



# bespoke homes jamaica

RECONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR ISLAND

July 2012

*Back To Your Heart*

Issue 14

## The quick road to Ocho Rios

A few weeks ago something happened of enormous significance for the future. The Chinese Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) met the Jamaica government. Together they signed a US\$600m deal to build the Caymanas to Ocho Rios leg of Highway 2000. The 68 kilometres should be fully open by 2015. However, the 20 kms that is the Linstead Bypass to Moneague should be finished by September 2013, having already been underway for some years – see our 2011 picture below. CHEC gets to operate the new road for 50 years on condition that the government has no financial commitment.



As Finance Minister Dr Peter Phillips MP said: "This North/South link highway will open up a range of other development possibilities in the tourism sector, housing and construction, manufacturing and assembly operations". Opposition transport spokesman Karl Samuda MP emphasised the more immediate contribution to the development of Caymanas Enterprise Zone.

## More going downtown

The lottery company Supreme Ventures has bought a site in Harbour Street, downtown Kingston, on which to build a new headquarters. Like Digicel, it has been attracted to move from its leased office in New Kingston by tax incentives under the Urban Renewal Programme. Digicel's US\$65m building is now almost complete.

***DE RACE NO FE WHO CAN RUN,  
BUT FE WHO CAN RUN TO DE END***

*Do not worry if others seem to rush ahead; often they will falter and you will pass them. Be steady & sure*

## Celebrating 50 years on 6 August 2012

Let's all work to build on the success of the first 50 years.

## We're simply the best: the champions

Next in our series on world class Jamaicans, we bring you Beijing 2008. Four-fifths of the 160-odd first-place prizes went to just four countries: China, USA, Russia and the UK.

And yet...the best of those relative to population was the UK with barely a third of a top prize per million persons. China did not manage even a twentieth of a top award per million. Estonia, Georgia, Mongolia and New Zealand did very well with almost three-quarters of a top prize per million persons. Only one country, however, gained more than one top award per million. And, in fact, Jamaica gained 2.2 top prizes per million persons. Truly, out of this world. Better than China by 55 times. Better than USA by 18 times. Better than UK by 7 times. Better than Estonia by 3 times.



But why all this focus on top awards? Surely second and third are worth a great deal? Indeed. Slovenia came second, with 2.4 first, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places per million persons. Australia and Cuba came equal third on 2.1. But only one country was way out in front on four 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> awards per million persons ...that island in the Caribbean known as Jamaica. Let us see how close to that supremacy we can be four years later.

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## Many contributors to better health

New Minister of Health Fenton Ferguson MP recently highlighted the gains in the infant mortality rate since the 1970s - improving from 32 per 1000 live births to 21. Many childhood illnesses have ceased to occur - such as measles, diphtheria, rubella, German measles and polio.



Options for healthier lifestyles increased with news that the US supplier of vitamins - GNC - will be available from a local company, FSH Prime Jamaica. The company will emphasise the role of nutrition in diseases like obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. It plans to open stores in places across the island like Kingston, Mandeville, Ocho Rios and Montego Bay.

Meanwhile, the charity "We Care for Cornwall Regional Hospital" received a big boost through a new partnership with Mega Mart Montego Bay. Even before Mega Mart's role, the foundation instigated by Adam Stewart had raised US\$73k. Mega Mart will use "point-of-sale donation", matching each customer's donation. Rainforest Seafoods, Caribbean Producers and Fontana Pharmacy are also partners in the foundation.

## Falmouth on the move?

Following last year's opening of its cruise ship terminal, Attorney General and MP for North Trelawny Patrick Atkinson has announced a \$500m facelift for Falmouth. That will see the construction of food courts and side-walks along with the cleaning of drains and the covering of manholes. The AG also trailed possible plans to move the market further north along Market St.

## Economy edging forward

Following two quarters of solid growth, the economy stalled in the first three months of 2012. While agriculture grew well along with various services, construction and mining declined.

Building on agriculture's good growth, food shows many positive signs for the future. The new natural juice producer Orijin is increasing market share, having recently added Mega Mart to its growing list of supermarkets. Meanwhile, Marley Coffee has reached a deal with Fresh & Easy (part of Tesco) to sell its Organic Ground in all its stores across California, Arizona and Nevada. Rainforest Seafoods is set to triple its exports - thanks to its new processing plant in Kingston. That will enable the company to expand beyond the 9 Caribbean islands that it supplies at present to markets in North America, Europe and the French Caribbean islands.



Farmers in Esher (St Mary) and Somerset (St Thomas) are being helped by J\$23m of EU funding to switch from bananas to scotch bonnet pepper, goat-rearing and honey production. The programme could benefit 400 farmers. It will be operated by Food for the Poor.

