



JAMAICA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

50 wonderful

years of

Independence

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Portia Simpson Miller is new Prime Minister



The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller has taken the oath of office for a second time as Jamaica's prime minister, pledging to boost the country's economy and fight poverty.

Thousands attended her swearing-in ceremony on Thursday January 5 at King's House in Kingston, the official residence of the Governor General.

Mrs. Simpson Miller, 66, took office following her People's National Party (PNP) landslide win in the December 29 general elections. The PNP won 41 or two-thirds of the House of Representative seats, taking power from the Jamaica Labor Party.

Mrs. Simpson Miller became the first female prime minister

in 2006, but lost power after 18 months in office. During her inaugural speech she said she hoped to cut Jamaica's high unemployment rate. The new prime minister also said slashing the nation's massive debt burden was a priority.

Mrs. Simpson Miller also announced that her administration will move to establish Jamaica as a republic and abandon the British monarch as the country's official head of state.

The Simpson Miller cabinet is comprised of a slate of experienced and youthful politicians who have been assigned a wide range of portfolio responsibilities. See page 2 for details.

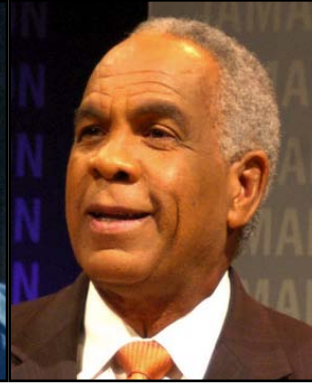
THE TEAM TO GUIDE JAMAICA FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



Mrs. Portia Simpson Miller - PM and Minister of Defence



Dr. Peter Phillips - Finance and the Public Service



Dr. Omar Davis - Transport, Works and Housing



Robert Pickersgill - Water, Land and the Environment



Ms. Lisa Hanna - Youth and Culture



Dr. Wyckeham McNeil - Tourism and Entertainment



Dr. Fenton Ferguson - Health



Sen AJ Nicholson - Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade



Mr. Roger Clarke - Agriculture and Fisheries



Sen Mark Golding - Justice



Dr. Phillip Paulwell - Mining and Energy



Mr. Horace Dalley - Public Service



Mr. Noel Arscott - Local Government and Comm Development



Mr. Derrick Kellier - Labour and Social Security



Mr. Anthony Hylton - Industry, Investment and Commerce



Mr. Peter Bunting - National Security



Rev. Ronald Thwaites - Education



Dr. Morais Guy - Housing



Ms. Natalie Neita Headley - Sport



Sen. Sandra Falconer - Information

Jamaica's outstanding achievements over 50 years

As we celebrate Jamaica's 50th anniversary of Independence, Jamaican High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Anthony Johnson reflects on some of the nation's achievements.

International Affairs

- Jamaica was the first country to impose a trade embargo on the South Africa Apartheid Regime in 1958, before Jamaica became an independent nation.
- Jamaica was also at the forefront of bringing the issue of apartheid in sports before the United Nations. The General Assembly adopted the International Declaration against Apartheid in Sports in December 1977 and a decade later in 1987, the Convention.

•Barely a year after becoming independent, Jamaica became highly visible when it proposed that 1968 be designated the International Year for Human Rights to mark the twentieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the 1963 United Nations General Assembly. The proposal was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly.

- Jamaica was selected as the site of the International Seabed Authority. It was the first country in the region to host a major United Nations Body.
- Jamaica held the presidency of the United Nations Security Council in July 2000 and November 2001.

Science and Medicine

- Dr. Thomas Phillip Lecky developed the first breed of indigenous cattle known as Jamaica Hope, Jamaica Red, Jamaica Brahman and Jamaica Black cattle breeds.
- Professor Manley West and Dr. Albert Lockhart conducted pioneering research that turned cannabis into speciality medicines to treat glaucoma and other disorders.
- Professor Emeritus Geoff Palmer invented the Barley Abrasion Process in 1969. He was also the first person in the world in 1972 to use the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) to illustrate the malting process and describe in detail the structural changes that occurred when malt is produced from barley and the African grain, sorghum.

