

The Grand Era of Kingston – The entertainment and Sporting Landscape

Entertainment and Sports are critical to the City of Kingston's economy. We are to encourage and promote the development of these critical sectors. The launch of Carnival 2019 took place some weeks ago and we take this opportunity to place our support and commitment to the on-going development of this entertainment product. We welcome the introduction of the new band Rebellion while we commend the others for their continued role in the development of Kingston's entertainment landscape.

We have said that the city of Kingston has a competitive advantage in Entertainment and nurturing and building the city's entertainment landscape is tied to broadening the city's economy and appeal to visitors from countries across the globe. We must commit ourselves, energies and resources to creating various

tourism experiences that would grow the city's appeal.

The United Nations has inscribed Reggae music to the list of international cultural treasures worthy of protection and promotion. This music which had its origin, nurturing, and maturity in Kingston City has been inscribed into the ***Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity***. As a vehicle of social commentary, the music over the years has contributed significantly to the tearing down of social barriers by bringing together people of different race and background. The music has been a prominent feature of the fights for freedom and justice across the globe. According to the United Nations it has furthered discourse on the issues of justice, resistance, love and humanity. The Kingston and St Andrew Municipal Corporation takes this opportunity to thank those who pioneered the music and those who continued in that tradition. We take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports, the Minister

and her staff for their commitment and hard work to this end.

This designation to Reggae Music is indeed a great achievement in the City of Kingston. It was this city that gave birth to the music in its trenches, streets and lanes. It is this city that continues to nurture its music giving rise to newer and newer generations of musicians continuing in its tradition while expanding beyond its horizons.

Reggae music placing on the ***Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage*** for protection and promotion follows the 2015 designation by UNESCO of Kingston as a ***Creative City of Music***.

These achievements create the immovable foundation for our vision to make our city “***The Pearl of the Antilles,***” “***The light of the Caribbean Sea***” and a “***Major city on the Latin American Landscape.***” Our gratitude is unbounded.

Jamaica National Women’s Football team, the Reggae Girlz after beating Panama 4-2 on

penalties in their third place playoff match at the COCACAF Women's Championship on October 17 qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in France 2019. The Reggae Girlz created history by becoming the first Caribbean Team to qualify for the FiFA Women's world Cup. This is indeed historic and a significant achievement. They are drawn in Group C alongside Brazil, Italy and Australia.

Today we show our appreciation for this outstanding achievement in the arena of sports. This is extremely important to Kingston as Entertainment and Sports are critical pillars of the Kingston's economy, culture and experience. This must go down as among the great achievements in Jamaica's sporting history. It speaks to tenacity, perseverance, commitment, sacrifice and patience – values and attitudes that are essential in the making of a resilient city. Today, we honor their achievement. We honor their achievement while understanding the essentials of that achievement (Sacrifice, perseverance,

commitment, tenacity and patience) and how important those essentials are in building a resilient Kingston. We honor them because we understand that their achievements will also serve to inspire our residents in the streets and lanes across the municipality.

We seek to honor them as we understand that their success in a significant way advance our vision to make Kingston the Pearl of the Antilles and the light of the Caribbean Sea. Their achievement coupled with the achievement in music and art forms constitute a major step in the pursuit of our vision for Kingston – even as a destination city.

These achievements become major pillars on which the City of Kingston can build its future success. These achievements provide a monumental platform on which we stand tall and from which we can pivot into the grand era of Kingston.