



The Jamaican High Commission London

~ Newsletter ~

2013 - Year in Review

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2014



Citizenship Ceremony in the United Kingdom.

This issue of the newsletter will provide a review of the major activities and events for the High Commission for 2013. We hope that you will enjoy it and continue to send us your news and feed back.

*Aloun Ndombet-Assamba
High Commissioner*

Overview

Last year proved to be very busy and eventful year and saw two special historic developments; the appointment of a New Honorary Consul for Birmingham and West Midlands, and the first ever Jamaican

Jamaican High Commission hosts Forum on the Caribbean Court of Justice



Mr. Justice Winston Anderson and H.E. Mrs. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, High Commissioner

On January 15, the High Commission hosted a special

forum on the Caribbean Court of Justice. The presentation was by Mr. Justice Winston Anderson, former Professor of Law at the University of the West Indies and the General Counsel of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The forum looked at the role, function and operations of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Inside this issue:

<i>Musical Tribute to Robert Nesta 'Bob' Marley</i>	2
<i>Rare Photograph of Mary Seacole—Panel Discussion</i>	3
<i>UK Diaspora Delegates Meet Ahead of Jamaica Conference</i>	4
<i>High Commissioner opens Windrush Exhibition</i>	5
<i>Visit to the High Commission by Malala Yousafzai</i>	6
<i>Hundreds Attend Independence Church Service</i>	7
<i>Independence Day Exhibition and Reception</i>	9
<i>HC Ndombet-Assamba at Tribute to the Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey</i>	10
<i>Cultural Evening & Medal of Appreciation Function</i>	11
<i>Jean-born Civil Rights Campaigner appointed to the House of Lords</i>	14
<i>Jamaica's Newest Honorary Consul</i>	15
<i>Reception to honour Bishop E. Brown and Mrs. Beverly Lindsay</i>	16
<i>High Commission hosts First Citizenship Ceremony</i>	17
<i>The High Commission hosts Annual School Christmas Programme</i>	18
<i>International Relations</i>	19
<i>Presentation of Credentials</i>	20
<i>Community Outreach</i>	21

Musical Tribute to Bob Marley

A special musical evening to celebrate the 28th birthday of the Right Honourable Robert Nesta Marley was hosted by the High Commission, on February 6. The evening featured eighteen (18) acts, all performing many of Marley's popular songs in various musical styles, ranging from reggae to pop, rock and jazz.

The event was organized by Mr John Downie, Director of the London-based performing Art Charity SBA-UK Unsigned.

"We got involved following a meeting with the High Commissioner to talk about my project, Song for Jamaica. She understood that I did a lot a lot with young people and with music. She told me that there was an opportunity for young people to express themselves through their interpretation of Bob Marley's music" he said.



Right: Photos of performers and audience enjoying themselves at the Tribute to Bob Marley.

Commonwealth Secretary-General opens Commonwealth Exhibition Day

An exhibition showcasing Jamaica's involvement in the Commonwealth was officially opened at the High Commission by the Commonwealth Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Kamalesh Sharma on March 13.

The Exhibition was organized by the High Commission to Mark Commonwealth Day.

Mr. Sharma, who commended the High Commission for staging the exhibition, said it was in keeping with one of the mandates coming from the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to raise

the image and the profile of the organization within member states.

Noting that Jamaica's motto could easily be adopted for use by the Commonwealth, Mr.

.. Jamaica's motto could easily be adopted for use by the Commonwealth ...

Sharma said that it was good to draw attention to the mutual benefits that flow between Jamaica and other Commonwealth States.

High Commissioner, H.E. Mrs. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, said it was the relevance and significance of the Commonwealth that inspired the Mission to do an exhibition.



Former High Commissioner for Grenada, H. E. Ms. Ruth Rouse, H.E. Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General and other guests at the Exhibition

Rare Photograph of Mary Seacole - Panel Discussion



H.E. Mrs. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, High Commissioner, Mrs. Diedre Mills, Deputy High Commissioner and Members of the Panel

A photograph, thought to be only the second original picture of Mary Seacole, was displayed at a panel discussion on May 14, hosted by the High Commission in London, to commemorate the life of the Jamaican-born Crimean War Heroine.

The photograph is contained in a scrap book, which was found in one of the libraries of the prestigious Winchester College in England.

The panel discussion, which was held on the eve of the anniversary of Mary Seacole's death on May 14, 1881, was told that the statue that is to be erected in her honour could be unveiled in 2015, as the fundraising effort has now passed the £400,000 mark.

Chair of the Trustees of the Mary Seacole Memorial Statue Appeal, Lord Soley, who was one of the panellists, said the statue would be the first to honour a named black woman in the United Kingdom.

