



April-June 2006

I am particularly pleased that this Special Edition affords me the opportunity to reach out to the Jamaican Diaspora community in the United States.

Jamaicans abroad continue to demonstrate an unparalleled sense of patriotism and commitment to their country of birth and its future. This is manifested through the myriad of activities and initiatives in diverse areas executed throughout the island.

By their action, the overseas community has acknowledged and accepted a role for itself in the country's development. The Government, as a principal stakeholder, readily welcomed the opportunity for forging a partnership that would enable us to achieve our common goals. The second Jamaican Diaspora Conference will continue the work aimed at strengthening this partnership.

The Conference is expected not only to identify issues and areas of concerns critical to the process but to make recommendations on the way forward. The level of energy, commitment and experience which the diaspora community in the United States will bring to the Conference augurs well for the deliberations and the outcome.

I rest secure in the knowledge that the opportunity for continued dialogue among the stakeholders provided by the Conference will be used to our best advantage.



*Hon. Anthony Hylton
Minister of Foreign
Affairs & Foreign Trade*

I consider it most fitting that this edition of the newsletter, only its second, has been designated a special Diaspora Edition. This is so, because in just a matter of weeks, the Government of Jamaica, in association with sponsors from the private sector and other stakeholders, will be staging the second Jamaican Diaspora Conference. The Conference, which will take place June 15-16 at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston, will build on the first historic Conference held in June 2004.

The fundamental objectives of these Conferences, which will be held every two years, are (a) to develop and implement mechanisms and structures to strengthen the relationship between the Government and the Diaspora and (b) to secure a more comprehensive involvement of Jamaicans overseas in the economic, political, social and cultural life of Jamaica thereby enhancing their impact on and role in national development.

The Government has long recognized the seminal contribution that Jamaicans in the Diaspora make to their homeland but the requisite policies, mechanisms and structures to formalize the relationships were lacking. The dialogue on which we now have embarked, which began with a Symposium held at the University of the West Indies in 2004, under the theme, Reciprocal Relations: The Way Forward, and which will continue in our biennial Conferences and other encounters, will facilitate the development and implementation of these aforementioned missing elements.

I am confident that the contribution from you, the dynamic and action-oriented Jamaican community in the United States, will play a significant role in the success of the Conference. I look forward with pleasure to welcoming those among you who will attend the Conference.



*Hon. Delano Franklyn
Minister of State
Minister of Foreign
Affairs & Foreign Trade*



JAMAICA-DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT GROWING PAINS: Between Desire with Action

Two years after the historic gathering of Jamaicans from the Diaspora in June 2004, the stage is set for another roll call. Since that meeting, Jamaicans the world over have been grappling with the notion of what it means to be an "engaged" member of the Diaspora. For its part, the Government of Jamaica has created an institutional framework to coordinate its Diaspora policy, and the Diaspora in response has established various non-profit and community based organizations and networks over and above existing organizations, in an effort to marshal the resources of the Jamaicans in disparate jurisdictions. At the core of this Diaspora-Homeland relationship is resource mobilization for national development. On any given day in cities across the United States, Europe, in the Caribbean and farther afield there is much debate, hand wringing and frustration as to how the much heralded potential that lies in the Diaspora can be tapped in order to engender sustained development at home.

For the Diaspora engagement process to move beyond being a pipedream based on conjectures, appeals to patriotic sentiments, and distant memories of home, there needs to be a meeting of the minds, and a clear articulation of goals and objectives so that Jamaicans at home and abroad can begin singing from the same hymnal. Countries that have successfully integrated their Diasporas into their national development models have done so in a structured and focused way; targeting personnel from specific sectors and promoting programs to attract a critical mass of diasporic citizens for integration into key national sectors.

While governmental efforts in mobilizing members of the Diaspora might appear to privilege the interests and concerns of the Diaspora over those of resident Jamaicans, for their part, members of the Diaspora must realize that the Diaspora is not a panacea. Thus questions of Diaspora rights and privileges cannot be based solely on the

volume of remittances and the undertaking of social projects such as health missions and donations to educational institutions. While these activities form the central plan of current activity and are important and welcomed, they are fundamentally short term achievements; the Diaspora has the potential to play a much larger role in national development. The ultimate challenge is for Jamaicans in the Diaspora and Jamaicans at home to work together to build a Jamaica of which we can all be proud. In the final analysis it is going to take a great deal of collaborative action, bargaining and pragmatic programming for the Diaspora and the homeland to find ways to create a symbiotic relationship that will allow the Diaspora to make meaningful sustained contribution without frustration. The journey has just begun.

