



OFFICIAL GUIDE



FOREWORD

Jamaica is fifty-five and what an Independence journey it's been.

The journey has been froth with challenges, difficulties and frustrations of a people, the majority of whose ancestry hails from a glorious past in Africa, but who were captured and forcibly removed from their homeland.

But the journey also includes the resistance, the defiance, the resilience of a people who in the face of brutality and oppression, fought for and won our Emancipation and Independence.

So much has changed in Jamaica where we, through our one-of-a-kind culture, have constructed a new civilisation that has astonished the world. We can be proud of our nation-building experience.

Our modern history is replete with achievements. Our writers and poets sought to depict our cultural and social landscape in their works.

We became Jamaica Wanderers and migrated to various locations to work in varying industries: in

Panama, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, as well as Canada, until today we can truly say there are Jamaicans everywhere in the world.

Today, thanks to that migration, we have built a formidable Diaspora, of which we at home are justly proud.

The name 'Jamaica' is now never uttered without a response. All across the globe we are known for our assertiveness, brashness and arrogant pride and nationalism. We have created a world class product in tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, culture and sports. As our National Hero, the Right Excellent Marcus Garvey once asserted, we have "caused men to see us as their equals".

So much has changed in Jamaica where we, through our one-of-a-kind culture, have constructed a new civilisation that has astonished the world.



The majority of our population cannot now imagine a time when we were not free on our island home; when we were not equal to others. But we must not forget that history. We need the lessons of the past to fully understand and appreciate who we were, who we are and who we will become as a nation.

This is why celebrations such as Jamaica 55 are so important: they help to memorialise not just the struggle but also the triumph of our nation.

Indeed, the Jamaica 55 programme is designed to highlight, in various and meaningful ways, the rich, vibrant history and culture of Jamaica and its proud people.

More importantly, we have created a number of Jamaica 55 projects to ensure that this commemoration leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

As the Minister with portfolio responsibility for the Jamaica 55 programme, it is my duty and great honour to invite Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora as well as the peoples of the world to celebrate our nation's 55th birthday with us.



Honourable Olivia Grange, CD, MP
Minister of Culture, Gender,
Entertainment and Sport



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INTRODUCTION

In 2017, the people of Jamaica will have an opportunity to mark the 55th anniversary of their amazing country.

Although Jamaica is one of the tiniest countries in the world, it has made a huge mark on global culture and sports.

Jamaica is a huge and recognisable brand across the globe. The country continues to be admired for its physical beauty, culture, cuisine, harmony among its people and the outstanding achievements of its citizens in various sectors.

Jamaica at 55 is an important moment for our country. It is an occasion worthy of celebration. And it will be celebrated through a year-long series of activities dubbed Jamaica 55 (April 2017 - March 2018).

This emerald anniversary provides the Government an opportunity to create a programme of activities that would allow Jamaicans in the Diaspora to reaffirm their pride in, and commitment to national development and the achievement of a prosperous Jamaica.

The Diaspora will have a significant role in the celebrations.

Through various forms of collaboration, we plan to have activities every month in Jamaica and in the countries across the world where there are significant Jamaica immigrant communities.

The Government of Jamaica takes the opportunity of Jamaica 55 to engage with its citizens all over the globe on what it means to be Jamaican in the 21st century. The pivotal Diaspora Centres in North America, Europe, Central America and the wider Caribbean will be targeted.

This engagement is an opportunity to chart a bold course for the future. One in which a holistic and comprehensive vision of prosperity will become a reality for Jamaica and its people.

However, Jamaica 55 is more than a party. The programme involves an ambitious package of legacy projects, examples of which appears in the centrespread of this publication.



ADMINISTRATION OF JAMAICA 55

Jamaica 55 Secretariat

Cabinet approved the establishment of a Secretariat within the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport with responsibility for the planning and implementation of the Jamaica 55 programme. The Secretariat is led by a Project Director.

Jamaica 55 Core Committee

The Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport appointed a Jamaica 55 Core Committee to oversee the initial work of the Secretariat.

The members of the Core Committee, who have been extracted from the wider National Planning Committee, include:

- Hon. Olivia Grange, CD, MP (Chair)
- Mr. Phillip Henriques (Vice-chair)
- Mr. W Billy Heaven
- Mr. Lenford Salmon
- Mr. Vivian Crawford
- Mrs. Laleta Davis-Mattis
- Senator Councillor Delroy Williams
- Hon. Mike Fennell
- Mrs. Florette Blackwood
- Mr. Oliver Watt

Representatives of:

- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Local Government and Community Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

National Planning Committee

The wider National Planning Committee leads the Jamaica 55 programme. It is comprised of representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Government of Jamaica; the Opposition; the private sector; the cultural sector; tourism; education; youth; agriculture; religious and civic groups; the Diaspora; sports; entertainment; academia and other sectors.