The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Simon Woolley, Chair of Operation Black Vote, who initiated a campaign to stop the British education

authorities from removing Mary Seacole from the curriculum of British Schools.

The other panellists were Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Regional Director, Bernell Bussue, and Senior Research Fellow in North East London Mental Health Trust and the Faculty of Health at South Bank University, Professor Tony Leiba.

All spoke of the tremendous impact of Mary Seacole on British society and the nursing profession. They called for more formal and in-depth research into Britain's black history and for more of this history to be integrated into the school's curriculum.

Honourable Arnaldo Brown visits the UK



Jamaica's Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Hon. Arnaldo Brown, visited the UK in March to launch the 2013 5th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference.

The week-long trip included three community meetings, with the first event taking place at the Jamaica High Commission in London as well as meetings taking place in Manchester and Birmingham.

Minister Brown highlighted what delegates could expect at the Conference which had a focus on the Diaspora investing in Jamaica and included issues such as Immigration and the Air Passenger Duty (APD). He also highlighted the significance of the Diaspora's contribution to the achievement of Jamaica's Vision 2030.

State Minister with the responsibility for Diaspora Affairs within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Honourable Arnaldo Brown, with Chair of the Friends of the Georgian Society of Jamaica, Mrs. Pasty Robertson

UK Diaspora Delegates Meet Ahead of Jamaica Conference

Members of the United Kingdom delegation to attend the upcoming Fifth Biennial Diaspora Conference in Montego Bay met with High Commissioner Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba on June 1, to discuss the preparations for the Conference as well as issues germane to the UK delegates.

The High Commissioner, along with then Minister Counsellor for Diaspora and Consular Affairs, Mr. Lincoln Downer, outlined the Conference Programme. The High Commissioner also discussed issues of the Air Passenger Duty (APD), and proposed changes in British Pension and Immigration Regulations.

The delegates were told of the planned session looking at how the Diaspora can support development in Jamaica in Education and Health. The meeting also discussed how the High Commission and the community can work together to better

engage the second, third and fourth generations. High Commissioner Ndombet-Assamba warned that if the organisations did not attract and get the younger generation involved, many would be in danger of dying out.

The Diaspora Conference, under the theme "A Nation on a Mission: Jamaica Diaspora Partnership for Development", was held at the Montego Bay Convention Centre from June 16 to 19. More than 50 delegates from the United Kingdom participated in conference. There was special focus on Trade and Investment and the Conference also explored specific opportunities for the Diaspora to expand their business interest in Jamaica through increased trade and investment.

High Commissioner opens Windrush Exhibition

A special exhibition to mark the 65th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Dock in Thurrock, Essex, was officially opened by High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, on June 5.

The exhibition was the first in a series of activities in Thurrock to commemorate the Windrush 65th Anniversary. The ship, which brought 492 Jamaicans and other West Indians, signalled the first wave of mass Caribbean migration to the United Kingdom (UK).



The High Commissioner with Representative of the Thurrock Council.

The High Commissioner, who commended Thurrock Council for recognising the significance of the Windrush, said the exhibition was very important, as it will remind and educate people that the migrants from the Caribbean were skilled men and women who were invited to come to the UK to help with the rebuilding process following

World War II.

She said that it was right that these migrants were recognised, as they made a significant contribution to building the British society.

“Today is a day of reflection for me. Jamaicans and other West

Indians have a very proud history here. The Windrush was the start of multi-cultural Britain. I am very pleased that Thurrock has done something to recognise this diversity and to pay tribute to the Windrush migrants,” the High Commissioner said.

Overseas Jamaicans Honoured at the Diaspora Conference

Mr. Howard Francis, a consultant from Gloucester, was one of three Jamaicans living overseas who was honoured with the Governor-General's Jamaica Diaspora Award of Excellence, and inducted into the Governor-General's Diaspora Hall of Fame.

The Governor-General, His Excellency The Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, made the presentations at an award luncheon held at the end of the 5th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in Montego Bay. In his address, the Governor-General lauded the awardees and the wider Diaspora for continuing to lend their intellect and experience to the crafting of strategies to grow Jamaica.



Mr. Howard Francis receives Award from H.E. The Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ, Governor-General

Visit to the High Commission by Malala Yousafzai

Books and poems, letters and essays done by the students of Hampton High School for Girls in Jamaica for the Pakistani school-girl who was shot by the Taliban last year, were presented to her, on July 19, by High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency, Aloun Ndombet-Assamba.