Elsada Diana Cassells teaches politics at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York.

JAMAICAN OVERSEAS HEALTH OFFICE AND CLEARING HOUSE INSTITUTED IN NEW YORK

(New York – June 2, 2006)

In a concerted effort to harness the diverse capital of the Jamaican Diaspora in the Northeast United States for the benefit of Jamaicans at home in the area of healthcare, the Jamaican Diaspora United States Northeast Health Sector has established a Jamaica Overseas Health Office.

The office, which will be administered through the Jamaican Consulate in New York, will also operate as a clearing house by providing tangible assistance to healthcare providers - individuals and organizations - who desire to work or volunteer in Jamaica. In conjunction with the Ministry of Health, the newly formed entity will streamline the process by providing interested parties with topical information, relevant forms and advice on procuring proper credentials.

Just as importantly, the Jamaica Overseas Health Office has already formed a vital partnership with the American Cancer Society as part of the *Cancer Control Jamaica Project* which will allow uninsured Jamaicans who live in the New York City environs to access screenings for colorectal cancer, cervical cancer and mammograms at no charge.

For additional information, all are invited to contact a representative of the Jamaica Overseas Health Office at the Consulate General of Jamaica in New York by calling 212 935 9000 ext. 32 or via email at jamaicaoverseashealth@yahoo.com.

IMMIGRATION: From Darkness into Light

By *Professor David P. Rowe Esq.*

Many Jamaicans in the United States are undocumented and in peril of incarceration and eventual removal. What can our countrymen and women do when they are faced with detention frequently because of accident of birth, or just one error in judgment, or reliance on bad advice from a Notary or an "immigration consultant"? Immigration detention is a shocking and belittling experience for most Jamaicans and should be avoided at all costs. The answer to avoiding this embarrassment lies in educating oneself and being aware of the situations which could lead to this perilous state of affairs.

Amnesty?

It has been suggested that there are 12 million undocumented aliens living in the United States. It is impossible to assess how many of these are Jamaicans. Several Congressional Bills, which have yet to become law, propose that anyone who has lived in the United States for more than five years and worked for at least two of the five years, should become a Legal Permanent Resident. None of the pending Senate or House Amnesty Bills have the political support for immediate passage. In addition, many of these Bills have conflicting provisions.

The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) legalized 2.7 million unauthorized aliens. This amnesty was successful and provides a useful example which current legislators can follow. It is submitted that the new Amnesty being legislatively contemplated should go further than IRCA, and should accelerate the visa numbers of those who are pending beneficiaries under all properly filed I-130 petitions.

It is hoped that members of the Jamaican Diaspora will debate the pros and cons of an Immigration Amnesty in the United States. Some Jamaicans who have obtained U.S. immigration benefits, without violating the law, object to an Amnesty. However, most diasporic Jamaicans believe that an Amnesty will improve the lives of thousands of individuals who currently operate under the radar of Border Patrol, fearing expulsion and the heartbreak of family destruction.

Removal precipitates a sudden crisis in the life of a US-based alien. The Immigration authorities, usually Border Patrol, frequently and without notice, approach the house of the targeted alien and take him or her into custody. If the alien lives alone with minor children the DHS will refer the child to State-based Children's Services.

There are three major contingencies which can lead to detention of an alien:

1: Airport Detention

All non-citizens entering the United States have to go through DHS inspection. US Airport computers have full access to the criminal records of aliens resident in the United States through the National Crime Information Computer (NCIC). These computers are regularly updated. These computers also have full cross-access to records of prior Orders of Deportation.

The Immigration and Nationality Act makes it mandatory that the US government take a non-citizen into custody and hold him or her without bond, if the non-citizen has been convicted of certain removable offences and released from jail after 8 October, 1998. Those offences are crimes of violence, theft and moral turpitude (including dealing in narcotics).

Further, a legal permanent resident is subject to mandatory detention if he or she was convicted of crimes of moral turpitude, aggravated felonies, controlled substance and firearms offenses, and was released from jail after 8 October, 1998. This can occur at the airport. Individuals who fraternize knowingly with US or foreign-based felons may be detained at the airport under the broad "reason to believe" standard if they are deemed to have knowledge of narcotics based criminal activity. This method is frequently used against Jamaicans. Some Jamaicans refer to this in the vernacular as getting "STUCK."