Jamaica 55 Diaspora Steering Committee

The Hon. Minister also appointed a Steering Committee to organise Jamaica 55 activities in the main Jamaican Diaspora Centres in:

- Canada (Toronto)
- UK (London)
- USA (South East - Led by Miami)
- USA North East - Led by New York

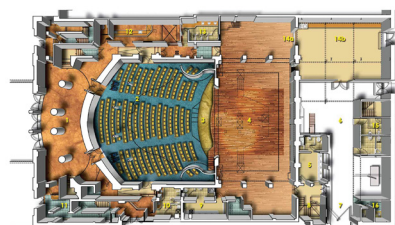
LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

The celebrations will not just be a year of entertainment events. As such, the Secretariat, in collaboration with ministries and private sector entities, has produced a list of legacy projects, both tangible and intangible, that will ensure lasting legacies well beyond the celebratory year, accruing benefits for generations to come.

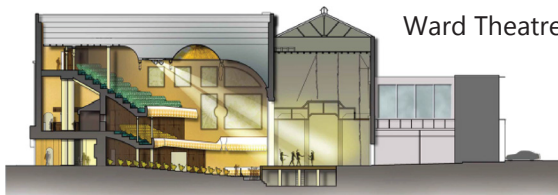
The Legacy Projects Programme focuses on Institutions, Infrastructure and Icons and includes development in several areas:

- Sports
- Entertainment and Culture
- Education
- Gender Relations

Some of the major Jamaica 55 Legacy Projects are listed



Ward Theatre Renovation



SOME OF OUR LEGACY PROJECTS

Caribbean Sports Medicine Centre

The Government will be collaborating with the UWI and Team Usain Bolt to establish the Caribbean Sports Medicine Centre to address the needs of elite athletes who have to travel outside the country for treatment that is not offered in Jamaica.

The centre will also be at the disposal of other athletes across the Caribbean, including youth & junior athletes. Dr Akshai Mansingh is the project leader.

Jamaica Virtual Sports Museum

The Virtual Museum is to be completed during the Jamaica 55 period, ahead of the physical museum. It will trace and showcase Jamaica's performance in sports.

Jamaica Sports Museum

The establishment of the National Sports Museum is in keeping with the government's Sport for Economic Development programme. During the Jamaica 55 celebration period, we are scheduled to finalise design, identify funding and break ground for construction of the Museum at Independence Park.

Mr. Don Anderson chairs the Sports Museum Project team.

Trelawny Stadium Redevelopment

It is proposed to do development in Phases at the facility. A pre-feasibility study has already been completed. The next steps include: review of the prefeasibility study, commission of feasibility study, development of plans, approval for relevant state agencies for transforming facility into the hub of Sports Tourism, and securing funding for development.

National Stadium Redevelopment

The National Stadium is also to be re-developed as a Jamaica 55 Legacy Project.

We aim to secure approval from the relevant state agencies, identify funding, and complete Phase One of development during the year.

Mini-stadia project

It is proposed to establish four mini-stadia across the country: Drax Hall, St Ann; Herb McKenley Stadium in Clarendon; the Goodyear Oval in St Thomas and in Portmore, St. Catherine.

At least one of the stadia is to be completed during Jamaica 55.

MORE LEGACY PROJECTS

Miss Louise Bennett Square

Conversion of the Gordon Town Square into a Cultural Heritage Centre in honour of our world renowned cultural icon Dr. Hon. Louise Bennett Coverly O.M.

Secondary Schools Sports Infrastructure Upgrade

Under this initiative, the Stafanie Taylor Oval is to be designed and constructed at Eltham High School in recognition of Stafanie's achievement as the first woman to lead a Regional Team to a world title. Other secondary school infrastructure projects are to be decided.



Jamaica Music Museum

MORE LEGACY PROJECTS

Jamaica Performing Arts Centre

The work includes finalising location and commissioning the design and secure approval from appropriate state agencies for the establishment of the Jamaica Performing Arts Centre (JAMPAC).

Jamaica Music Museum

The work includes securing a building to house the museum.

National Children's Park

During Jamaica 55, we will activate plans to build a National Children's Park/ Playground in a Public/ Private Partnership.

Jamaica National Philharmonic Orchestra

During Jamaica 55, we will establish the Jamaica National Philharmonic Orchestra.

Cultural Development Programmes

Under this initiative, cultural development programmes are to be established in communities across the island. We are targeting at least one community in each parish.

