



Jamaica Today and in the Future

Vision 2030 Jamaica

“The advantage of economic growth is not that wealth increases happiness, but that it increases the range of human choice.”

These words were written in 1955 by Arthur Lewis, a Caribbean scholar and Nobel laureate in economics

Information Researched by A. Vouranis 2012

Source : Vision 2030 Jamaica (National Development Plan by Planning Institute of Jamaica 2009)

Background

About Jamaica

Source : Vision 2030 Jamaica (National Development Plan by Planning Institute of Jamaica 2009)

“Jamaica, the largest English-speaking island in the Caribbean, is known worldwide for its vibrant culture, sporting prowess and physical beauty; and boasts of its political stability, favourable climate, geographic location and abundant natural resources. Our island is home to a warm-hearted, talented and diverse people.

We have made considerable progress towards meeting international standards in a number of our key social indicators, including the achievement of high life expectancy, near universal enrolment in primary and junior secondary education, and widespread access to potable water. By 2015, we will have achieved many of the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty, child nutrition, universal primary education, and access to safe drinking water, among others.

In spite of these achievements, since gaining independence in 1962, our country’s development has been characterized by paradoxes and potential: periods of expansion have alternated with periods of poor economic performance; **growth has occurred alongside social issues of inequity including inequalities in wealth and opportunity**; and we have experienced major social and political reforms, structural adjustment processes, and a collapse of some locally owned financial institutions from 1995 to 1997.

We also have experienced relatively **low rates of economic growth** that compare unfavourably with our regional and international counterparts, low productivity in most sectors, lack of national consensus on critical socioeconomic issues, poor student outcomes, **severe environmental degradation**, and high rates of violent crime. Governance has been an area of particular concern, with erosion of social capital and trust, an inefficient justice system, political polarization, and weak accountability mechanisms in the public sector. One profound impact of this has been the sustained outward migration of many Jamaicans, including the highly educated, who have chosen other countries in which to live and dedicate their talents.

Our quest for economic development has been affected by a series of external shocks including hurricanes, the impact of the terrorism attack in the USA in September 2001, a steep rise in oil prices and international recessions. Nonetheless, we have seen consolidations of structural adjustment and liberalization processes, reductions in poverty levels, and dynamic expansion in the tourism, financial services, telecommunications, entertainment, and distribution sectors.

Since 2007, we have been facing a global economic crisis that exceeds the scope of previous downturns experienced since Independence and, if not addressed, could affect the implementation of this Plan.

Its impact is likely to limit, in the near term, our access to capital markets, reduce the profitability of local businesses, stymie economic growth, reduce employment in critical sectors of the economy and worsen our balance of payments. The unfolding situation **also has negative implications for the advancement of our social development agenda** as well for the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Government of Jamaica and Vision 2030

The Jamaican economy has entered a new phase of development as the process of implementing the Vision 2030 continues. During the past two decades uneven levels of growth were achieved.

Far-reaching changes in the international environment and increasing world globalization have necessitated radical adjustments to the economy. In order to face the challenges of reviving an economy, the Government has implemented since the early 1990s neo-liberal economic policies.

These policies included liberalization of trade and foreign exchange market, privatization, improved revenue collection, a streamlining of the tax registration process and efforts to reform the public sector.

Although indications are that benefits have begun to accrue from the pursuit of such policies, these adjustments have entailed a high **social cost**. **Poverty and Unemployment** remain crucial problems.

Within this context, therefore, we are forced to examine and to strategically and explicitly address the factors that limit decisive progress towards higher levels of development in order to advance the well-being of our nation. Importantly, we must chart a new direction for realizing our hopes and aspirations for a brighter tomorrow and forge an irreversible path to **sustainable prosperity** for all.

