

Noranda offers 110 Jamaica 50 scholarships

NORANDA JAMAICA Bauxite Partners continued its support to education with the announcement last week Thursday of 110 secondary and tertiary-level scholarships to mark Jamaica's 50th year of Independence.

Making the announcement in the presence of Governor General Sir Patrick Allen, who was touring the bauxite facility as part of his Jamaica 50 island tour, president Pansy Johnson reiterated that education was the flagship of the company's outreach programmes. "We are therefore delighted that for the year 2012, we are able to offer as a special commemorative tribute to Jamaica 50 five major university undergraduate degree scholarships; five college-level degree or diploma scholarships; 50 tertiary-level tuition bursaries, and 50 secondary school bursaries for the most outstanding GSAT (Grade Six Achievement Test) performers at primary level," Johnson said. Scholarship duration The university and college scholarships will be open to students from Noranda's operating areas in St Ann. The scholarships are one-time and are good for a minimum of two years and a maximum of four years. The cost of the scholarships is \$5 million annually. Just last month Noranda, in partnership with HEART Trust/NTA and Brown's Town Community College, opened an adult skills training centre in Discovery Bay. Johnson said the announcement was the fulfilment of a promise made at the company's second anniversary last year to increase and improve on employee and community engagement programmes. "And we are pleased that the 50th anniversary has offered an opportunity to carry through that promise," Johnson said. The bauxite company will also celebrate Jamaica's cultural history when employees and community members participate in a community fun day on Emancipation Day, August 1, titled 'Ole Time Sinting Come Back Again.'

The fair will feature displays from each community depicting the best aspects of rural community life with competitions in agriculture, 4-H, home cooking, dancing and storytelling. Meanwhile, Sir Patrick, in bringing greetings, hailed the scholarships, saying they were a fitting way in which to pay tribute to Jamaica's 50th anniversary. He described Noranda's action as a leap of faith and commitment to the people of St Ann. "Noranda is demonstrating today that nothing is wrong with Jamaica that cannot be fixed by what's right with Jamaica," Sir Patrick said. He urged to bauxite company to continue investing in education and the children.