Jamaica Police Museum

To mark the 150th anniversary of the police service, the Jamaica Constabulary Force will establish the Jamaica Police Museum.



Proposed Upgrade National Stadium

Monument to fallen officers

Also during Jamaica 55, a monument will be established in honour of the police men and women who have died while on duty.

Publications

In celebration of Jamaica 55, there will be several publications, including:

- The Political Personalities of Modern Jamaica – 1962 to 2017
- Jamaica Handbook – Revised Edition
- The Jamaica 55 Sports and Entertainment Commemorative Publication
- JNHT Presents: Jamaican Heritage in Pictures (Revised Edition)
- The JCF: 150 years of service (video presentation)

Jamaica 55 National Monuments

Under this activity:

- **Marcus Garvey Park and Museum** is to be established at the National Hero's boyhood home in St Ann's Bay.
- **Bustamante Museum** to be renovated and reopened at Tucker Avenue.
- **Miss Lou Square** to be established in Gordon Town in conjunction with Gordon Town NGOs, the MP for East Rural St Andrew and the Jamaica 55 Canada Steering Committee.

Sports and Entertainment Monuments

This activity includes the commissioning of four statues in honour of outstanding Olympians:

- Hon. Usain Bolt, OJ
- Shelly Ann Fraser Pryce, CD
- Veronica Campbell Brown, CD
- Asafa Powell, CD

The Bolt statue is to be erected by the end of September, 2017. The Fraser Pryce statue is to be erected by end of December, 2017. The Campbell-Brown and Powell statues will be erected in 2018. It is also proposed to rename institutions in honour of outstanding sprinters:

- The Penwood Church of Christ Early Childhood Institute to be renamed the Shelly Ann Fraser-Pryce Infant School
- Troy Primary School to be renamed the Veronica Campbell-Brown Primary School
- Proposal to name school for Asafa Powell being finalised

Jamaica 55 Gender Agenda

Under this activity, we will develop a plan for:

- The establishment of a National Shelter for women escaping abuse in the corporate area
- The establishment of three Satellite Shelters in rural Jamaica.
- One shelter will be established during Jamaica 55.

MORE LEGACY PROJECTS

The Marcus Garvey Park and Museum



A revamped Trelawny Stadium



Signature EVENTS

Emancipation Jubilee

This is an annual event that is staged by the National Heritage Trust in association with the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, at the historic Seville Heritage Park in St. Ann's Bay. Emancipation Jubilee features displays and performances by the various traditional folk groups as well as popular artistes. All this is done to the backdrop of traditional foods and crafts. The Emancipation proclamation is read at midnight and the event continues into the early hours of August 1 – Emancipation Day.

Emancipation Vigils

Across the length and breadth of Jamaica vigils will be held on July 31 in commemoration of Emancipation from slavery. A vigil will be staged in each parish capital in collaboration with the Ministers' Fraternity in the respective parishes. The programme features performances primarily from traditional folk groups followed by religious

services which culminate in the symbolic reading of the Emancipation Proclamation at midnight by the Custos of the parish.

August Mawnin' Market

Jamaica's early history of economic activity is grounded in food. As the plantations produced sugar for England's tables and global trade, the enslaved people eked their domestic food stocks from Jamaica's fertile soil. The ability to provide for the family was always on the minds of Jamaicans. Come 'eat a food'...literally! The Independence Park will be transformed into the biggest one-day food-shop featuring a variety of Jamaican dishes, foods, soups and desserts reflecting ethnic diversity.

Picknifest

This is a programme specifically prepared and produced for children attending the Independence Village. Its aim is to create an atmosphere for

children to learn about and be better able to appreciate the concept, significance and meaning of Emancipation and Independence in a fun way.

Mello Go Roun'

A stellar showcase of the Performing Arts and one of the most highly anticipated programmes on the annual Jamaica Festival calendar.

World Reggae Dance Championship

One of the fastest growing events on the Jamaica Festival calendar, it celebrates our popular dance forms while providing an opportunity for dancers to develop their talent.

This event is highly entertaining and attracts thousands of entries both locally and internationally.

Grand finals of the World Reggae Dance Championship, including international competitors. The event will be presented within a holistic 'video light' dancehall experience. It will be a space where there is the convergence of people of different classes, colour and ethnicities enjoying exciting dances, great music, food and company.

GRAND GALA

The Independence Grand Gala is the premier event for the Independence Celebrations each year. It operates as the grand culmination of the celebratory activities, and is one of the most anticipated activity on the Jamaican Entertainment Calendar. This annual cultural expose portrays the pride and story of our motto, "Out of many one people, highlighting not only our rich history, but the strength and resilience of the Jamaican people. It intricately weaves our Independence story into a cohesive whole, paying homage to the traditions, religions, music and dance that have all contributed to the Jamaican culture, and reaffirms our recognition that we are standing on the shoulders of our forefathers and their achievements in building this great nation.