HC Ndombet-Assamba with Malala and Staff of the High Commission and Agencies

to attend the St. Elizabeth-based school. Malala, who recently addressed a special session of the United Nations on her 16th birthday, thanked the High Commissioner for arranging the visit to the High Commission and asked her to convey her thanks to the staff and

This took place when Malala and her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, called on the High Commissioner in London.

students of Hampton.

The High Commissioner, who had previously met Malala and her father, told them that the girls at Hampton were very moved and inspired by Malala’s story and wanted to show their support and appreciation for her strength and courage.

She told the High Commissioner that she was really honoured by the show of support that she had received.

She also told them that both students and staff at Hampton have extended an invitation for Malala

Malala has been nominated for the International Children’s Peace Prize by Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. She is the youngest nominee in the history of the Nobel Peace Prize. She is also the winner of Pakistan’s first National Youth Peace Prize.



Left: Malala and her father, Mr. Ziauddin Yousafzai



Right: HC Ndombet-Assamba and Malala

Hundreds Attend Independence Church Service

Hundreds of Jamaicans from across the United Kingdom attended the annual service of praise and thanksgiving hosted by the Jamaican High Commission on August 3. The service, which was held at the Southwark Cathedral in London, traditionally signals the start of Independence celebrations in the UK.

High Commissioner Her Excellency Aloun Ndobet-Assamba, who read the Prime Minister's Independence Message, told the congregation that there was strong determination and immense confidence in Jamaica that the country will succeed and create greater opportunities for future

The High Commissioner also noted that the Independence celebrations coincided with two significant events in the history of Jamaicans in the United Kingdom - the 65th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush and the 20th anniversary of the death of Stephen Lawrence, a young black man who was murdered in a racist attack in April 1993. She used the opportunity to publicly congratulate Stephen's mother, Doreen Lawrence, on her elevation to a seat in the House of Lords.

The Pastor of the New Jerusalem Church in Birmingham, Yvonne Brooks, delivered the sermon during which she expressed pride to be Jamaican noting that Jamaicans are "full of tenacity and full of resources."

The Service featured a special rendition of the National Pledge by 18 children of Jamaican heritage, choreographed by Connie Bell. Actress Marcia Mantack performed a monologue titled 'Journeying On', while the British Heart Foundation Gospel Choir also performed. Jamaica Defence Force Officer Cadets Omar Cover and Tameka Stewart marched in with the Jamaican Flag.

Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Kingston, Reverend Dr. Robert Thompson, was a special guest at the service and gave the blessing; while Pastor, Dr. Richard deLisser, blessed the offering which was donated to the United Way of Jamaica for the Rise Life Management Youth Programme, and the Dispute Resolution Foundation of Jamaica Youth Programme. Other participating clergy included the Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson Wilkin and the Sub Dean and Canon of Southwark Cathedral, Reverend Bruce Saunders.



Jamaicans at the Independence Service



Former Mayor of Southwark, Ms. A. Smith, High Commissioner Ndobet-Assamba & Baroness Lawrence



Ms. A. Pinkney with the performers of the National Pledge

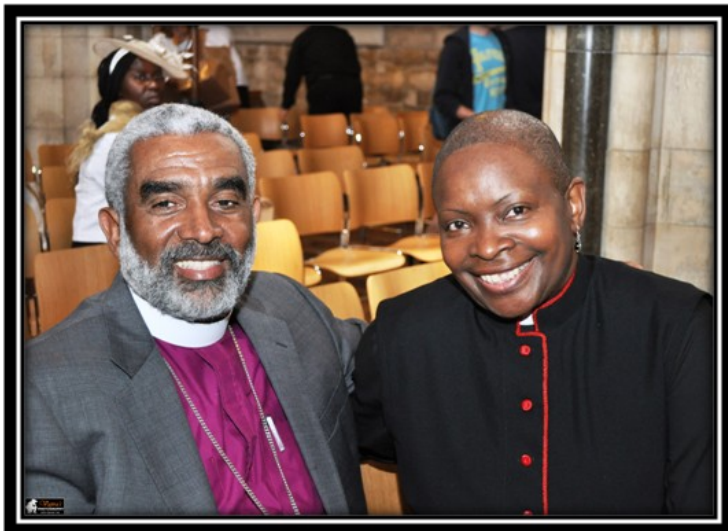
Additional photos from Independence Anniversary Service



The British Heart Foundation Gospel Choir



Officer Cadet Omar Cover and Officer Cadet Tameka Stewart of the Jamaica Defence Force who participated in the Independence Church Service



The Rt. Reverend Dr. Robert Thompson and Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin



A group of patriotic Jamaicans

Caption for Images on page 9

- 1) *From Left: Dr. Tres-Anne Kremer, Commonwealth Secretariat, Amb. Courtney Walsh and Mrs. Diedre Mills, Deputy High Commissioner*
- 2) *The Guest Book*
- 3) *A snap shot of the Exhibition*
- 4) *Mr. Owen Letford, High Commissioner's Chauffeur and JHCL's Resident DJ*
- 5) *The Koromantic Mento Band*
- 6) *Ms. Beverley Johnson, JLB Shipping and Mr. Laurence Jones, JAMPRO*
- 7) *Section of the Diplomatic Community*

Independence Day Exhibition & Reception

highlights of Independence Day 2013.

