

## A special time to be Jamaican!

This is a special time to be a Jamaican! For, during this time, we observe Emancipation Day and Independence Day!

Let's all together endorse, support and promote this special time, because it gives us a chance to celebrate and, even more important, to reflect and be positively transformed if our reflection finds areas of slavery and dependence still occurring! So, let's ask ourselves the question, 'Am I free and independent or am I still enslaved and dependent in some area of my life?' The answer to this question lies in the main results of personal performance, community development and national image over the past year. So, pause for a moment and answer this question, and where that reflection discovers an answer that's less than excellent, the good news is that you can TRANSFORM IT! Let's all together reflect and envision a transformed Jamaica where every citizen is a 'first class citizen'! This speaks to our relationships with each other and the maximum respect we give and receive. This means we must embrace and express values such as respect and reverence for life, honesty, love and personal development. Let's all together reflect and envision a transformed Jamaica where every citizen is a producer, nation builder and valued contributor. This speaks to our attitude toward work and our personal commitment to produce some good service for our nation's economy and the growth of our gross domestic product (GDP). This means we must embrace and express values such as the dignity of work, savings and investments, truth, and trust and realise that our individual values and attitudes toward work contribute to the growth or reduction of our GDP. Let's all together reflect and envision a transformed Jamaica where every citizen is a peacemaker! This speaks to our sense of community and our commitment to win and maintain peace in every family, community and workplace. This means we must embrace and express values such as justice, peace, unity, and responsibility. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now! Our history has shown that, by nature, Jamaicans are transformational people. There is no other nation like ours, no other people like you and me! We transformed slavery to freedom and colonialism to independence! So, let's positively transform any behaviour or issue that keeps us from becoming a first-class, productive and peaceful people and nation! Let Jamaica become the place to live, work, raise families and do business, because I am, because you are, because we are transformed! For true transformation begins with you and me.