



The Debates Commission

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A Project of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce & the Media Association of Jamaica

Jamaica Votes

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL DEBATES BEGIN TUESDAY OCTOBER 8

Monday October 7, 2002: The Jamaican Debates Commission announced today that two debates between senior representatives of the country's two major political parties will take place on Tuesday October 8, and on Thursday October 10 beginning at 9:00 p.m. both nights. Jamaicans will be able to see and hear the debates live as they will be simulcast on three television stations and five radio stations.

The first debate, on Tuesday, will cover issues related to economic development and social development. The Thursday debate will be between the two party leaders P.J. Patterson of the PNP and Edward Seaga of the JLP on matters relating to governance.

"These debates represent a change from politics as usual", said Debates Commission Chairman Philmore Ogle. "Our goal is to help instill a 'debate culture' so that all Jamaicans can learn from the candidates, understand the importance of active political involvement, and see that each of us has a rôle to play in determining the course of our country's future. Our special appreciation goes to the cooperative spirit displayed by the political parties and the media in helping to make these debates a reality, as well as to our sponsors and our other partners in the public and private sector", he said.

The Jamaican Debates Commission is a neutral and impartial joint venture between the Media Association of Jamaica and the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. Its purpose is:

- To create an environment in which political parties and their representatives can focus on issues during a general election campaign, and
- To lift the level of public discussion, and to educate and inform the public about the real issues that should guide the electorate in casting its vote.

Sponsors for the unprecedented simulcast are the Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited, Red Stripe, and the National Commercial Bank.

For further information
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