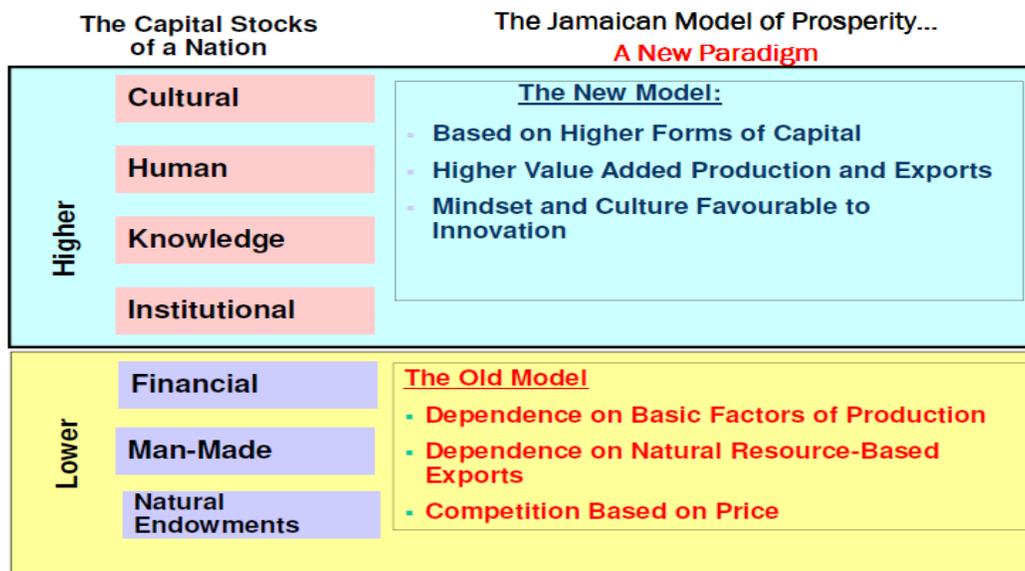
*“For decades we have relied upon our natural endowments and short- and medium-term national development plans to realize our national development objectives. Our planning efforts have had only limited success, due to inherent weaknesses which included relatively short-term planning horizon, inadequate resources to support implementation, an ineffective monitoring and evaluation framework, limited involvement of non-state actors and weak synergies between targets, indicators and budgets. The present status of Jamaica’s national development reflects the accumulation of choices we have made in the past. To change this path, we have to make new choices”.*¹

¹ Vision 2030 Jamaica (National Development Plan by Planning Institute of Jamaica 2009)

Jamaica Vision 2030, the Strategic Goals & Outcomes

“Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business”.

Vision 2030 a New Paradigm



Presented by the Planning Institute of Jamaica

National Development Priorities

Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan provides a comprehensive planning framework in which the economic, social, environmental and governance aspects of national development are integrated. Vision 2030 Jamaica is built on four strategic goals which are mapped into 15 National Outcomes which in turn links to strategic programmes, projects and actions at the sector and organizational levels.

Sustainability



Sustainable prosperity for our nation requires us to effectively integrate **economic, social and environmental** issues to enable us to make the wisest use of our capital stocks to meet the needs of current and future generations.

We recognize that economic, social and environmental problems and solutions are all inter-connected and that an integrated approach, underpinned by good governance, to addressing these issues will ensure that our development is sustainable.

Vision 2030 Jamaica Structure



Source : Vision 2030 Jamaica (National Development Plan by Planning Institute of Jamaica)

National Outcomes Linked to Goals		
National Goals		National Outcomes
1 Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential	1	A Healthy and Stable Population
	2	World-Class Education and Training
	3	Effective Social Protection
	4	Authentic and Transformational Culture
2 The Jamaican society is safe, cohesive and just	5	Security and Safety
	6	Effective Governance
3 Jamaica’s economy is prosperous	7	A Stable Macroeconomy
	8	An Enabling Business Environment
	9	Strong Economic Infrastructure
	10	Energy Security and Efficiency
	11	A Technology-Enabled Society
	12	Internationally Competitive Industry Structures a. Agriculture b. Manufacturing c. Mining and Quarrying d. Construction e. Creative Industries f. Sport g. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) h. Services i. Tourism
4 Jamaica has a healthy natural	13	Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources
	14	Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change
	15	Sustainable Urban and Rural Development

Source: PIOJ Vision 2030 Jamaica | National Development Plan