The Photographic exhibition included copies of the original press release and statement by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announcing Jamaica's Independence from Britain in 1962. It was facilitated by the UK National Archives, and the photographs are a part of the larger British Colonial Office Photographic Collection, charting life in Jamaica from 1860 to the 1960s.



Mr. Tony Bullimore presenting map to HC Ndombet-Assamba

A 200 year old Map of Jamaica was presented to High Commissioner, H.E. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, by entrepreneur and philanthropist, Tony Bullimore, who thanked and commended the High Commission for the its work and the support that it has given to the Jamaican community in the United Kingdom.

This presentation and the opening of a small exhibition of historic Jamaican photographs were the



Guests at the Reception



1



2



4



5



6



7

High Commissioner Assamba at Tribute to the Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey

The High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, paid tribute to Jamaican National Hero Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey at a special celebration to unveil a plaque in his honour at the Library in Tottenham that bears his name.

The plaque was unveiled on August 17 as part of celebrations to mark Marcus Garvey's Birthday and it will complement a portrait of Garvey that was donated to the library in the early 1990's by Jamaican-born artist Everal Hall.

High Commissioner Ndombet-Assamba told the audience that Marcus Garvey was and still is a very important person not only to Jamaicans, but to all people

striving for equality and justice around the world.

Mr. Hall said he was very happy when he learnt that the new library was to be named after Garvey and he wanted to ensure that there was a portrait of the Jamaican National Hero in the building. He added that the portrait took him two weeks to complete.

The event was attended by a wide cross-section of persons from the area, including Deputy Mayor of Haringey Councillor Kaushika Amin, Member of Parliament Diane Abbott, and writer/historian Mandingo.



Above: Books on display at the Marcus Garvey Tribute

Dr. Julius Garvey Urges Unity at High Commission Reception



Above: H.E. Mrs. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, Dr. Julius Garvey and Mrs. Garvey

Dr. Julius Garvey, son of Jamaica's first National Hero, Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey, has called for greater

unity among Afro-Caribbean nationals at home and abroad. He was speaking at a reception in his honour at the Jamaica

High Commission on September 3 0 .

"To a certain extent, we lost our identity and we lost our unity as a people...and this is what he [Marcus Garvey] tried to bring back to us as a people," Julius Garvey said.

Dr. Garvey, who is a renowned New York-based vascular surgeon, was in the UK on a five-day tour of London, Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham, as part of the black history month celebrations across Britain, which began on October 1. His father was a pioneering Black Rights activist, and one of the founders of the 'Back to Africa' movement.

Pioneering Jamaican Bishop honoured with prestigious Blue Plaque

A Blue Plaque was unveiled in the city of Wolverhampton in honour of the late Jamaican-born Rev. Dr. Oliver A. Lyseight, a founding member of the New Testament Church of God (NTCG) in Britain.

The unveiling took place on September 20, during a special service at the NTCG Harvest Temple in Wolverhampton.

A Blue Plaque is a permanent sign installed in a public place in the United Kingdom to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person or event. Dr. Lyseight is the first person from the Wolverhampton ethnic minority community to receive the prestigious honour.

“I am very proud that it is a Jamaican of the calibre of Bishop Lyseight who will become the first citizen from the local black and minority ethnic community in Wolverhampton to be recognised with a Blue Plaque,” said High Commissioner Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, who was the special guest at the ceremony.

“He is indeed worthy of the honour,” she added. “His life, his work and his achievements are inspirational and should serve as a guide, not only to the Jamaican and Caribbean community, but also to the wider society. Bishop Lyseight was truly a great Black Briton, a great Jamaican and a great

person,” the High Commissioner added.

The date of the unveiling coincides with the establishment of the first meeting of the church in Wolverhampton exactly 60 years ago. Other speakers included the Administrative Bishop of the NTCG, Dr. Eric Brown; and Rev. Millicent Brown, who paid special tribute to Rose Lyseight, the widow of Dr. Lyseight.