Academia

- Jodi-Ann Maxwell won the 1998 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee Competition at the age of 12;
- Norman Manley Law School won the World Human Rights Moot Competition in 2010 and 2011;

•At the Centennial of the Founding of Oxford University, the late Professor Rex Nettleford was one of four persons honoured as being the best produced by the Institution;

Sports



- Dr. Arthur Wint won Jamaica's first gold medal in the 1948 Olympic Games held in London;
- Merlene Ottey holds the record for the most Olympic appearances (7) of any track and field athlete, and for winning the largest number of women's World Championships medals (14).
- In 2011 Jamaicans held all major sprint titles for men :
 - Usain Bolt – Olympic Champion Men
 - Yohan Blake – World Champion
 - Lerone Clarke – Commonwealth and Pan American Champion
 - Dexter Lee - World Junior Champion
 - Odaile Todd – World Youth Champion
 - Jacques Harvey – World University Games
- In 2008 and 2009 Jamaica produced the fastest Man and Woman in the World – Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Frazer;
- Jamaica became the first country to make a clean sweep of the medals in the women's 100m at the Olympic Games. Jamaica finished 1-2-2.
- Lawrence Rowe became in 1972 the only man to score a double century and a century on his debut in Test Cricket ;
- Ambassador Courtney Walsh became the world's leading test wicket taker beating the record of 434 set by India's Kapil Dev in March 2000;
- In 1998 Jamaica became the first English-speaking Caribbean country to reach the finals of the FIFA World Cup;
- In boxing Jamaicans have held many world titles:
 - Lloyd Honeyghan – Welter Weight Champion
 - Frank Bruno, Trevor Berbick, Lennox Lewis – Heavyweight

NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY S. JOHNSON, JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Once again we face a New Year and we all realise that we are one year older.

We expect it could be one of our best years and everyone should be involved in some important activity to fully enjoy the experience of celebrating Jamaica's Golden anniversary.

I was alive in 1962 at the birth of our nation and I am still around 50 years

later to see the momentous events which have unfolded.

Not the least of events has been the growth of a huge community of Jamaican British in Britain and a significant community of Returning Residents to Jamaica from overseas. Jamaica is now one of the world's best known brands.

We have a new government for the next five years and the world recession is continuing to cause problems and distress everywhere.

In the USA for the first time, the national credit rating has been down-graded. In Europe there is serious disagreement between Britain and its EU partners over monetary policy.

Within this context, Jamaica will celebrate its growth and development. There will always be room for new products and services. We can hold our heads high as a well known and respected country.

We all look forward to the celebrations around August 6 and the results of the Olympic Athletic events.

Truly, we little, but we tallawah.

Mike McCallum, Junior Middleweight, Middleweight and Light Heavyweight
Chris Eubank – Welterweight, middleweight and super middleweight

Music

- The Hon. Robert Nesta Marley is regarded as one of the greatest musical legends of our time. He was proclaimed and accepted worldwide as "the King of Reggae".
- In 2000 Bob Marley's song – "One Love" was named the song of the Millennium;
- Jamaica has produced exceptional artists such as Monty Alexander, Dennis Brown, Jimmy Cliff, Alton Ellis, Dean Fraser Beres Hammond, Gregory Isaacs, Freddy McGregor, Shaggy, Millie Small, Sean Paul, Peter Tosh, Sir Willard White.

Miscellaneous

- Three (3) Jamaican women won the Miss World Competition- Carol Joan Crawford in 1963, Cindy Breakspere in 1976 and Lisa Hanna in 1993;
- Barrington Irving was the youngest persons in 2007 and first black to pilot a plane solo around the world.

When we realize that Jamaica with 11,000 sq kilometres and 2.7 million people, these achievements are even more commendable.





FROM THE DHC'S DESK
with Joan Thomas-Edwards
Deputy High Commissioner



Fellow Jamaicans,
Happy New Year
and Happy 50th.
It is my desire that
this year 2012 will
be a memorable
and rewarding one
for you. No doubt
the Olympics is high on the agenda,
as well as activities for Jamaica's 50th
year of Independence.

