



Tax Administration Jamaica
Working together to serve you EVEN better

TAX ADMINISTRATION JAMAICA
PROUDLY CELEBRATES

Jamaica

FEEL THE HEART AND SOUL OF A NATION

OFFICE DECOR
COMPETITION



JAMAICA 50 ADDRESS



Jamaica's Golden Jubilee celebrations are more than just a colourful culmination of activities, instead it represents the reflections on the journey of a country and where we aspire to place ourselves for the next fifty (50 years). However, throughout our country's rich and vibrant history, taxation has played an integral role. One which has helped to, not only develop the infrastructure we know today, but is also a major lynchpin to which our nation's continued development is tied.

It is for this very reason that Tax Administration Jamaica joined in the celebration by representing what Jamaica 50 means to us, throughout our islandwide operations. This particular activity was quite timely, as it has aided the unification process of the new TAJ. During the competition, teams across the Administration came together in enthusiasm and friendship to put their best display of culture, hospitality and team work forward.

This cultural melting pot experience showcase the best of Tax. During the preparatory and judging phases of the competition, the panel of judges, witnessed a groundswell of the 'good ole' TAJ hospitality.

This overwhelming show of support and enthusiasm for this once in a lifetime activity, resulted in the following offices being adjudicated accordingly:

Best Decorated Office

1st Place

King Street RSC

Most Culturally Researched Office

1st Runner-up (2nd Place)

May Pen RSC

Most Unified Office

2nd Runner-up (3rd Place)

St. Ann's Bay RSC

Most Creative Office

3rd Runner-up (4th Place)

Constant Spring RSC

Participation

Mandeville RSC

Participation

Spanish Town RSC

Participation

Montego Bay RSC

This activity has truly been a nostalgic journey through Jamaica's tax collection history, and it has united the team members of the Administration in an unprecedented way. Your team work, effort and commitment to this unique cause is more than worthy of recognition and we salute you for making TAJ's contribution to Jamaica 50 a reality **HUGE SUCCESS.**

WELL DONE!!!