Local Member of Parliament, Emma Reynolds, also read a special tribute from the leader of the British Labour Party, Ed Miliband. The Blue Plaque was spearheaded by Councillor Patrick Vernon, who made the case to the Wolverhampton Civic and Historical Society.



Blue Plaque for Dr. Oliver A. Lyseight

The High Commission hosts Cultural Evening & presents the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation

Two United Kingdom-based Jamaicans were awarded with the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation at a special cultural evening hosted by the Jamaican High Commission in October.

They are Rev. Canon Evadne Pitts of Birmingham, and Carlton Moody of the Lambeth Cricket Academy in London.

The Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation recognises individuals for services to Jamaica, or to those who have excelled in personal achievements outside of the country.

Rev. Pitts and Mr. Moody are among three UK-based Jamaicans to be honoured with the medal this year, but they were unable to attend the award ceremony held in Jamaica in July.

The third recipient, attorney Barbara Ledgister, received her medal at the July ceremony.

The cultural evening, held in celebration of Jamaica's National Heritage Week and the UK's Black History Month, featured a reading by Jamaican author Kerry Young from her books "Pao" and "Gloria"; poetry from Luke Williams and Janice Williams, and a monologue by

actress Marcia Mantack.

Staff from the High Commission did a medley of folk songs as well as poetry. A special piece was also performed by the High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba.

The evening ended with performances by the Koromantic mento band, and a special rendition of the National Anthem by new Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Technology, Vivian Crawford, who was a special guest.

See related image (11) on page 13

Photo Gallery



- 1) *HC Ndombet-Assamba was the special guest of the first UK Solo Exhibition of Jamaican Artist Laura Facey on Sept. 24*
- 2) *From Left: Mrs. Janice Miller, Under-Secretary (Actg.), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Sen. the on. A.J. Nicholson and HC Ndombet-Assamba at 2013 CHOGM, Sri Lanka*
- 3) *Sir Robin Knox and HC Ndombet-Assamba at the Launch of 'Jamaica Get All Right Clipper' at St. Katherine Dock.*
- 4) *From Left: Mr. Cecile Gutzmore, Dr. Carolyn Cooper and Mr Linton Kwesi Johnson at the Launch of Dr. Copper's book 'Global Reggae'*
- 5) *H. E. Mr. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago and Mr. Justice Winston Anderson and the CCJ Forum*

- 6) *HC Ndombet-Assamba and Mr. Freddie McGregor, one of Jamaica's Reggae Stalwart on his visit to the UK.*
- 7) *HC Ndombet-Assamba and Artist Graemer Mortimer whose installation 'The Odyssey of the Moor' was on display in the Queen's State Apartment at Kensington Palace*



Medal Appreciation Recipients

- 8) Miss Angela Edwards, JHC's Office Manager
- 9) From Left: Mr. John Lynch, Director of Tourism Mr. Paul Pennicook, Chairman of JAMVAC, HC Ndombet-Assamba and Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Dr. Wykeham McNeill
- 10) DHC Mills (3rd left) celebrates with Victoria Mutual staff and clients at a special 137th Birthday Celebrations at VM's Brixton Office in November
- 11) From Left: Rev. Canon Evadne Pitts, Mr. Carlton Moodie, HC and Ms. Barbara Ledgister, PM's
- 12) HC Ndombet-Assamba, Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock and Lady Bullock during a visit to the Borough
- 13) HC Ndombet-Assamba and DHC Mills, Commonwealth Day Observance, March
- 14) From Left: Mrs. N. McIntosh-Caroo, HC's Assistant Board Director, VMBS and Mrs. R. Balcomb, Snr. Clerk, JHC, London
- 15) Ms. Jean 'Binta' Breeze (Jamaican Poet) and Actress Donna Croll at Buckingham Palace where Jean received her MBE honour from HM the Queen
- 16) HC joined the Bath-based Rastafarian Global Council's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity

Jamaican-Born Civil Rights Campaigner Appointed to the British House of Lords

Noted Jamaican-born civil rights campaigner, Doreen Lawrence, who was appointed to the British House of Lords, was honoured by the Jamaican High Commission at a reception hosted on October 21, by Her Excellency, Aloun Ndobet-Assamba.

The United Kingdom's Home Secretary, Theresa May, was among the special guests.

Mrs. Lawrence took her seat as Labour member of the Upper House earlier this month, using the title Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon in the Commonwealth Realm of Jamaica.

She is the mother of Stephen Lawrence, a British teenager, who was



Baroness Lawrence, High Commissioner Ndobet- Assamba and Ms. Theresa May, Home Secretary

murdered in a racist attack in South East London in 1993. Her

tireless fight for justice for her son, has promoted reforms of the police service. She has also founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.

