collaborate, learn, celebrate and be celebrated.

As we bask in the glow of this Diamond Jubilee there remains the shadow of pandemics, social inequities, economic turmoil, and escalating crime and violence that have threatened our very being. We cannot allow the life of our nation to be drained, as that would sink us into despair and lawlessness.

Just as our fore-parents showed admirable tenacity and courage, we too should be courageous and come together as "*One nation under God*", united in our shared goal of making our country a successful nation.

Our theme for this celebration inspires us to ignite the values that guarantee success. Among them:

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Trust
- Kindness
- Respect for each other, and,
- Respect for life.

Jamaica is poised, now more than ever, to actualize the dreams and hopes of our forefathers who fought for our emancipation and political Independence. Our people are now more mature and responsive to challenges, so solid faith in our nation should strengthen the foundations as we move forward.

In continuing our journey, we are capable of using *‘What is right with Jamaica to fix what is wrong with Jamaica’* and be the best of what we can be.

Our first National Hero, the Right Excellent Marcus Garvey, stressed the point to us that, quote, *“We have a beautiful history, and we shall create another in the future that will astonish the world...”* unquote.

Let us all rise to the challenge and "play our part" to advance Jamaica and by extension, "the whole human race". I encourage everyone to embrace the Jubilee call to action in *“Re-igniting a Nation for Greatness.”*

I wish for everyone a Happy Independence.

God bless you and bless “*Jamaica, land we love*”.

Words: 563

Time: 4.7 minutes