

LAUNCH OF WORKERS' WEEK AND LABOUR DAY 2017

“RESTORE...PRESERVE...BEAUTIFY”

Brief Remarks

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Ministry Of Finance and the Public Service



Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my duty and indeed my pleasure to deliver some brief remarks at this 2017 launch of Workers' Week and Labour Day.

Every nation owes its success to its labourers. Labour is the driving force of our economy and our progress. Labour fuels industry and spurs economic growth. Labour helps build roads, run factories, provide efficient services and much more.

As all will be aware, this Government is serious about transforming the public sector into an efficient and productive workforce. It is the goal that every public officer will see that the outcome of their job is about improving the quality of life in Jamaica, directly or indirectly, irrespective of what role they play in the public service. It is my vision that, in turn, this culture will also spill over to private sector as we aggressively pursue a transformation strategy to ensure rapid socio-economic development for Jamaica.

There is no achievement our nation can count, no vision for the future we have, that does not have the worker at its centre. Therefore I extend this challenge of transformation of attitude to all workers of Jamaica as we lift our nation to a level of growth and prosperity that will be beneficial to each and every Jamaican, both at home and abroad.

And so with this year's theme, ***'Restore...Preserve....Beautify'*** may we instill in each worker the civic pride that is so needed.

As we clean all our national monuments on Labour Day let us remember what each stands for, let us remember the struggle of our forefathers for the rights and justice of workers of this land.

We inherited lasting legacies in the labour movement that augur well for a solid foundation supporting economic growth and development. We should never forget, and especially so during Workers' Week, that we are an independent nation because our workers and the labour unions played a significant role in the struggle for independence and liberation of our people.

The work and vision of Bustamante, Norman and Michael Manley, Newland and Shearer, cannot go to waste. We owe to them and to our country the demonstration of worker productivity, and civic pride.

Lest we forget, our great houses and plantation properties symbolize the struggles for freedom from slave labour and for better working conditions for sugar workers.

Lest we forget, our national parks and heritage sites symbolize Jamaica's natural beauty and mixed ethnicity.

Lest we forget, our cultural sites and monuments symbolize the creative capacity of our people.

Lest we forget, some church sites symbolize the education of our children and freedom of expression in our land.

Our monuments tell a story of the making a people who are rich in creativity, agility, and productivity. This has built a solid foundation of moral values which should create a workforce that can rival none.

We have lasting legacies in the labour movement that augur well for a foundation for economic growth and development. All these efforts, and many others we have undertaken, are motivated by one thing alone; that is, to build a prosperous economy that creates jobs for those who want to work and that allows each worker to earn fair wage.

It is for us to build on the legacy of our forefathers and cultivate a labour force that will be able to support the Government's vision for sustained growth and prosperity for Jamaica, land we love.

Thank You.