

November 20, 2017**Kingston****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Watson re-elected as JCC's President**

The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC) held its **Annual General Meeting** today, November 20, 2017 at the Knutsford Court Hotel, 16 Chelsea Avenue and B. Larry Watson was retained as President. The JCC is pleased to announce its new Executive body for 2017 – 2018 which as follows: B. Larry Watson, President; Lloyd Distant Jr., 1st Vice President; Michael McMorris, 2nd Vice President; Keith Collister, 3rd Vice President; and Ian Neita, 4th Vice President. Wilbert Spence was re-elected as Honourable Treasurer of the organization.

Addressing the JCC Members after his re- election to office, Watson stated *“You have once again elected me as President of The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. I want to assure you that I am fully aware of the awesome responsibility that you have entrusted in me. It is a responsibility that I take I take seriously and with the support of the Executives, the Directors, the Past Presidents, the Secretariat and you the Members, I am confident that the JCC can make a difference in ensuring that our Country will be better off in a year’s time than it is today.*

*Two years ago, with the assistance of the IFC we went through a comprehensive review and developed a Strategic Plan that was aimed at ensuring that the JCC added real value to its members in addition to being a part of the process that would ensure that Jamaica would prosper. The new Mission statement that was developed “Is to facilitate our members to be drivers of growth and prosperity for Jamaica”. The key words in the mission is “Our Members” For us to be successful we need you to be successful and to do so we need you to participate more in the activities that are relevant to your business and your country. Your expertise is needed. **Knowledge** is information acquired through education and experience. **But Expertise** implies being a leader in a field through having the skill that goes beyond just knowing things. Jamaica is on an upward trajectory and with your expertise we can add value. Let’s look at one very important achievement that Jamaica has made- BOJ’S Foreign Exchange Intervention and Trading Tool (B-FXITT) is now up and running. It is still a work in progress but what we do know it is a more efficient and transparent system. Its success has resulted in the reduction of the surrender requirement. In 2016, the Jamaican Dollar depreciated by 6.2%. Up until November 14th, 2017 the Jamaican dollar appreciated by 1.8%. The facts are that what Jamaica has now is a Normal Foreign Exchange Market and in any normal market Rates or Prices will go up and down.*

So, we urge Jamaican Businesses to stop worrying about the exchange rate and focus on productivity, and the earning and saving of foreign exchange. Success must be managed and as we produce more to increase economic growth. This will put pressure on inflation but you can be confident that the Central Bank will be more than able to ensure that Inflation is kept under control. On Friday, the Senate took only 64 minutes to amend the Bank of Jamaica Act and extend Governor Brian Wynter contract until 2019. I would like to congratulate Governor Wynter and I know that Jamaica Central Bank is in Good hands.

So, in conclusion as we move into a new year we urge our member to offer yourself and your expertise to the JCC. It is only with your participation that the Chamber will continue to grow from strength to strength and this will ensure that our Jamaica continues its path to prosperity for all its citizens”.

Watson is a practical thinker with adept international expertise in strategic marketing, brand building, and business development. He has been the General Manager at Confectionery & Snacks (Jamaica) Limited since 2011, he has been a Director of the Chamber since 2013.

One (1) new board member was also elected Mrs. Tishan Wade Lee, Director, Market Strategy and Economic Development, Jamaica Public Service (JPS) for one term- three years; while Cathrine Kennedy

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resigned as 1st Vice President but was elected as a Board member. Five (5) retiring directors were also re-elected and will serve one term- three years.



Caption: The new JCC Executive body for 2017 – 2018 is as follows: – standing (L-R): Christopher Jarrett - Hon. Secretary; Ian Neita- 4th Vice President; Keith Collister- 3rd Vice President; Soan Madden - Asst. Hon. Treasurer; Michael McMorris- 2nd Vice President; Larry Watson- President; Kelly Greenaway, Hon. Counsel; Wilbert Spence, Hon. Treasurer and Lloyd Distant Jr.- 1st Vice President.

The new JCC Executive will lead the JCC until mid-November 2018.

The following persons now comprise the JCC Board of Directors:

- Mr. B. Larry Watson- President
- Mr. Lloyd Distant Jr. - 1st Vice President
- Mr. Michael McMorris- 2nd Vice President
- Mr. Keith Collister- 3rd Vice President
- Mr. Ian Neita- 4th Vice President
- Mr. Wilbert Spence- Hon. Treasurer
- Ms. Soan Madden, Asst. Hon. Treasurer
- Miss Kelly Greenaway, Hon. Legal Counsel
- Miss De-Andra Butler, Asst. Hon. Counsel
- Mr. Christopher Jarrett, Hon. Secretary
- Mr. Michael G. Ammar- Director
- Miss Cathrine Kennedy-Director
- Mrs. Tishan Wade Lee - Director
- Mrs. Ingrid Christian-Baker Director
- Mr. Jason Younis - Director
- Mr. Laurence Heffes - Director
- Mr. Lazarus Bucknor - Director
- Ms. Keisha Cardoza - Director
- Ms. Dianne Ashton-Smith - Director
- Mrs Grace Burnett - Director
- Mr. Peter Graham - Director
- Mr. Brian Boothe - Director
- Mr. Donovan White - Director
- Mrs. Melanie Subrati - Director

For further information, contact **Nordia Henry, Communications & Marketing Officer** at the JCC Secretariat Tel: 922-0150-1/332-7354 or email: nordia.henry@jamaicachamber.org.jm.

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