Mrs. Lawrence said that she was overwhelmed by the honour. "My work was not to get me to here. It was for my son, for my family. I wanted the world to recognise what we were going through" she said.

She said she sees her role in the House of Lords as being the voice of ordinary people.

High Commissioner Opens Emancipation Exhibition in London



H.E. Aloun Ndobet-Assamba, High Commissioner and other Guests view a section of the Exhibition

High Commissioner Her Excellency, Aloun Ndobet-Assamba, opened an exhibition at the Royal Geographical Society in London on Tuesday, November 5, marking the 175th Anniver-

sary of the 1838 Emancipation of African slaves in the British West Indies.

The exhibition titled, 'Making Freedom: Riots, Rebellions and Revolutions', was the initiative of the Windrush Foundation and told the stories of the men and women, including Jamaica's National Hero, the Rt.

Excellent Samuel Sharpe, whose struggles for freedom across the British colonies helped to bring about the emancipation of millions of slaves.

High Commissioner Ndobet-Assamba said the exhibition reminds us that the journey to emancipation was long and difficult.

High Commissioner Ndobet-Assamba commended the Windrush Foundation for not confining the display to Black History Month in October, and also for taking it across the UK.

The Making Freedom exhibition celebrated those who resisted enslavement, those who fought to end it, as well as those in Britain, who worked to improve social and economic conditions in the Caribbean.

High Commissioner's Official Visit to Nottingham

High Commissioner Ndombet-Assamba made her first official visit to the City of Nottingham on November 7. During the visit, she met with the City's civic leaders, including the Lord Mayor, Jamaican-born Councillor Merlita Bryan, who is the first black woman to hold that office.

She visited a special education project for young people, and was a special guest on Kemet Radio. She spoke to the city's Jamaican business owners and entrepreneurs at a special lunch.

The High Commissioner was accompanied by Ms. Leonie Livingstone, Minister-Counsellor, Diaspora and Consular Affairs and Mrs. Vivienne Siva, Community Relations Officer, JHC.



High Commissioner and The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Merlita Bryan

Jamaica's Honorary Consul, Birmingham ~ Mr. Wade Lyn, CBE

Jamaican-born, award-winning businessman Wade Lyn was appointed Jamaica's Honorary Consul for Birmingham and the West Midlands.

High Commissioner Ndombet-Assamba announced the appointment of the Jamaican-born Lyn during a special ceremony at The Drum arts centre in Aston, Birmingham in November.

Mr. Lyn, who was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for his services to business in the community, said he was deeply honoured to take up the role.

Mr. Lyn is the founder of Cleone Foods Limited and he has been making Island Delight Jamaican patties since 1986. He was appointed as Prince Charles' 2010 Ambassador for responsible business in the West Midlands in recognition of his leadership and commitment. The High Commissioner urged Jamaicans to support Mr. Lyn.

"In Wade we have found someone who is rooted in this



community and who has a wide range of interests and contacts to help bring Jamaican interests to this part of the country. I am asking you all to give him the kind of welcome, love and support that you have given me since I was appointed just over a year ago. This does not mean I

am not coming back to Birmingham, but we really need someone like Wade to support us here in the West Midlands," she said.

Mr. Lyn said he was honoured to be asked to serve Jamaica in this way.

"It's truly a great honour to serve my country and fellow Jamaicans – I am here to serve the community, but I will not be taking sides with anyone, only with Jamaica. I don't want people to run each other down – we are all in this together. This is not a one man show – I am going to need all of us to be each other's keeper."

BOOK OF CONDOLENCE FOR FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AMBASSADOR SEYMOUR MULLINGS



October until Friday 18 October.

Ambassador Seymour Mullings served for 26 years as a member of the House of Representatives. He died at the Andrews Memorial Hospital on Thursday 10 October. He was 82. Ambassador Mullings was also a former Finance Minister as well as a Minister of Foreign Affairs, Health, Local

A Book of Condolence for the late former Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Seymour Mullings, OJ, was opened at the Jamaican High Commission in London from Monday, 14

Government and Agriculture. He was also Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States of Amer-

Above: HC Ndombet-Assamba signing the Condolence Book

Reception to honour Bishop Eric Brown and Mrs Beverly Lindsay, OBE, OD

The Jamaican High Commission hosted a reception on 2 December to honour two Community Leaders, Mrs. Beverley Lindsay, who was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands, and Bishop Eric Brown on his election as Pentecostal President of Churches Together in England (CTE).

