

Kingston

October 2, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Redevelopment of Downtown Kingston Luncheon

The recent history of initiatives promoted as potential solutions for transforming downtown Kingston into a thriving economic driver for the national economy, has not been one to elicit much confidence. Like many Jamaicans in business, over the years, you have heard many 'talks', and seen numerous plans and studies crafted and have as readily been ignored. Successive governments have pledged their commitment to ensuring a revitalized and vibrant downtown Kingston, even as under their watch more and more public sector entities migrated to mid-town and up-town locations.

Through it all, while many businesses shuttered their doors and the scale of derelict buildings seemed to increase exponentially, more than a few entities maintained faith that the city could rebound; that the revitalization initiatives that had produced positive results in dozens of cities worldwide – especially downtown locations adjoining waterfronts - could similarly work in Kingston.

Notwithstanding the cynicism that has been earned over the years, a current initiative offers strong prospects for optimism because of the calibre of the individual driving the process. Can the attempts to set downtown Kingston on a sustainable path to social and economic transformation ever be a reality? Is there a possibility that this new plan for the redevelopment of Downtown Kingston will actually happen?

You will want to hear from Dr. Hutchinson just how he is going about his task. Professor Gladstone Hutchinson, one of Jamaica's most distinguished sons, has tackled and succeeded in community transformation projects in locales as diverse as the Yoro Region of Honduras and the Central Appalachia in Eastern Kentucky. Now, as the Lead Advisor on the Downtown Kingston Redevelopment Project, Dr. Hutchinson is bringing his considerable experience as an economic development specialist whose work is rooted in market-based entrepreneurial capitalism, private enterprise development and the strengthening of the capacity of individuals, communities and firms to compete in private market exchange, to bear on his country of birth.

The **Jamaica Chamber of Commerce** invites you to cover this luncheon event on the **Downtown Kingston Redevelopment Project** on **Thursday October 5, 2017** at the **Knutsford Court Hotel** in the **Grand Caribbean Suite** at **12 noon**.

This is a seated event, so please contact Ms. **Nordia Henry, Communications & Marketing Officer** at the JCC Secretariat Tel: 922-0150-1 or email: nordia.henry@jamaicachamber.org.jm by **Wednesday, October 4, 2017 @ 3:30pm** to confirm your attendance.

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