

Seville to Come Alive for Emancipation Jubilee

The grounds of the historic Seville Heritage Park in St. Ann will again come alive on July 31, as local and visitors converge for the 17th staging of the Emancipation Jubilee organised by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT).

This year's event, under the theme: 'Forever Free', promises to be the biggest yet, with some 8,000 patrons expected. Featured will be top national and international reggae, gospel and cultural performances, including groups out of Africa; traditional dishes; and exciting activities for the entire family. Addressing the launching ceremony held yesterday (June 27), at Jewel Dunn's River in Mamee Bay, St. Ann, Chairman of the JNHT, Ainsley Henriques, said that the celebrations will afford Jamaicans the opportunity to 'return to their roots.' 'It will help Jamaicans understand, who they really are and also to accept the reality that a people without a sense of their history, is like a tree without its roots,' he stated. Custos of St. Ann, Hon. Radcliffe Walters, is urging residents of the parish to come out and support the event. He stated that the occasion will give citizens an opportunity to reconnect with their past. 'It is important that in our quest to build a bright future for Jamaica, that we pause and reflect on our past. Emancipation, to be celebrated at Seville Heritage Park on July 31, gives us an opportunity to reconnect with our roots and to embrace the possibilities it offers to us in the future,' Custos Walters said. Mr. Henriques, in the meantime, informed that a number of activities will be held at the Seville Heritage Park during the year to recognise the different aspects of the historic site. 'In this coming month, we are going to be formally re-opening the exhibition, which is designed for our young people to learn and understand their heritage and culture. We really want for our children to embrace the facility and become a part of the rich history,' he stated. Mr. Henriques is encouraging Jamaicans to visit the park and view the various offerings, noting that 'Jamaica's heritage is much more than the beach.' Emancipation Jubilee is the celebration of traditional folk forms in honour of the ancestors and seeks to educate Jamaicans and foreigners about various aspects of the country's heritage.