All major US Airports have holding-areas where 20 or more aliens may be temporarily detained, pending their immediate departure or transfer to a detention facility.

2: Immigration Detainer

While a non-citizen is in jail in Florida or New York, the DHS may interview the non-citizen while he or she is in custody. Normally the DHS will place a "detainer" on the non-citizen. A detainer prevents the non-citizen from being released to the public, instead the non-citizen is transferred to DHS Detention. This leads to perpetual custody and is very disheartening for the non-citizen. Once the detainee has completed his or her time in prison, he or she will be transferred into DHS custody. Similar practices occur throughout the U.S.

Recent decisions by the US Supreme Court suggest that the DHS has only 180 days to deport the non-citizen after a final Order of Removal or he or she must be released. It is important for the detained individual to seek clarification on his or her rights.

3: Prior Orders of Deportation

The DHS has a campaign to pick up persons living in the United States who have outstanding Orders of Deportation. In Florida "Operation Phoenix" resulted in a sweep of more than 15 Jamaican families in April 2006. Most of them are now in the Krome Avenue Processing Center located in swampy, mosquito-infested, rural Dade County.

Without Hope?

The Diaspora should be mindful that for many non-citizens the threat of unexpected arrest, detention and deportation is still a significant reality. Many deportees arrive in Jamaica without hope or options and decide to prey on the society. Consequently, many have become "persons of concern" to the Jamaican security forces.

It is time therefore, to assess our stance on this most critical issue and to make our voices heard. Let us move from the darkness into the light.

David P. Rowe is a Professor of Law at the University of Miami School of Law and the St. Thomas University School of Law.



ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECURES NEW MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC FOR JAMAICA

New York based volunteer agency, the Organization for International Development (OID), has secured a new mobile health clinic from Jamaican entrepreneur and philanthropist, the Hon. Vincent HoSang, through the Vincent HoSang Family Foundation.

The mobile unit is fully outfitted with state of the art medical and dental equipment which will be utilized on the OID's semi-annual medical mission to Jamaica. The OID has also graciously consented to allow other entities – both private and public – to make use of the unit on a prearranged basis.

For the past 16 years, the OID has admirably and competently served the medical needs of those who reside in indigent and underserved communities throughout the Diaspora. To date, the organization has completed over 50 medical missions to Jamaica, Ghana, Ethiopia, Canouan, Grenada, St. Lucia, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

No stranger to charitable works, Mr. HoSang is the CEO of Royal Caribbean Bakery and also heads Caribbean Food Delights in New York.

June 2006 Jamaica Awareness Association of California Medical and Education Mission. St. Mary, Jamaica. www.jamaicaawareness.org

June 15-16, 2006 Jamaica Diaspora Conference. Jamaica Conference Center. Kingston, Jamaica.

June 19- 20, 2006 Jamaica Minnesota Organization Trade Mission for Jamaican Investors and Businesses. www.orgsites.com/mn.jmo

July 12-15, 2006 29th Convention of the National Association of Jamaica and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO). Silver Spring, MD. www.najaso.org

July 22, 2006 The Helping Hands for the Poor Inc. & Friends Luncheon to benefit The St. Patricks Foundation. Martins Crosswinds. Greenbelt, MD. rmayne@erols.com

July 28, 2006 St. Andrew High School Past Students Association Independence Celebration. Zanzibar on the Waterfront. Washington, DC. zemigallerydc@msn.com

July 29, 2006 22nd Annual Jamaica Grand Independence Ball. Renaissance Hotel. Miami, FL. jamconmi@bellsouth.net

August 2006 Jamaica Independence Celebration. Jamaica Awareness Association of California. www.jamaicaawareness.org

August 3, 2006 Exhibition of Contemporary Jamaican Art. Museum of the Americas. Washington, DC. contactus@jamaicaembassy.org

August 4, 2006 Jamaica Night, Zanzibar on the Waterfront. Washington, DC. contactus@jamaicaembassy.org

August 5, 2006 Jamaica Nationals Association, An Evening of Elegance Independence Ball. Renaissance Hotel. Washington, DC. oreen.wallace@comcast.net

August 5, 2006 Jamaica Association of Maryland Independence Ball. nugentjam@aol.com

August 6, 2006 Independence Church Service. Dunbarton Chapel,

Howard University. Washington, DC. contactus@jamaicaembassy.org

August 6, 2006 Jamaican Sunday Market. Lawns of the OAS. Washington, DC. contactus@jamaicaembassy.org