The High Commission appreciates
the support that it has been receiving
from the Community over the past
year and looks forward to stronger
bonds of cooperation in 2012. We
aim to provide a more efficient ser-
vice to you as we continue to upgrade
our website, telephone and consular
services.

Here are a few changes of note:

- The website is now updated to re-
flect information on passport, visas,
citizenship, and returning residents.
Please visit us at www.jhcuk.org
- Calls to the passport/Visa Section
will be taken only between the hours
of 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. this will al-
low the staff to effectively meet the
increasing demands of the public.
- Customers are reminded to take the
appropriate documentation when
applying for passports or this may
affect the speedy processing of your
application. Information on this is
available on the website.
Priority Actions for the High Com-
mission
- The High Commission is to con-
duct a series on the theme of heroes
throughout the Jamaican Commu-
nity in 2012, aimed at raising the
profile of Jamaica in the United King-
dom. The dates will be announced
shortly.
- Consolidate database of Jamaicans
living in the United Kingdom par-
ticularly targeted for business
- Lecture series to coincide with
Jamaica 50 celebrations throughout
2012.

Jamaica seals Danish Diplomatic Relations

Mrs. Susanne Van Hauen, Danish Busi-
ness woman was recently appointed as
Jamaica's Honorary
Consul to Denmark.

High Commission-
er Anthony Johnson
and Members of Staff
of the High Commis-
sion provided brief-
ings for the Honorary
Consul on Jamaica
and its priorities dur-
ing the Meetings in November
2011.

The Consulate is located at:
Susanne Van Hauen
Van Hauen Conferences Aps



Amaliegade 36
DK-1256 Copenhagen K
Phone: +45 20 48 13 50
E-Mail: svh@vanhauen.dk
Homepage: www.vanhauen.dk

PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

JAMPRO in conjunction with the
Competiveness Company held an
informal gathering of key stake-
holders in the Jamaican business
community, on November 23,
2011, to discuss the positioning of
Jamaican Products and Services
using Intellectual Trade Marks.
The event was held at the Jamai-
can High Commission and was
headed by Dr. Beverley Morgan
Head of The Competitiveness
Company and Margaret Mais,
Co-ordinator of the Project

The Competitiveness Company,
a consultancy company located in
Kingston, Jamaica is on a mis-
sion to ensure the recognition of
Jamaican products in the world
market by protecting the authen-
ticity, quality and cultural identity
of Jamaican products to ensure
their prime positioning in the
market and the eyes of consum-
ers.

A similar gathering will be held
in New York.

Jamaica re-elected to Governing IMO Body

On 25th November 2011, Jamaica
was re-elected to Category C of
the Council of the International
Maritime Organization (IMO) for
the 2012-2013 biennium, at elec-
tions held during the 27th Session
of the IMO Assembly in London.
The Council is the executive
organ of IMO and is responsible,

under the Assembly, for supervis-
ing the work of the Organization.
Between sessions of the Assem-
bly, the Council performs all the
functions of the Assembly, except
that of making recommendations
to Governments on maritime
safety and pollution prevention.

Heroes Celebrated

The High Commission successfully hosted a Heroes Day Event themed "Honouring our Heroes" on October 17, 2011, which is observed as Jamaica's National Heroes Day. Targeted Focus Group Sessions were preceded by a stimulating and engaging presentation on Jamaica's National Heroes by His Excellency, Anthony Johnson, High Commissioner for Jamaica.

The event was initiated and organised by the newly formed Women of Influence Group, comprising second generation Jamaicans living in the United Kingdom. The aim was to examine the lessons learnt from past achievements, struggles of the Jamaican Heroes as a means to inspire future generations of Jamaicans living in the United Kingdom particularly the youth, instil pride in our heritage as Jamaicans and a stronger sense of identity.



