Over 170 J’cans to Be Conferred With National Honours

A total of 179 outstanding Jamaicans, who have contributed to nation building, will be officially recognised at the National Honours and Awards ceremony on National Heroes Day, Monday, October 21, on the lawns of King’s House.

One hundred and fifty-two civilians will receive civil honours including the Order of Merit, Order of Jamaica, Order of Distinction (commander and officer class), and the Badge of Honour for Long and Faithful Service. These civil honours may be conferred on any distinguished citizen of Jamaica or another country, who has achieved eminent local or international distinction in areas including Science, and the Arts, Literature, among others. The highest civilian honour, which is the Order of Merit, will be conferred posthumously on Dr. the Hon. Olive Lewin, OJ, CD, for her distinguished service in the fields of Folk Music Research and Performance, and Music Education. She is already a member of the classes of the Order of Jamaica and the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander. Meanwhile, 27 members of the uniformed service, including the Jamaica Defence Force, Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Department of Correctional Services and the Jamaica Fire Brigade, will receive medals of honour for gallantry and meritorious service. The badge of honour for gallantry is conferred upon persons who have performed acts of gallantry or heroism or who have shown great courage in circumstances of extreme danger. Under the National Honours and Awards Act, promulgated on July 18, 1969, provision is made for those outstanding Jamaicans to be conferred with one of the honours of the Orders of the six Societies of Honour. The six honours are: Order of National Hero, Order of the Nation, Order of Excellence, Order of Merit, Order of Jamaica and the Order of Distinction. There is also the Medal or Badge of Honour, which recognises gallantry and meritorious service. Civil honours are awarded on the advice of the Prime Minister to the Governor-General based on nominations received from members of the public or Members of Parliament, Mayors and Custodes.