



WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS... WHAT'S NEWS

Invitation for Exporters to participate in Cuba Trade Mission - April 20-24, 2015

JAMPRO has embarked on a market development programme for Cuba which encompasses market intelligence gathering, relationship building with key Cuban stakeholders and inward and outward trade missions. These trade initiatives are aimed at building on the foundation cemented with Cuba over the years, and also to help manufacturers break into the Cuban market. The most recent activities have been participation in the November 2014 FIHAV Trade Show in Havana and JAMPRO's Exporting to Cuba Workshop held February 4, 2015.

The Honourable G. Anthony Hylton, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce will be leading a delegation including JAMPRO, EXIM Bank and private sector companies on a trade mission to Cuba from April 20-24, 2015. This mission will serve as a follow-up for companies that have participated in previous Cuba related activities to conduct follow-up meetings. Other companies are also being invited to participate in this mission with a view towards eventually breaking into the Cuban market... **For more information, open the following link:** <http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/trade-mission-to-cuba-planned-for-april-20-24-2015/>

**JOINT STATEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS
CONCERNING THE REPEATED FIRES AT THE RIVERTON CITY DUMP
MARCH 17, 2015**

Jamaica's Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms states that every person has the right to:
"... enjoy a healthy and productive environment free from the threat of injury or damage from environmental abuse and degradation of the ecological heritage;"

The recurring fires and poor environmental management at the Riverton dump are an assault on those rights.

Proper, effective and efficient solid waste management has been a critical issue for Jamaica for some time, yet successive political administrations have neglected to put the necessary funding and expertise in place to address this matter. This is compounded by the fact that the responsible Ministries, Departments and Agencies have failed to carry out their duties at an acceptable level.

There is every indication that there are vested interests in the annual burning of the Riverton dump, and although it is known that the fires are often deliberately set, the public has not been informed of any efforts to seriously investigate and prosecute persons responsible. There has also been insufficient effort to properly secure the site...**For the full statement, please open the link:** <http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/joint-statement-of-civil-society-groups-concerning-the-repeated-fires-at-the-riverton-city-dump/>

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Remarks by Warren McDonald, JCC President to Kiwanis Meeting at the National Chest Hospital - March 17, 2015

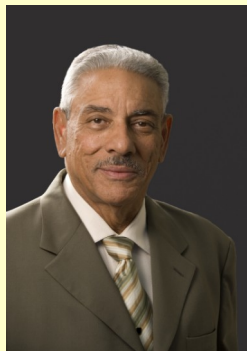
Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen...

Those of us who are old enough to have lived through Jamaica's last 52+ years since it became an independent nation, will know that one of the characteristics of much of that period has been a pattern of lurching from crisis to crisis.

We have the experience of having been told by virtually every administration that because of where we are, because of our profligacy in the past, we now need to tighten our belts, undergo fiscal and other stringencies – all with the undertaking by our political leaders that if we do those things today, our lot will be much better tomorrow.

Well, the characteristic outcome over that period is that the economic stringencies that we underwent did not appreciably change our situation. We still went on to record average growth of marginally more than 1% over the entire period - a level that is way behind what is required to develop a robust economy, one that can meet the social development needs of our country.

So now here we are, moving towards the third year of an IMF agreement that, as usual, is accompanied by a range of economic stringencies. Are we, this time around, likely to emerge on the other side of the agreement with different growth outcomes than in the past? ... **For full REMARKS, please open the link:**
<http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/remarks-by-jcc-president-warren-mcdonald-to-kiwanis-meeting-march-17-2015/>



Fire, fire, and plenty smoke

Commentary by: James Moss-Solomon, CD, JCC Past President - March 16, 2015

Well Calypso Rose didn't really mean that we should take that literally, as her Road March song suggested a different location for the source and location of the fire. Not even Capleton could have "bun fiah" like the Riverton dump, and spread such personal inconvenience and economic losses in such an unwarranted way.

I will not recount the number of times that similar occurrences at the very same location have created havoc and waste in a country that really need some serious concentration on important matters in a tough situation. Suffice it to say the total cost to the economy will be hard to measure accurately, but with only factories, offices, and schools only, the cost runs into billions.

The total cost of the waste for two days will be more than the additional gas taxes expected, and will also strain the already weakened hospital and medical services sectors...**To read MORE open the link:**
<http://jamaicachamber.org.jm/fire-fire-and-plenty-smoke/>



REMINDER! Product enquiry from North American company

The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce has been contacted by a company from Portland Oregon, who has an interest in purchasing Jamaican products for export to the USA.

The products they are interested in purchasing are:

- Primary product sought: "Rough-leaved pepper" (Piper amalago)
- Secondary products of interest:
 - White Cinnamon (Canella winterana) -- Bark quills prepared for the spice trade.
 - Bay Rum leaves (Pimenta racemosa) – Whole dried leaves as "West Indies bay leaf"
 - Allspice berries (Pimenta dioica) -- Allspice/pimento of specific size and origin
 - Other unusual or interesting salt, pepper and spice products, such as high value dried chile peppers of unusual interest, local saltworks, etc.

Also, in the case of these products, they would want to obtain samples, see and document farm or wild production, processing and any local use.

The company will be visiting Jamaica on March 27th and would like to meet with interested companies for the establishment of a business relationships. If your company has an interest, could supply any of these products and can meet with this company please reply with the company name, contact person, full contact information and a list of the product(s) you can supply.

For more information and to indicate your interest, please contact Maria McLaughlin at the JCC Secretariat Tel: (876) 922-0150-1 or email: secretariat@jamaicachamber.org.jm

For information on upcoming JCC events please contact:



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