



OVERVIEW OF VISION 2030 JAMAICA - NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, POPULAR VERSION

Presented at the
Launch of *Vision 2030 Jamaica, Popular Version*



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Salutation

Introduction

It is indeed my pleasure to represent the PIOJ on behalf of the Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, Dr. Gladstone Hutchinson, who is off the island on official business. I'm especially pleased to be associated with this event, as it represents another critical milestone on our journey to make "*Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business.*"

Overview

In 2009 Jamaica embarked on a journey as outlined in the country's first long-term National Development Plan - ***Vision 2030 Jamaica***. The ultimate destination is the achievement of world-class standards in the quality of our life in relation to our education, health, nutrition, security, governance, sports and cultural expression. This achievement is being underpinned by policies for sustainable development in relation to economic growth, energy utilisation, environmental protection, and the exploitation of our natural and human capital resources.

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We must all take pride in knowing that this plan was designed by the people from all walks of life - students, community groups, churches, members of NGOs, and the private sector, staff of the public sector; young and old, boys and girls, men and women. I'm sure some of you here today, joined us from the Planning Institute for the consultations we had, one of which was held right here at the Civic Centre.

From the onset, our commitment at the Planning Institute was to use all the available communication channels to bring the key messages of the Plan to as wide a cross section of people as possible. To this end, we have produced a video feature, Vision 2030 Jamaica theme song, dedicated website and Facebook page, and many other materials for public consumption. It was decided also that there was need for a popular version of the main Plan (a fulsome 410 pages!!) that was tabled in Parliament in 2009. There needed to be a document which more concisely and succinctly captured the essence of the plan and in addition was more appealing to and easily understood by the man in the street.

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After hours of arduous work - writing, reviewing, rewriting, getting the views of key stakeholders – we launch the outcome today, an 88-page booklet that is informative, interesting, spiced with graphics and served with cultural bytes to make it tasty and easily digestible. The beautiful photographs of familiar scenes and personalities, buildings, landscapes and cultural tit-bits are all designed to make the Plan come alive for you. The Vision 2030 Jamaica Popular Version is ideal for use by anyone who needs to obtain the key elements of the Plan, at a glance.

The document highlights the vision, guiding principles, core and transformational values that will drive its implementation. It is structured along the lines of the four national goals which are related respectively to the People, the economy, the society, and the environment. For each goal, the document identifies the vision for that goal, some of the major problems that must be overcome, and the key outcomes that are necessary to attain the goal. Also specified are some key actions that will be taken to achieve the desired outcomes.

We have printed several thousand copies of this Popular Version, Vision 2030 Jamaica, and intend to disseminate it across Jamaica's nooks and

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crannies. Among the main vehicles for doing this will be community associations and schools, the Ministry of Education, Jamaica Independent Schools Association and the Social Development Commission have already committed their assistance for this thrust.

Ladies and Gentlemen along with nationwide knowledge, consistent pursuit of Vision 2030 Jamaica is required if we are to attain the ambitious goals of this Development Plan. In recognition of this the PIOJ is also putting in place a very open and transparent system of monitoring and evaluation so that the entire country can keep track of the progress being made towards our goals. This will include a set of well publicized metrics, and the key indicators selected for this purpose will be closely tracked and highlighted to generate maximum national understanding and awareness of whether we are heading in the right direction and at the correct pace. Through this means we will all be enabled to play our part in ensuring that there is full alignment of our policies and programmes with the goals we are aiming to achieve. The rest is up to each and every one of us - which is to pay attention, seek to

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keep those in authority on their toes and play our own individual part to attain the Vision for our country which we all share.

The Popular Version has a special place in this scheme of things. It will be a ready source of information and will inspire you with pride, confidence and resolve to play an active role in creating a better future for ourselves and our country. I urge you to read the document and share it with your colleagues, classmates, friends, and family, and even visitors to our shores. In this way, we can all GET ON BOARD, embrace the change that is necessary and contribute in meaningful ways to our social, economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental and political growth and development.

As underscored in the Foreword of the document: “The journey will be rough, and at times the task may seem impossible”. But, as the theme of today’s event implies, “Let us believe” in *Vision 2030 Jamaica*. Let us use the Plan documents as tools that will assist us to rise successfully above our challenges. For together we CAN make our vision a reality.