August 12, 2006 Grand Independence "Black, Green and Gold" Ball. New York, NY. cg@congenjamaica-ny.org

August 13, 2006 Annual Jamaica Minnesota Organization Independence Gala. www.orgsites.com/mn.jmo

November 11, 2006 20th Anniversary Scholarship Awards Banquet. Radisson Hotel, Los Angeles Airport. www.jamaicaawareness.org



Jamaica's Palmyra Resort & Spa at Rose Hall lures expats back to native soil

By: Ragni Fjellvoll

JAMAICA'S new luxury home community, The Palmyra Resort & Spa, which has catapulted the island into the Caribbean real estate market, has proven once and for all that real estate renaissance on Jamaica's Gold Coast is in full swing. The luxury beachfront community reached US\$100 million in luxury real estate sales as buyers from around the world flew into Montego Bay to attend the Palmyra Sales Event at the neighbouring Ritz-Carlton on May 5-6.

The private Sales Event was open solely to reservation holders from the U.S., UK, Canada and Jamaica. "I researched real estate opportunities in the Cayman Islands and Bahamas and found the value to be significantly better in Jamaica," says Robert Lawrence, a new Palmyra resident from Westchester, Pennsylvania. "The renaissance on the Gold Coast and confluence of island improvements has made the timing for buying ideal."

Says Carolyn Rose, another Palmyra buyer: "As a resident of New York City, I was looking for an island destination I could escape to. After visiting Jamaica in October and seeing all the positive change throughout the island, I knew this was the place for me."

State President of The Palmyra Resort & Spa, Dennis Constanzo: "People are realizing that Jamaica is one of the last hidden gems of beachfront property, representing a unique ground floor investment opportunity. Real estate prices are considerably lower than on the other Caribbean islands, and with the introduction of The Palmyra, interest in property from foreign vacation homeowners has surged." According to Constanzo, shrewd foreign real estate investors are not the only ones rushing to purchase property; Jamaicans living abroad have recognized the tremendous opportunity to own a piece of their homeland and are jumping at the prospect of re-establishing firm ties with their native soil.

Says Grennet and Sandra Service, new Palmyra residents from Orlando, Florida: "Jamaica is our homeland, and we always wanted a more permanent presence here. We're excited to have found the most luxurious location on the North Shore and have greatly enjoyed meeting our new neighbours."

Simone Stewart, a NASDAQ attorney living in Washington D.C., is another expat Jamaican who fell in love with the project after hearing about it from a friend. "Jamaica is long overdue for a five-star property like The Palmyra," Stewart says. "The community offers a smart investment

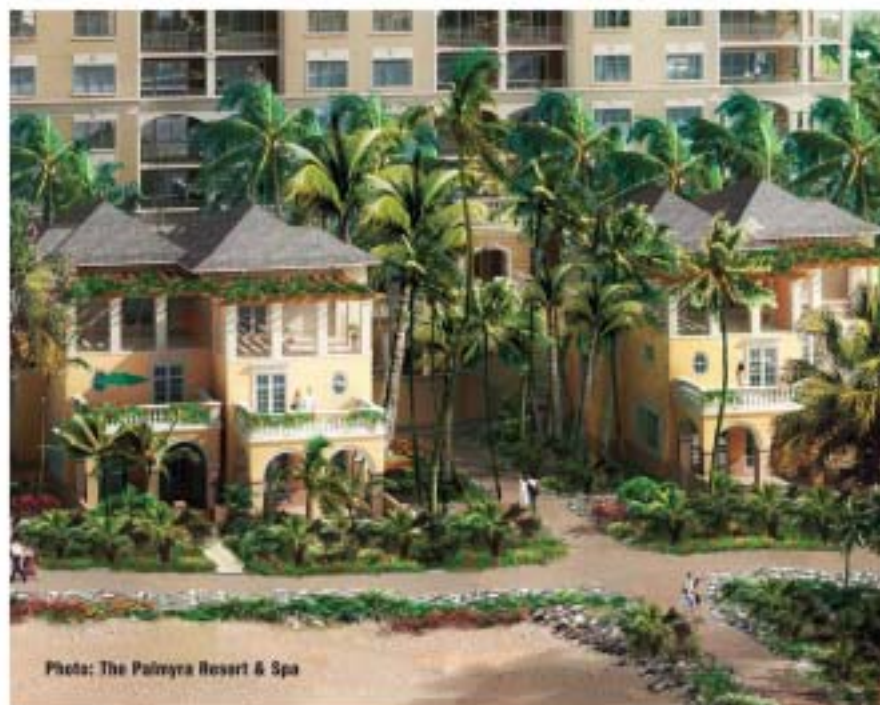


Photo: The Palmyra Resort & Spa

with all of the conveniences of a luxury resort - in my own home. I'm thrilled to re-establish my roots so close to my family in Negrit."

