



**Signing of cooperative agreement to position Jamaica
as global arbitration centre - Justice Minister**

KINGSTON, December 20, 2019

Justice Minister, Delroy Chuck says that the signing of a cooperative agreement between the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce (JCC) and the Jamaica International Arbitration Centre (JAIAC) will position Jamaica as a global arbitration centre.

“It is important to recognise that mediation and arbitration are very important alternative dispute resolutions. The courts are overburdened and we have to get it into the heads of business people, lawyers in particular, that it is better to mediate rather than litigate,” said Minister Chuck during the signing ceremony for cooperative agreement between JCC and JAIAC to further Jamaica’s positioning as an International Centre for ADR on Wednesday, December 18 at JCC Secretariat’s Half Way Tree Road location.

The Justice Minister who witnessed the signing of the agreement noted that with the passage of the Arbitration Act in 2017 and Jamaica being a signatory to the United Nation’s Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation also known as the Singapore Convention on Mediation, the country joins several countries that have placed importance on mediation and arbitration as a way of attracting investors.

“We want more people across the world to do business here and we want people to see Jamaica as a place to invest and when there is conflict they know they can use arbitration rather than going through the court,” he said adding that the Ministry of Justice will place special focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in 2020 and will train more persons to become mediators including teachers, pastors and community leaders.

Under the agreement, JCC and JAIAC will promote the use of ADRs and will facilitate capacity building for ADR programmes through local and international partnerships.

Secretary General of JAIAC Dr Christopher Malcolm remarked that the signing of the agreement is indicative of a global trend and that “in the context of international trade and investment, it is arbitration and other ADR mechanisms that are prevalent and most important and not litigation”.

For his part, President of JCC Lloyd Distant Jr said the organisation will embrace this as an “opportunity for economic benefit for Jamaica” and thanked the Justice Ministry for its support.

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