Mrs. Lindsay's honour is a fitting testament to her many years of dedicated service to the Jamaican and wider Birmingham community. She has been an outstanding Ambassador for her homeland and a wise and fearless spokesman for her community.

Bishop Brown's election recognises his more than thirty years of Ministry and his successful leadership of the New Testament Church of God. His vision and high profile has seen substantial growth in his congregation.



From left: Ms. Beverly Lindsay, H.E. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, Mrs. Diedre Mills and Bishop Eric Brown

Mrs. Lindsay owns Diamond Travel in Birmingham and has been a stalwart of the Jamaican community in Birmingham for more than 30 years. She is chair of the Association of Jamaican Nationals and was the president of the Rotary Club of Birmingham in 2012.

Born in St Thomas, Mrs. Lindsay moved to the United Kingdom (UK) as a teenager in 1964, and developed a career in nursing before working in the voluntary and financial services.

She has also worked very closely with the Jamaican High Commission for several decades.

Bishop Brown is an internationally renowned motivational preacher who has been recognised for his contribution to local community initiatives and involvement in the political arena.

He has a deep and passionate love of God and his community.

Bishop Brown has been married for 42 years to Millicent and they are the proud parents to their three sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

High Commission hosts First Citizenship Ceremony in London

The High Commission on December 13 hosted its first ceremony to recognise United Kingdom-born persons of Jamaican heritage, who took up Jamaican citizenship.

High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, who congratulated the new citizens, said the decision to host the special ceremony was to celebrate the fact that they had chosen to confirm their Jamaican citizenship.

“We thought that it would be nice to have a simple ceremony to show what it means now that you have chosen to confirm your Jamaican citizenship,” the High Commissioner said.

She noted that they had made a good decision in choosing to be certified as Jamaican citizens.

“It is an honour. Jamaica is a country that has a good reputation internationally, that is larger than its size and also larger than that of many countries which are bigger and richer than Jamaica,” she added.

A growing number of persons of Jamaican heritage have been applying for Certification as Jamaican Citizens.

Images from the Ceremony



The High Commission hosts Annual School Christmas Programme

The High Commission hosted more than 50 students and teachers at its annual Jamaican Christmas programme for schools, on December 5. A special feature of the day was traditional drumming by master drummer, Jamaican-born Ras Happa and storytelling by Jamaican storyteller Kandake.

Well known actress, Dona Croll, shared her favourite Anancy story about how the Sorrel drink became part of the Jamaican Christmas experience. High Commission staff members Mrs. Naltia Crossfield, Mrs. Kerry Anderson-Dixon and Miss Ann-Marie Pinkney, taught the children Jamaican ring games and the quadrille dance.

High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Mrs. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, who formally welcomed the students and their teachers, spoke of the importance of Christmas to Jamaicans and she also led the children in a round of local folk songs.

The students and their teachers were also treated to a traditional Jamaican Christmas lunch, which featured chicken and fried plantain. There were also tropical fruit drinks.

All the children were presented with gift bags by Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS), which sponsored the day's activities. Acting Chief Overseas Representative for VMBS, Leighton Smith, spoke about his company's commitment to supporting activities that will celebrate and pro-



Students with Ras Happa

mote Jamaica's culture and heritage in the Diaspora.

Each year, the High Commission hosts a special event for school children to give them a taste of Jamaican life, culture and heritage, and to highlight outstanding Jamaicans, especially those living in the United Kingdom.



HC Ndombet-Assamba, DHC Mills, VM Team and students who participated in the Event

International Relations



Jamaica's stall at the Commonwealth Fair 2013

JHC's Involvement in International Organizations

Commonwealth

In the first quarter of 2013, the Jamaican High Commission joined other members of the Commonwealth family in celebrating Commonwealth week from 11 to 15 March. The celebrations included, *inter alia*, a service at Westminster Abbey, and a Banquet for High Commissioners. The high point of activities for the Commission was the launch on Wednesday 13 March of an Exhibition showcasing Jamaica's relationship with the Commonwealth throughout its 50 years of membership in that Organization as well as the 2013 theme of *Opportunity Through Enterprise*. Commonwealth Secretary-General, H.E. Kamallesh Sharma, brought remarks for the occasion and joined H.E. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba in declaring the Exhibition open.

In November, Her Excellency, Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, accompanied Senator the Honourable A.J. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Mrs. Janice Miller, Acting Under-Secretary, Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Sri Lanka. The meeting was held under the theme, 'Growth with Equity: Inclusive Development' and allowed member countries to further discuss issues concerning equitable growth. Also noteworthy was the fact that Heads of Government endorsed the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Group on Small States of which Jamaica is a member. Jamaica

was one of the foremost proponents of an initiative to have the UK address, during the CHOGM, the concerns of those Commonwealth member countries who are adversely affected by the UK Air Passenger Duty (APD).