Says London resident Carolyn Thompson: "I was born in Jamaica and lived there until the age of 22, when I moved to the UK. I knew I'd always find my way back to the island, and this community was the ideal excuse. The Palmyra's location is perfect and the amenities fit my lifestyle—I can't wait for the ESRA to open!"

A main catalyst for the island's real estate renaissance, the gated residential community is widely viewed as the most exciting development to come along in decades. Stretching along one-half mile of pristine Caribbean oceanfront, the pioneering project has introduced a luxury offer never before seen on the island, with luxury villas and residences in a tropical village setting.

Beautifully positioned on 16 acres of pristine ocean front land adjacent to the famed Ritz-Carlton Golf & Spa Resort in Montego Bay, The Palmyra Resort & Spa offers the allure of Rose Hall's internationally renowned golf courses, sandy white beaches and a private club lifestyle that is unrivalled in the Caribbean. World-class amenities include preferred access to three internationally-acclaimed golf courses and a 42,000 square foot luxury destination spa, designed by award-winning, internationally-recognized spa designer Susan Harnsworth, founder and CEO of ESRA. Within the industry, Harnsworth is considered somewhat of a global spa-guru and her masterpieces to personal health and

wellness include spas in New York, London, Miami, Barbados, Tokyo, Ireland, Milan, the Maldives, Barcelona, Monte Carlo and the Swiss Alps. The ESRA team have also designed Tuscany's first destination spa at The Palmyra's luxurious 'sister property', Castello del Nero Boutique Hotel & Spa.

Other amenities at The Palmyra include Personal Concierges, on hand to help fulfill all residents' needs whether it is arranging activities, a Private Chef, transportation, restaurant reservations, tee times or babysitters. "The Palmyra will offer the best of all worlds," says Palmyra President Constanzo. "Residents can relax by one of three pools that overlook the sea or enjoy an array of beachside amenities that include cabanas, adventure gear for snorkelling, kayaking and more. Dining options within the community include 'Annie's Reach' signature restaurant or relaxed dining throughout the day at the Clubhouse."

Says Constanzo: "We've long known that Jamaica is the next Caribbean destination primed for a real estate boom, and we're honoured that so many families are choosing The Palmyra as their home away from home."

According to Constanzo the introduction of competitive mortgage financing has been instrumental to the growth in real estate activity. "We have experienced a massive interest in First Caribbean Bank's International Mortgage Package, available to foreign investors for the first time. Most clients have pointed out that this financial product has

been long overdue in Jamaica. With loan terms of up to 20 years, FCB currently offers the first 5 years on an interest only basis."

Constanzo, who has managed the construction of luxury developments such as The Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel, Paradise and La Belle Creole in St. Martin, French West Indies, says that aside from the island's warm and friendly people and it's abundant natural resources, Jamaica's new infrastructure will move it ahead of its Caribbean neighbours.

"There is a good reason the London Times calls Jamaica 'The Comeback Kid' of the Caribbean," Constanzo says. "Jamaica's upside is going to be spectacular in the next 10 years. Property values will continue to increase, particularly with the 2007 World Cricket Cup, and the vast improvements to the island's infrastructure will create significant development. It is exciting to simply be part of that."

Buyers can own a fully furnished luxury condominiums or villas at The Palmyra's private sanctuary for prices from the \$400s to the US\$5m.

The new Palmyra residents will be able to begin using their residences in late 2007 when construction of Phase I is scheduled to be completed.

To purchase a condominium or villa at the Palmyra, call +1 876 953 9787 or visit www.thepalmyra.com.
villa at the Palmyra, call +1 876 953 9787 or visit www.thepalmyra.com.



Buyer Carolyn Rose with her mother Hazel from New York City.



Dennis Constanzo, President, The Palmyra Resort & Spa



Grennet and Sandra Service, new Palmyra residents from Orlando, Florida



Simone Stewart, Washington D.C. attorney, signs the 'Buyers board'.