

## Gov't to Restore Birthplaces of National Heroes and Prime Ministers

The Government is embarking on a project to restore and maintain the birthplaces of Jamaica's National Heroes and Prime Ministers.

Making the announcement during his contribution to the 2013/14 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on July 2, Minister of Tourism and Entertainment, Hon. Dr. Wykeham McNeill, noted that this is being undertaken "to protect our heritage and show respect to our national heroes". As part of the project, a permanent exhibition will be opened at Roxborough in Manchester on Thursday, July 4, to mark the 120th anniversary of the birth of National Hero, the Right Excellent Norman Washington Manley. The Minister said that major work is also slated for Devon House, in St. Andrew and Milk River Bath and Spa and Bath in St. Thomas. In the meantime, Dr. McNeill informed that the Government will be undertaking a project to upgrade several public beaches across the island. "We have embarked on a process to identify those beaches that will be designated as public beaches and sea parks," the Tourism Minister said. The beaches selected for upgrading are Burwood in Trelawny; Orchard and Bull Head in Hanover; Providence in Montego Bay; and the Norman Manley Sea Park in Negril. Additionally, the Minister noted that a series of projects are also scheduled to start this summer under the Tourism Improvement Programme. "The programme is not completely finalised, but (among) the projects that have been costed and ready to start this summer, will be the Berrydale road. You cannot have a road to an attraction like rafting on the Rio Grande (in Portland) and the road is in the condition that it is in," he said. Facilities for fruit and vegetable vendors in Bog Walk in St. Catherine and Flankers in Montego Bay, will also be upgraded. Source: JIS