

January 25, 2010

The Hon. Orette Bruce Golding  
Prime Minister of Jamaica  
Office of the Prime Minister  
1 Devon Road,  
KINGSTON 6

Dear Prime Minister,

**OPEN LETTER FROM THE STAFF OF AIR JAMAICA**

This appeal is to be viewed as representative of the Staff of Air Jamaica Holdings Ltd., and is being written in full support of the initiative presently underway by the Jamaican Air Line Pilots Association (JALPA).

Since its inception in 1969 Air Jamaica has stood as a clear representation of the pride and resilience of the Jamaican people. Time and Time again we have weathered the storms, tests and adversities of an ever changing Aviation Industry. The staff has experienced change in its truest sense; Change of Management, Owners, Operating Plans and even Government. Today, however, we stand as one united voice to say "Its Ours, our sweat, tears, labour... our Family, our Heritage and more so our Jamaican Pride".

Yes, it is the little piece of Jamaica that flies! This piece of Jamaica has the potential to be one of the vehicles for Jamaica's economic success and should be an integral part of the Transformation plan.

It is because of the passion, not merely to save our jobs, but one which stretches into the bloodline of our founding fathers that we dare to stand, to shout it from the Blue Mountains into the valley of Bog Walk that 'we will not let it go' from Jamaican ownership.

Sir, it has been said that it is a Tax Payer's burden, and in many ways we do agree. Hence, we say let the divestment take place, but let JALPA, the representation of Air Jamaica's Staff and the Jamaican people take the reins.

It is clear that a change must take place but at what price? A wise man once said, "You are the catalyst of your own change and the pathway of your success... Arise and Stand". We know we can! Indeed Hardships there are, but the Land is green and the gold in our national carrier still shines.

Now is not the time for Jamaica to sell her birthright for a pound of flesh, with or without blood. Now is a time for us as a people to arise, invest in ourselves, eat what we grow and own what we fly. Mister Prime Minister, you have called for national cooperation in the Debt Refinancing Initiative, today, we call for a chance from you and the Government of Jamaica to aid us in keeping our Company 'Jamaican owned and operated'.

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While fully understanding that this has been and will continue to be a tremendous challenge in the months to come; we believe that the situation demands our collective fortitude and we stand committed to pledge our support for our beloved company-Air Jamaica, which has triumphed amidst struggles that each and every one of us has experienced.

We know that, if given the chance, we can make it into a successful entity. Indeed, we are forty years old; we are coming out of the wilderness and into our promised land! We urge you, to give the Staff of Air Jamaica and the Jamaican people who are willing to fight the fight with us, a chance.

Yours Respectfully,

The Staff of Air Jamaica