UK Jamaican children help needy children in Jamaica with shoebox drive

Members of the High Commission along with Members of the Jamaica/United Kingdom Diaspora hosted an annual Christmas Treat for children ranging from ages 10-16 years. The programme targeted children of Jamaican decent, drawn from schools in the London and attracted over 30 participants.

A cultural package coordinated

by Mr. Jackie Guy, Choreographer/Dancer provided entertainment and fun for the children. They were also treated to sumptuous food courtesy of Victoria Mutual Building Society/Plantation Inn. The children along with staff members prepared the shoe boxes filled with gifts for children that be designated for specific Children's Homes in Jamaica.



SCHEDULED PASSPORT SURGERIES 2012

JANUARY

Birmingham - Thurs.12th

FEBRUARY

Birmingham - Thurs.2nd

MARCH

Birmingham - Thurs.1st

APRIL

Birmingham - Thurs. 5th

MAY

Birmingham - Thurs. 3rd

JUNE

Birmingham - Thurs. 7th

JULY

Birmingham - Thurs. 3rd

AUGUST

Birmingham - To be advised

SEPTEMBER

Birmingham - Thurs. 6th

OCTOBER

Birmingham - Thurs. 4th

NOVEMBER

Birmingham - Thurs. 1st

DECEMBER

Birmingham - Thurs. 6th

JANUARY

Manchester - Wed. 18th

MARCH

Manchester - Wed. 21st

MAY

Manchester - Wed. 16th

JULY

Manchester - Wed. 18th

SEPTEMBER

Manchester - Wed. 19th

NOVEMBER

Manchester - Wed. 21st

Jamaica's 50th Anniversary Celebrations Launched



The celebrations to mark Jamaica's 50th Anniversary of Independence got off to a colourful start at the O2 Arena in London on Tuesday evening, December 13. A kaleidoscope of music, dance and other cultural presentations satisfied curiosities with a taste of what is to be expected as the nation celebrates its Golden Jubilee in the United Kingdom in 2012.

An exciting calendar of events spanning January to December was unveiled. Among the major activities will be gospel concerts, reggae concerts, a Jamaica versus England masters' cricket match and a range of festivals which will showcase Jamaica's rich culinary and artistic talents.

Jamaican High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Anthony Johnson said the Golden Jubilee presents a wonderful opportunity for Jamaica to reflect on its triumphs in many areas of life and to celebrate its unique ability to impact the world as a small island state. He told hundreds who gathered at the glitzy Black Music Experience Museum at the O2 that Jamaica's future will be de-



Jamaican High Commissioner to the United Kingdom His Excellency Anthony Johnson poses with the contestants in the Miss Jamaica UK contest at the launch of the Jamaica 50 celebrations at the O2 in December.

termined by the nation's ability to build on its successes in the areas of music, athletics, academia and the arts and its ability fully utilise Brand Jamaica.

The evening was hosted by Britain's former 110 metres hurdles world record holder Colin Jackson who is of Jamaican parentage. There were performances by former East Enders actress Angela Wynter and rising UK reggae star Gappy Ranks among others.

The Jamaica 50 2012 Calendar of

Events reflects activities in most major cities across the United Kingdom. On Independence Day, August 6, 2012, all Borough Councils where Jamaicans reside will be asked to raise the Jamaican flag and stage a ceremony in honour of 50 years of Jamaican nationhood. The celebrations in the UK will coincide with those in Jamaica, the United States and Canada and other countries where significant numbers of Jamaicans reside.



Dancers perform a piece choreographed by Jackie Guy at the launch of Jamaica 50 UK celebrations at the O2 in December

STEPPING OUT: Elaine Clough and Carol Cooper

RUNNING

SCENES FROM THE ACTION AT THE O2



Mento Band performing at the launch of Ja 50 at the O2 in December



Former 110 Metres Hurdles World Record Holder Colin Jackson who is of Jamaican parentage hosts the launch of Jamaica 50 celebrations at the O2 in December.



