



**Financial Secretary's Remarks**

**Civil Service Week Launch**

**Terra Nova Hotel**

**10:00am**

**Friday, November 17, 2017**

Salutations....

*Diligently and Holistically Advancing Quality Public Service for a Better Jamaica*, is the theme for Civil Service Week 2017. The theme is aptly framed as it embodies the work and role of our civil servants in regard to the contribution that we make each day towards improving the ease of doing business with Government, and importantly towards improving the quality of lives of every Jamaican.

It is without question that this cadre of qualified technical and administrative team of professionals, of whom I am proud to be a part of, is highlighted, **as we make a meaningful** contribution to the National Development Plan, VISION 2030 Jamaica.

In fact, one might venture to say, that in order for VISION 2030 to be attained, there needs to be a number of transformational initiatives which have to be implemented; these initiatives include increased automation of some of our business processes, modernising our working environment and deliberately strengthening our human talent.

Notwithstanding this need for improvement in service delivery and for there to be a higher degree of accountability; it is undeniable that the contribution of the civil service is comparable to none. This sector continues to shape our country's development and craft policies and programmes that are geared towards enabling an environment that will allow for sustainable economic development and economic growth.

Today, is the launch Civil Service Week 2017, and it a time to celebrate, and in so doing we wish to congratulate the nominees of the Civil Servant of the Year 2017. And, I think it is also appropriate that we highlight the criterion that was used in the selection process, as transparency is a critical component of the business transactions that are undertaken by government and by extension the selection of the Civil Servant of the Year.

Our nominees were rated based on their: Customer Service Skills, Demonstration of Social Responsibility, Personal Values and Character as well as their attitude towards work and their individual's performance evaluation.

Based on the criterion, I invite you to join with me and applaud our nominees, Miss Carole Jones from the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Dale Lokart Miller and Mrs. Lilleth Passley Needham both of the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, Mr. Kevin Thomas of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (Human Resource Branch), Mrs. Kerry-Ann Spaulding, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Mr. Michael Millwood from the Ministry of Tourism. Gentlemen and ladies congratulations to you.

As we look to the week ahead, let me take this opportunity to remind us, that we live in a dynamic global environment, and as such our thoughts and actions should demonstrate that we plan; ***we plan not only for today, but we plan for a better tomorrow!***

Let me also as I close, congratulate the team at the Strategic Human Resources Division for their work and effort in co-ordinating the activities of Civil Service Week 2017. Let me also congratulate all civil servants as we celebrate our commitment to service and to nation building.

I encourage and implore you to take advantage of all the opportunities on offer as we celebrate this transformational year. Today we must laud ourselves and feel a sense of pride that we have been called on to be the front runners to lead the radical change needed to set Jamaica firmly on a path of sustained growth.

God bless.