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Since our independence in August 1962, there has been the aspiration and desperate need for a free, productive and more substantial Jamaica which can offer a better lifestyle and higher standard of living for its denizens. From the termination of colonialism to the genesis of a new and autonomous society for generations to come, many have the hope that life will improve.

It is my desire, a flame that burns within my heart for an inclusive and comprehensive Jamaica, in which all citizens' work together in order to achieve harmony, prosperity and ultimate success. I have a yearning for a land where the black, green and gold flag flies high with pride creating a society in which we are generously and bountifully set free from the negativism of our past, embracing our heritage and allowing for full freedom. I desperately crave the advocating of the efforts of our six national heroes and sole heroine, as well as other national despots such as Louise Bennett, Bob Marley and Michael Manley.

An inclusive society may be defined as one in which each individual expresses his rights and responsibilities, and plays an active role in developing it unanimously. I have a dream of an inclusive Jamaica in which all men are equal before the law and respect is mutual. There is the stimulation of tolerance in our religious beliefs, actions and lifestyle, and the acceptance of each individual as he is, embracing individuality and uniqueness without fear of being ostracized and prejudiced.

The idealistic aspiration for the future development of our home also known as Vision 2030 has been developed by the Minister of Finance and Planning, the

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honorable Peter Phillips, through the work of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). Our population of 2.7 million, have a dream of a society in which we are able to “...work together, pray together, struggle together, go to jail together, stand for freedom together...” as noted by the revolutionary Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963. We have the ability to turn ourselves around, climb out of economical, social and financial depression, create an evolutionary society, complete with full brotherhood in equality, liberty and full pursuit of happiness.

There is a longing for complete social interactions among the masses. I have a dream where Jamaicans are allowed equitable access to modern, free and qualitative education without barriers such as discrimination and poverty and not allow ourselves to suffer by the hands of private and public religious crusades and bias among our denominations. No more inequality in hospitals and clinics in which higher class individuals are served before the rest. No longer should special privileges be given only to the descendants of the planter class but equally, to society on a whole.

We need to secure for ourselves a safe society, where our children play on the streets once again in all innocence and without fear. An idealistic crime free society has an active justice system that resolves conflict by dialogue and pure mediation, rejecting the culture of physical violence through guns, machetes and other weapons of torture. An inclusive political system should also be present, preventing corruption, regardless of one's political affiliation, whether it is the Jamaican Labour Party, Peoples' National Party or any other.

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We should be able to utilize the method of sustainable development, by reclaiming and investing in our national resources such as our land for bauxite and agriculture as well as the beaches for fishing and leisure, to limit our import rates and provide for our denizens allowing us to “Eat what we grow and grow what we eat”. No longer can we afford our resources to be squandered by foreign powers in an effort to industrialize our nation by invitation, nor can we sit back and allow our resources to be heavily invested solely in the rich. No. Every child, youth, adult and elderly should be treated equally, given the same opportunities.

All this will be possible if we continue to install national pride among our people by reinforcing that our culture becomes foremost in our lives next to our religious beliefs and fervor. Our educational system and media must play an integral role in passing and seeing to it that our citizens are reminded daily of our heritage, whether it be by the Anthem being played or sung at selected times during the week, placing emphasis on our festivals and heritage day celebrations, as well as promoting ‘Things Jamaican’ and having our flag flying high over public buildings. Our human resources are our golden gift; one cannot even begin to imagine what we are capable of. Even though we are a small nation, we are powerful and known for surpassing the greatest giants in areas such as sports, music, modeling to sculpturing, acting and the culinary arts. Equal access to information and technology, such as the internet and international news should be mandatory and placed at strategic places such as town centers for public availability.

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I have a dream that one day that we as a nation will have full acceptance of who we are, where we come from and to where we are heading. We need to hold on to those core values of what makes us a part of such a unique culture and build on it for a better tomorrow. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that change can only happen by looking and working towards the future and focusing on how we live, proving that vision 2030 is not a distant chimera but an attainable reality. Bob Marley, an international icon, said “Free yourself from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds”. We are to be in control of our Jamaican future, having visions and aspirations for an inclusive Jamaican society. As the mission statement of the vision 2030 states, we should strive to be a better “Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”. Like Martin Luther, we will join in and shout “My country ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing”, embracing the reality of our dreams.