



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE MOST HON. ANDREW HOLNESS, ON, MP  
PRIME MINISTER**

**EMANCIPATION AND INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE**

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Our Island home is 59!

As we mark the 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jamaica's political Independence, we do so with great national pride. At this time each year, Jamaicans the world over are in a celebratory mood. We don our outstanding colour combination; the black green and gold and we wave our flags high as we honour our country and all she has accomplished.

This year, as last year, we celebrate our "Emancipendence" against the backdrop of the global Covid-19 pandemic, which has dramatically affected all our lives and presented unexpected challenges. Our position in addressing the pandemic, has always been to balance both lives and livelihoods and we remain vigilant in the implementation of public health measures and containment protocols.

Despite these unprecedented times, through proper fiscal management and the marshalling of resources, Jamaica was able to absorb the shock, and will be in a suitable position to recover stronger and smarter together. We recognize that this will be a joint effort, where Government, private sector, Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora, as well as other stakeholders, partner to support our efforts to realize the sustainable development targets for Jamaica.

Indeed, Jamaicans have never been daunted by the challenges that confront us and we have always faced difficult moments squarely and with courage. We recall the epic struggles of our forefathers as they fought for emancipation from slavery and for political independence, hoping for equal rights and a more just society. The fact that we are now celebrating the dual milestones of the 183<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Emancipation and the 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence, speaks volumes about our collective resilience, perseverance and tenacity. We see these traits in our athletes who are currently participating at

the summer Olympics in Tokyo Japan, defending our record and prowess on the track and in other events, while carrying the pride of every single Jamaican with them. These ideals are reflected in our foreign policy and presence on the world stage, where we stand up for principle and fairness, even when faced with formidable challenges. We see these characteristics in every Jamaican who has migrated to other shores and who have worked hard to provide for their families, including here at home.

The Government of Jamaica values very dearly its relationship with the Diaspora, and continues to deepen even further, the engagement. Although we were not able to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Diaspora Conference this year, the Government convened a virtual Diaspora Symposium which saw the participation of almost two thousand Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica.

I was pleased to have been able to interact with you during the Town Hall that I hosted, which showed the strong affinity, interest and continued engagement that you have with Jamaica. The Government looks forward to your participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference which will be staged next year, and will coincide with Jamaica's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

As we reflect on the progress we have made as a very young nation with record breaking, strong and resilient people, as well as tremendous national achievements, we also note, that there is still much more to be done. As a people known for breaking barriers and never being satisfied with being average, we will never allow ourselves to rest on our accomplishments. We will continue to work steadfastly and with unity of purpose, to navigate the turbulent seas of economic growth and sustainable development. In this regard, we continue to rely on partnerships with our stakeholders including our large, active, and committed diaspora.

I use this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support of your country and people through remittance, charity work and your frequent visits to "yaad." I am especially thankful for the tremendous interest and support many of you have given in our continued battle against the pandemic.

As we celebrate Emancipation and Independence 2021, let us do so with a renewed sense of purpose; charting the course for a Jamaica that will be even stronger and more prosperous.

Amidst the pandemic, it is my wish that we will still be able to celebrate the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country as proud Jamaicans, no matter where we are in the world. May God continue to bless you and bless Jamaica, land we love.

**The Most Hon. Andrew Holness, ON, MP**  
**Prime Minister**