The Jamaica 55 Independence Grand Gala promises to be one of our most outstanding efforts at creating spectacle and providing a platform to inspire a greater sense of patriotism and commitment to the reconstruction of our culture, heritage and nationhood.



WHAT DOES JAMAICA 55 LOGO REPRESENT?



The Jamaica 55 logo features the national colours and iconic representations of Jamaica: the Jamaica watermark and the endemic Doctor Bird, the National Bird of Jamaica.

It captures the Doctor Bird, in midflight with his head pointing skyward, symbolising our country's moments of ascension into excellence.

The Doctor Bird demonstrates the uniqueness, resilience and cultural agility of Jamaica and its people.

The bird's heartbeat at 1200 heartbeats per minute is symbolic of a rhythm as relentless as our will and as swift as the feet of our athletes.

SCHEDULE

of Jamaica 55 Events

(Subject to change)



DATE	EVENT	VENUE
5 April	Jamaica 55 Media Launch	Jamaica House
April	Carnival in Jamaica	Various
11 May	Jamaica 55 Musgrave Awards	Institute of Jamaica
20 May	Jamaica 55 International Invitational Track Meet	National Stadium
21-25 May	Workers' Week (inclusive of Labour Day)	Various
10 June	Racers Grand Prix	National Stadium
24 June	National Senior Athletics Championships	National Stadium
30 June	Jamaica Invitational All-Stars v Birmingham City FC	Birmingham, England
	Jamaica 55 National Emancipation and Independence Interfaith Service	University Chapel, Mona Island wide

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
1 July	International Reggae Day	Worldwide
4 July	Commemoration of the birthday of National Hero the Right Excellent Norman Manley	Heroes Park
16-22 July	Reggae Sumfest	Montego Bay, St James
23-26 July	Jamaica 55 Diaspora Conference	Jamaica Conference Centre
28 July - 1 August	Dream Weekend	Negril
29 July	Official Opening of Independence Village	Independence Village
	Jamaica 55 Augus Mawnin' Market	Independence Village
	Official Opening of Independence Village	Independence Village
	Jamaica 55 Picknifest	
30 July	Jamaica 55 Gospel Song Finals	Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre
31 July	Jamaica 55 Emancipation Jubilee	Seville Heritage Park, St Ann
	Emancipation Vigil	Island wide
	Jamaica 55 Fashion Greets Music	Independence Village
1 August	Miss Jamaica Festival Queen Coronation	Independence Village
2 August	Regional Festival Bandwagon	St. Ann Hanover/Westmoreland St. Elizabeth St. Thomas
3 August	Governor-General's Independence Reception	King's House
	Jamaica 55 Mello Go Roun'	Independence Village





DATE	EVENT	VENUE
3 August	Governor-General's Independence Reception	King's House
	Jamaica 55 Mello Go Roun'	Independence Village
	Regional Festival Bandwagon	Trelawny St Mary Manchester Kingston & St Andrew
4 August	Jamaica 55 World Reggae Dance Championship	Independence Village
	Regional Festival Bandwagon	St James Portland Clarendon St Catherine
	Western Independence Village Opens	St James
4-13 August	Jamaica House 2017 for the IAAF World Athletics Championships	London, England
5 August	Jamaica 55 Gospel Night	Independence Village
	Campfest	Western Independence Village
5-7 August	Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show	May Pen, Clarendon

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
6 August	Flag Raising Ceremonies	All Parish Capitals
	Jamaica 55 Independence Grand Gala	National Stadium
	Western Jamaica Independence Gala	Western Independence Village
	Independence Stage Shows & Street Dances	Island wide
7 August	Independence Grand Market & Fireworks	Kingston Waterfront
9 August	Annual Fishermen Regatta	Port Maria, St Mary
17 August	Commemoration of the birthday of National Hero the Right Excellent Marcus Garvey	Heroes Park
7 September	Miss Lou Day	
October	Mento Yard	Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre
	Jamaica 55 National Heritage Service	
	The Mona Debates	University of the West Indies, Mona
November	Jamaica 55 Remembrance Day Parade	
	Jamaica 55 Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation	
	Prime Minister's Youth Awards	
	Jamaica 55 Sports Festival featuring Youth Football teams of Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Birmingham City	
16-23 December	Kingston and St Andrew Homecoming Week 2017	
December	Fireworks on the Waterfront	Kingston Waterfront
February	Reggae Month 2018	
March	International Women's Day 2018	



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