



**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST HON. SIR PATRICK ALLEN ON, GCMG, CD, KST.J
FOR
CIVIL SERVICE WEEK 2017**

The Jamaica Civil Service has an honourable place in the history of our development as a nation. It is therefore most commendable that year after year, anniversary celebrations are focused on improving its contribution to the well-being of the people of our country and our standing in the community of nations.

I applaud the partnership between the Government and the Civil Service Association as together our Officials, members of the general public and particularly our students and young people come together to celebrate achievement which is both qualitative and quantitative. The week of activities provides many opportunities to reflect on the effectiveness of our public institutions and to be inspired by those who give dedicated service in the pursuit of our national development goals.

The theme chosen for this year reminds us of the need for thoroughness, consistency and an inclusive approach in the conduct of our affairs. We serve our collective interests best when individual excellence is matched by shared understanding, vision and purpose. We must continue to demonstrate that we value the talents, skills and aspirations of our citizens, and that giving efficient public service allows all of us to perform at our best.

As one distinguished professional puts it, we must show our children that we do not chase fame and fortune for ourselves; we serve to give everyone a chance to succeed. Our nation is still young, and it is tempting to become impatient with the pace of progress. However, I urge our public servants and our population at large to remain focused on past achievements and on future possibilities. Let each of us be more willing to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

I wish for this year's Civil Service Week events all success. May the Civil Service leaders and workers and all Jamaica enjoy a sense of pride as we celebrate the present and prepare for an even better and brighter future together.