Angela Wynter performs



Wilfred Emmanuel Jones, The Black Farmer

Arrested: Blondel Cluff, Chief Superintendent Leroy Logan and Diane Edwards

Ja 50 Calendar of Events

- Jan - Jamaica 50 Church Services across the UK
- Feb - Jamaica 50 Lecture Series
- Apr - Gospel Concert - London
- Gospel Concert - Birmingham
- National Domino Tournament
- Jamaica 50 Film Festival
- The Greats sing Reggae (O2 Arena)
- May - Photo Exhibition (pictures by Neil Kenlock)
- Photo Exhibition (pictures by Salesh Kapur)
- May - Jamaica Day at Ridley Road Market
- Launch of Sam Sharpe Centre
- Jul - Masters Cricket Match (Jamaica vs England) Kennington Oval
- Jun - Jamaica Day at Royal Ascot
- Jul - One Love Peace Festival
- I Love Jamaica Day (JN event)
- Children's Cultural Summer Camp
- Jamaica 50 Independence Church Service
- Reggae Boyz vs Birmingham
- Jamaica 50 Benefit Concert Birmingham
- Aug - Taste Jamaica, Victoria Square Birmingham
- Jamaica Village at Finsbury Park
- Brixton Splash
- Flag Raising Ceremony in several Boroughs
- Jamaica Corner on the Hackney Marshes (retail pitches)
- Jamaica 50 UK Birthday Party and Gala Dinner at the Museum of London, Docklands
- Jamaica 50 UK Awards Ceremony & Gala Dinner - Emirates Stadium
- Oct - Black History Month School Activities Birmingham
- Feb 10 - Valentine's Fashion Show (The Drum Arts Centre)
- Mar 10 - Sandwell Young People Creativity & Lifestyle Show
- June - BASS Festival
- Aug 4 - Black Enterprise Expo (New Bingley Hall)
- Aug - I Love Jamaica Day (JN event)
- Manchester
- Aug 6 - Flag Raising ceremony
- Aug 6 - Independence Parade
- Southampton
- Aug 5 - Jamaica 50 Independence Church Service
- Wolverhampton
- May 19 - Youth Empowerment Conference
- Sheffield
- Jan 8 - Jamaica 50 Sheffield Launch
- Feb 4 - Musical Extravaganza (Bob Marley Tribute)
- Mar 18 - In Honour of Jamaican Mothers (Jamaica 50 Mother's Day Event)
- Apr/May - Film/Games Evenings/Lectures
- June 4 - Jamaican Heritage Day
- June 16 - Diaspora Day
- Aug 4 - Jamaica Independence Dance
- Aug 5 - Jamaica 50 Independence Church Service (Cathedral)
- Aug 6 - Jamaica 50 Independence Parade & Flag Raising
- Nottingham
- Aug 5 - Jamaica 50 Independence Church Service
- Aug 6 - Flag Raising ceremony
- Bristol
- Aug 6 - Flag Raising ceremony
- Huddersfield
- Jan 28 - Jamaica 50 launch dinner
- Aug - Jamaica 50 Independence Church Service
- Aug - Jamaica 50 Independence Gala
- Aug - Jamaica 50 Festival (outdoors)
- Leeds
- Jul 28 - Jamaica 50 Gala Dinner
- Aug 5 - Jamaica 50 Independence Church Service
- Aug 6 - Flag Raising ceremony
- Aug 6 - Jamaica 50 Independence Parade
- Reading
- Jan 28 - Jamaica 50th Ball

Jamaica's Golden Jubilee – we are off and running

The big year has finally arrived. Jamaica turns 50 years old as a nation state on August 6th and there are big plans on the table in Jamaica and the Diaspora to celebrate the Golden Jubilee with the pomp and pageantry it deserves. Here in the UK a full calendar of activities is planned starting this month right through to December. These activities are not just London-based but are spread across the UK from Scotland, Leeds and Huddersfield in the north to Birmingham and Manchester and as far south as Southampton. There is a discernible buzz among Jamaicans; the national pride is palpable. People's faces tell one story – this is our year and we are going to make Jamaica proud.