The High Commission continued to support the annual Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) Fair in November. The proceeds of the Fair supports the education of girls at the Secondary Level throughout the Commonwealth, including Jamaica. As it did in 2012, Jamaica matched its contribution of Four Thousand Pounds (£4000) to the CCL Fund - the largest contribution to date.

International Sugar Organisation/International Maritime Organisation

The High Commission hosted the Annual General Meeting of the ACP/EBA countries who export sugar to Europe. Over the same period, the High Commissioner and staff along with a delegation from Jamaica headed by the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing attended the 28th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly in London. In the preceding months, the High Commission anchored the London-end of Jamaica's campaign for re-election to the Council of the IMO under category 'C'. This drive, which included the hosting of a Reception at the High Commission, reaped rewards as Jamaica was successful in the elections which were held during the Assembly.



H.E., Mrs. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba presented the Secretary-General of the IMO Mr. Koji Sekimizu with a gift, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, Dr. Morais Guy (2nd left) presented the Instruments of Accession to three IMO Maritime Conventions on behalf of the Jamaican Government. Director-General of the MAJ, Rear Admiral Peter Brady (2nd right) and Mr. Bertrand Smith, Director of Legal Affairs at the Maritime Authority looks on. Dr. Guy was in London heading the Jamaican delegation at the 28th Assembly of the IMO

Presentation of Credentials

In 2013, H.E. Mrs. Aloun Ndobet-Assamba presented Credentials in Sweden, Ireland, Finland and Denmark. On all occasions, the High Commissioner took advantage of her required presence in these countries to meet with Government officials to discuss keys aspects of Jamaica’s bilateral relations with them.

The High Commissioner also met with tourism interests, members of the business community and members of the Jamaican Community. High Commissioner Ndobet-Assamba met with Jamaica’s Honorary Consuls in the above-mentioned countries.



High Commissioner presents Credentials to H.E. Mr. Michael D. Higgins, President of the Ireland

HC Ndobet-Assamba after presenting Credentials in Denmark and Finland



Community Outreach - 2013



HC Assamba, DHC Mills and the Registrar General's Dept (RGD) & the National Land Agency (NLA) team on their visit to the UK

During 2013, the High Commission organised and hosted a range of community outreach programmes, including the visits of the National Land Agency (NLA), the Administrator General's Department, and the Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA). In addition, the High Commission organised and supported a variety of specialist workshops.

A High-Level team from the NLA headed by Ms. Elizabeth Stair, Chief Executive Officer and Ms. Lorna Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Administrator General's Department, ended a successful four-city tour of the United Kingdom on June 3 with a public meeting at the High Commission. In addition to London, the teams visited Manchester, Birmingham and Nottingham.

The team from PICA was led by Mr. Garth Williams, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and other senior Officers who came to the UK in November. They visited Manchester, Birmingham and London, where they saw first-hand the operations of the High Commission's Consular Services in the three locations.

A workshop on changes to the UK Charity Regulations was organised by the UK Diaspora Advisory Board Members and held in May at the High Commission. The High Commission also organised a workshop on funding activities and community groups, as well as on the Ministry of Health's Gift Policy during the month of September. Meetings were also convened in September and December, respectively, on the health and education initiatives emanating from the 5th

Biennial Diaspora Conference held in Jamaica in June.

The High Commission also manned a successful booth at the annual Jamaica Basic School Foundation's Family Fun Day at Crystal Palace Park in August. The staff that manned the booth provided patrons at the Family Day with information on the range of services offered by the High Commission's Consular Section and answered a variety of queries on passport, citizenship and all matters relating to Jamaica.



HC Ndombet-Assamba and members of staff, Ms. V. Gillespie and Mrs. D. Mullings at Ja Basic Sch. Foundation Family Fun-day at Crystal Palace

Jamaica High Commission, London — Committed to Serve



Jamaica's Honorary Consul, Birmingham

Mr. Wade Lyn
Honorary Consul
Consulate of Jamaica
50 Icknield Street, Hockley
Birmingham, B18 5AY
Telephone/Fax: 0121 445 9816
Email: consular@cleone.co.uk
consulate@cleone.co.uk

Opening hours : Mondays to Wednesdays
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Contributors

Ms. Christine Dale, Counsellor
Mrs. Vivienne Siva, Community Relations Officer

Proofreading

Mrs. Diedre Mills, Deputy High Commissioner

Layout and Design

Mrs. Kerry Anderson-Dixon, Secretary