

**Talking Points**

**The Most Honourable P.J. Patterson**

**Former Prime Minister of Jamaica**

**And**

**CARICOM Special Representative for Haiti**

**At**

**The Meeting with Private Sector Members  
(PSOJ) regarding**

**The Role of Jamaica's Private Sector in the  
Reconstruction of Haiti**

**Date and Time: Thursday April 8, at 7:45AM- 10: 00AM**

## **Salutations**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Board and members of the PSOJ

Media

## **Earthquake and Impact**

### **1. Extent of disaster**

- mortality statistics -250,0000 deaths
- 310,0000 persons injured
- 250,000 houses destroyed
- 1.2M persons homeless
- Significant percentage of State's physical structures destroyed e.g.

Parliament Building, National Palace, 14 Ministries,  
several Police Stations

- Schools, universities and hospitals destroyed

## **2. Devastation provides opportunity to build new economy and society**

- Opportunity to restructure and decentralize outside of Port-Au Prince
- Note that not all areas of country significantly affected

### **Background: Growth interrupted**

Haiti on a growth path prior to earthquake

On the cusp of real growth

### **Immediate Caribbean/CARICOM Response**

- Teams going into Haiti
- Donation of food and supplies

## **Appointment and role of Special Representative**

1. Thanks to those who contributed to the response and also those who facilitated Office of Special Representative
2. Why the appointment of a Special Representative
3. Terms of Reference
  - Advocate on behalf of Haiti
  - Facilitating reconstruction and development efforts
  - Ensuring continued interface between CARICOM and Haiti

## **Haiti and CARICOM**

1998 Haiti admitted as full CARICOM member

However, Haiti is not yet a member of CSME

CARICOM office established in Haiti to facilitate process

## **Activities to date**

1. Haiti now has a 3-phased Plan prepared by the Government and this was accepted in New York at the recent Donors Meeting as a blueprint for action
2. International acceptance that Haiti is in charge and must lead the reconstruction process
3. CARICOM support will assist Haiti in discharging that function
4. Phasing
  - Emergency phase- 6 months
  - Reconstruction phase – 18 months
  - Development phase- 10+ years
5. Priority areas
  - Territorial re-building
  - Economic Re-building
  - Social Re-building
  - Institutional Re-Building
6. Multi Donor Re-construction Fund (MDRF) established

7. Interim Haitian Reconstruction Commission established (including CARICOM) to manage the process in the short to medium term. Will be succeeded by Haitian Development Authority. Details for access currently being worked out
8. US\$ 9.9 million pledged

### **Way Forward**

1. Key areas identified by the Haitian authorities
  - Agriculture; food self sufficiency
  - Shelter
  - Light Manufacturing
  - Development of small businesses
  - Tourism
2. Opportunities for professional and skilled workers- i.e. engineers, architects, management consultants, etc.
3. Jamaica positioned to be a key provider of goods and services
4. Opportunities exist for the private sector to get involved

## 5. Suggested Approaches:

- Selections from Haitian Plan
- Developing inventories of capabilities and capacities within CARICOM
- Building alliances with companies outside of CARICOM
- Organizing Kingston as a logistical transshipment, transportation hub into Haiti
- Recommend that Private Sector consider appointing full-time project liaison personnel
- Need to liaise with counterparts in region e.g CAIC, Coalition of Master Builders (Jamaica may need to take the lead)
- Haiti's Chamber of Commerce has offered to host consultation with Caribbean counterparts. This should be urgently pursued
- Links with Haitian and Caribbean Diaspora - encourage pooling of resources

## 6. Media links

- Key role to inform region of opportunities and possibilities
- Establish and or strengthen links with Haitian counterparts weakened by Hurricane

### **Challenges**

1. No fully operational bureaucracy
2. Access to land especially for construction and agriculture impeded by lack of titling processes
3. Language and culture can be serious impediments, suggest linking with Haitian counterparts.

## **Conclusion**

1. Must regard activities as a long-term investment and relationship
2. Make presence felt by :
  - Working through umbrella groups
  - Working though and with CARICOM counterparts
  - Forming alliances with Haitian counterparts
  - Forming alliances with members of Diaspora – Haitians and Caribbean

Let history record that Jamaica and CARICOM were there and contributed