Red Stripe is looking good for the future. It announced plans to replace over two-thirds of its imports with locally grown produce - cutting imports and boosting employment. As part of its new-found fast-moving innovation, it has already introduced three light versions of Red Stripe - lime, apple and ginger. And its new Talawah beer aims to offer a cheaper alternative, at just \$100 a bottle. Its new US\$2.5m Smirnoff Vodka plant is now exporting to Guyana.

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## **Energising enterprise**

Some companies are creating new ways of giving help to small, micro businesses. GET-START is a project backed by the bauxite company, Noranda Jamaica, to help micro businesses get going. Its "community council" is planning to support 44 projects during the first year. Projects so far include a backyard chicken-rearing operation, furniture making, garage services and hairdressing. The projects are in eleven districts around the company's base at Discovery Bay.



## **Fixing furniture**

Some Good news for any budding furniture manufacturers. The Jamaica Business Development Corporation has money that it can lend - up to \$5m each to buy material & equipment- see [www.furniturejamaica.com](http://www.furniturejamaica.com). While there are 330 local businesses employing 600 persons, the country imports around \$15bn per year. Research points to poor local productivity; so, among other things, JBDC is trying to encourage much greater use of ICT in design and production.

## **Basics for primary schools**

Emphasising the government's focus on early years, Education Minister Ronald Thwaites MP recently announced that 60 new infant schools would be built islandwide. Thwaites is also particularly keen to find ways of increasing the quantity and quality of food to children at basic schools. A third of children reach school hungry.

## **Focus on Portland**

With over 80,000 population, Portland is the fourth smallest parish - though it is the seventh largest by area. Some 15,000 persons live in Portland, the capital. The parish stretches from the highest parts of the Blue Mountains (7,402 feet) to the north-east coast. The parish contains 17 rivers and, along the coast, 14 caves.

With much fertile land, crops include ackee, coffee, mango, breadfruit, coconut and banana. Tourism still mostly involves wealthy visitors. Attractions include the Boston Jerk Centre; rafting on the Rio Grande; and the Blue Lagoon - thought to be the crater of an extinct volcano containing water to a depth of 180 feet.



Since the 1950s, some 800 films or television productions have been shot in Portland. Famous examples include "The Harder They Come" and "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea".

Famous persons born or living in Portland include: Dr T Lecky (developer of three new breeds of cattle: the Jamaica Hope, the Jamaica Red and the Jamaica Black); Amy Ashwood Garvey (helped develop Pan-Africanism); Edward Baugh (poet and scholar); His Excellency The Most Honourable Sir Patrick Linton Allen; Henry Gunter (politics and trades unions, establishing the newspaper "The Jamaican Worker"); Trevor Berbick (heavyweight boxer who beat the 39-year-old Muhammad Ali in the latter's last fight); and Errol Flynn.

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## Investment opportunities

### Kingston 16: - J\$10.5m (c. £77,500)

A 3-bed, 3-reception spacious house (1,750 sq ft) in Mavis Avenue with covered patio, carport & fenced yard.



### Clarendon: Montclair Hts: - J\$16.2m (c.£120k)

A 4-bed, 2-bath home of 2,000 sq ft in May Pen includes lounge, dining room and garage. Good value, esp. with the toll road to Sandy Bay under construction.



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## BHJ – “Helping You to Get Back to Your Heart in Jamaica”

Here at Bespoke Homes Jamaica we bring only positive news. Let's work for a better Jamaica - a better future for all of us. And if your heart is in Jamaica, we can help you get back to it.

### St Ann: Runaway Bay: - US\$499,000 (c. £320,000)

On a slope with commanding views of the sea is this 7-bed, 5-bath house of 6,000 sq ft. On beautifully landscaped land with features like the elegant dining room and wood burning fireplace. Fully furnished.



### St Catherine: Green Acres: - J\$27m (c. £200,000)

A great 4-bed house with helper's quarters. Lots of splendid internal features. Fantastic verandah and roof spaces from which to enjoy the magnificent views



### St Thomas: Sun Valley, Albion: - J\$9m (c. £66,500)

This 3-bed comprises a 2-bed house plus a 1-bed flat and a carport. Covering 1,390 sq ft, the property offers great value for money. Close to shops & just 2 miles from Yallahs.



### St Thomas, Yallahs main road: mini plaza:-J\$24m (c.£178k)

**Commercial.** A mini plaza of three food businesses and a mechanics' workshop. Land of 52,200 sq ft stretches from the main road to the beach. Located in Yallahs Square, next to the Magistrates' Court.



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