Of course, the Golden Jubilee coincides with the biggest sporting event to be held in the UK in decades, the Olympic Games. Expectation is high following our historic achievements at the Beijing games and the Berlin World Championships. London was a beehive of activity for Jamaicans during those events so one can only imagine how manic the vibe will be when our athletes perform well on our local soil in Stratford, East London. Jamaica and Jamaicans are already in high demand. All of us would have been proud to see our hero Usain Bolt adorn the front and back pages of the Metro newspaper last week and depicted as a body double for Sir Richard Branson. Such exposure is just a taste of what is to come this year. We expect that many more of our

athletes will grow in their profile and image as the year progresses. We hope that they will stay healthy and be fighting fit to deliver for Jamaica in August.

Among the events that are planned are a series of lectures, a series of photographic exhibitions, gospel concerts, a gala dinner and awards, a big cricket match featuring Jamaica's former test players against England's former test players, a national independence church service, a national domino tournament and numerous dinner dances and street parades. A full calendar of the events can be viewed at the Jamaican High Commission's website www.jhcuk.org.

Already we have been having several church services which have been dedicated to Jamaica at 50 and we encourage you to ask your local pastor to consider setting aside a short period on a Saturday or Sunday to give God thanks for the nation of Jamaica. On August 6 the Jamaican flag will be flown at many local authority buildings across the country and we encourage you to participate in any civic function that may take place on that day in your area. It is very important that as a community we understand and appreciate the significance of the Golden Jubilee. Let us be proud of our country and seek to build on the strides we have already made by showing a more united and productive front in all areas of engagement from sports to politics.

CRO Notebook

Hi, fellow Jamaicans and friends.

I trust that 2012 has found you well and you are raring to go as we look forward a year full of exciting activities to celebrate Jamaica's 50th anniversary of Independence.

All across the UK people are demonstrating their passion for Jamaica by planning major events. It is this passion that is at the bedrock of our strong and vibrant community in the UK.

I have been busy travelling around the country meeting with community leaders and getting to understand the issues that occupy their minds. I have been welcomed and encouraged by people from all walks of life. There is much work to be done and I have set about addressing many of the issues that have been raised. I will continue to rely on your support as we get on with the task of further building and strengthening our community in the UK.

There are some critical areas on which I am focussing:

Education, Business, Health and Youth. We have to establish the base for future generations to become more productive and self-sustaining. Our community is blessed with numerous talents but we must find the mechanism to channel such resources in the right direction and achieve tangible results.

In the area of education, we are keen to see an improvement in attainment levels among children of Jamaican background. We would want to see this achieved within a cultural context and to this extent we will be working very closely with the ministries of education and culture in Jamaica. We can start the process in the UK by forging closer ties with our old schools in Jamaica. Let us embark on a drive to start past students associations for all high schools in Jamaica. One young lady has already taken the step. Karen Roach from St. Catherine High School is inviting all past students to get in touch with her at karen_m_roach@yahoo.co.uk. If you are interested in doing the same for your school, please advise me so that I may assist in getting your network established. Through this process we could have very useful exchange programmes with Jamaica to the benefit of all.

In the area of health we are working to promote awareness around sickle cell and prostate cancer. The people who lead on these initiatives need your support. I am happy to provide you with contact details.

In the area of business, the idea is to get Jamaican businesses to organise themselves more appropriately in order to gain access to capital. There will be a major announcement in that regard soon.

Finally, let me reassure that I am here working for you. But I don't have all the ideas and so I would want to hear from you. Feel free to share your thoughts on how we can develop this community to the heights we know are possible. You may contact me by email at cro@jhcuk.org. Thanks for your support and lets continue working onward and upward.

Andrew-Clunis
Community Relations Officer



The Jamaican community in Sheffield launched their calendar of events to celebrate Jamaica's 50th anniversary of Independence on January 8th. The event featured a variety of cultural items and presentations to highlight Jamaica's achievements over 50 years. Sharing in the cutting of the cake to get the

celebrations going are Mr. Andrew Clunis, Community Relations Officer, Jamaican High Commission, Ms. Carmelita Duncan, Chair of the Jamaica Society, Sheffield and Mrs Celia Grandison Markey, Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board Member.



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