



New Year's Message

H. E. Seth George Ramocan

High Commissioner of Jamaica



My fellow Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica,

It is my great pleasure to extend warm New Year's greetings to you as I assume duties as your new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

This year is an exciting year for us as Jamaica commemorates its 55th Anniversary of Independence.

This milestone celebration will coincide with London's hosting of the IAAF & IPC World Championship, London's biggest sports event since the 2012 Olympics, at which our world renowned Usain Bolt is expected to make his final official appearance in a major international sporting event.

I am sure you are excited as I am to utilize every opportunity over the coming months to showcase Jamaica's rich cultural heritage and to re-kindle our spirit of pride in our country. I therefore look forward to meeting and working with you in the planning of activities and projects to create a lasting legacy here in the UK. It is also my hope that we can continue to work in partnership towards the overall economic growth, social development and prosperity of our nation.

As we welcome a new year, it provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our accomplishments over the past year, as well as to put into action, lessons learnt. Our nation is on a steady path to economic growth and progress with latest growth figures for the 3rd quarters of last year at 2% growth in GDP with a projection of 5% growth over the next four years. This will no doubt assist in improving the lives of Jamaicans in important ways.

In 2017, let us not be daunted by the challenges faced in 2016 but rather be encouraged by the many achievements made both individually and collectively. Let us reflect upon our many blessings and seek to support and motivate each other. Let us, as resilient as we are known to be, resolve to strengthen our partnerships to make 2017 an even more productive year for our families and country.

I take this opportunity to convey appreciation to the various organizations, companies, community groups and individuals, for their longstanding commitment and support to the High Commission. Through your generosity and spirit of good will, the lives of many Jamaicans have been enriched.

You have also remained firmly committed to facilitating growth and development in Jamaica while contributing to the positive image of Jamaicans in the Diaspora. We thank you for your invaluable support in the past and look forward to the further strengthening of our collaboration in 2017, in the best interest of our beloved Jamaica, Land We Love.