WINNER

King Street

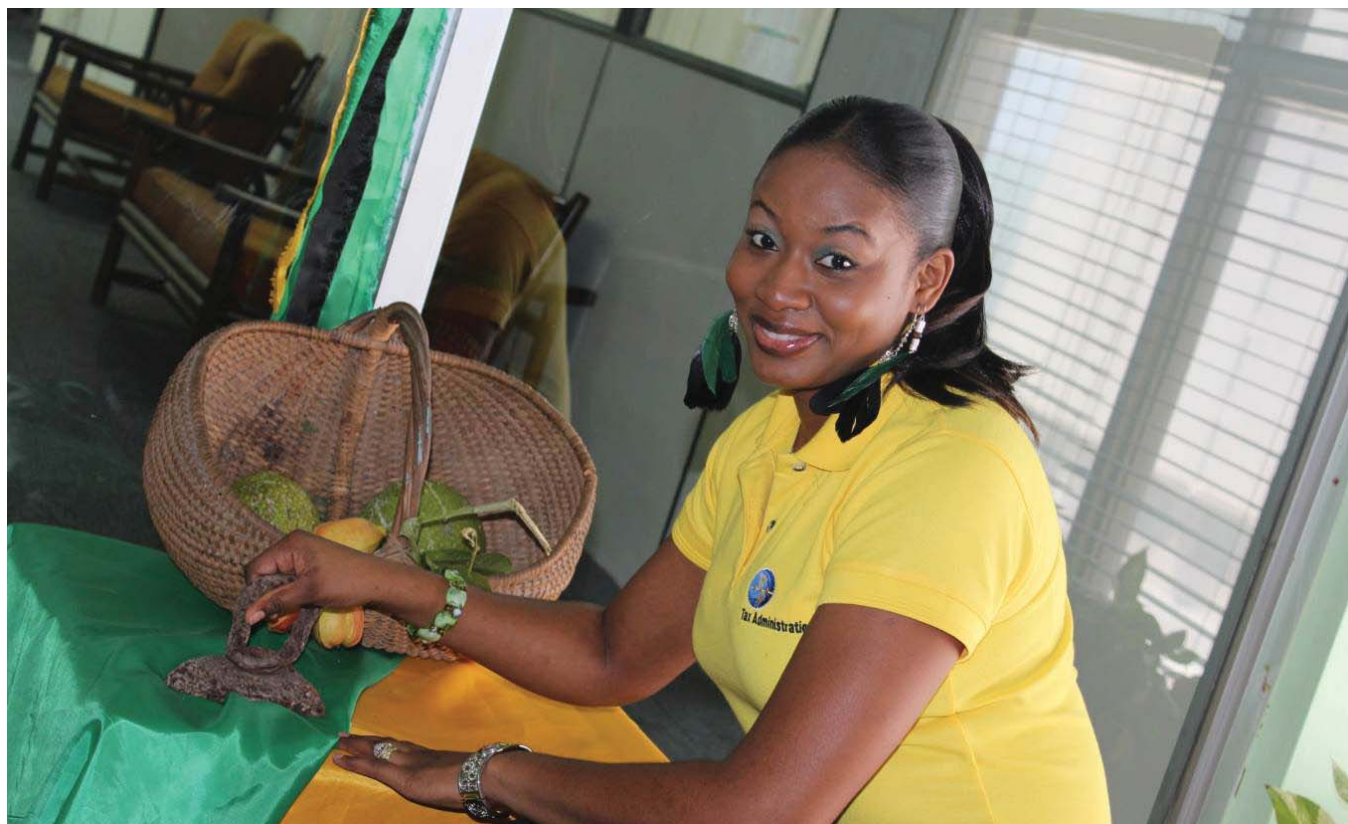
BEST DECORATED OFFICE

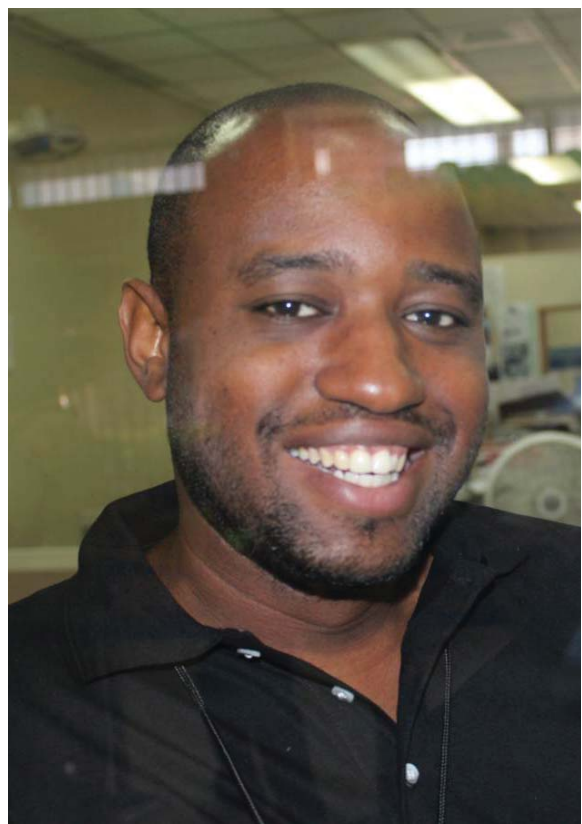


As its name suggests, this street is Kingston's main thoroughfare and is the busiest street in the city's central business district. Walking along King Street provides you with a generous helping of Jamaica's eclectic urban life. Walk past the shops, vendors' stalls, fast-food restaurants and banks. Between Tower and Barry Streets, you will see a two-storey building, fronted by a small park. This is Jamaica's Supreme Court.

JUDGES COMMENTS

The King Street RSC had all 4 floors and the banking hall decorated. Each area had a different theme, depicting various areas of interest of the Jamaican culture.. The different themes were: Sweet Jamdung (The Banking Hall), Heroes (1st Floor), Sports (2nd Floor), Music (3rd Floor) and National Symbols (4th floor). Various Jamaican Proverbs were posted in strategic areas, and the floors boasted colourful pictures, artefacts and various Jamaican foods. The staff also showcased their talents by providing entertainment to the public, in the form of demonstrations, music and dance.











May Pen

**MOST CULTURALLY
RESEARCHED OFFICE**



May Pen

May Pen is the parish capital of Clarendon. The town is a busy market town, if you visit on market days (Friday and Saturday) expect to see lively and chaotic scenes!

There are few sights on interest to a visitor of May Pen. However, you should look out for the stone May Pen Clock Tower which was erected some time after World War 2 (the exact date is unknown) and commemorates the contribution of Jamaican soldiers to the Great War.

May Pen was established following the construction of a bridge over the Rio Minho. Prior to this time traders would wait on one of the banks until the river was low enough to cross but many drowned as a result of misjudging the river. After the construction of the bridge May Pen grew in importance and, over time, a large town was established.

Denbeigh Agricultural Show

The biggest event to occur in or around May Pen is the annual Denbeigh Agricultural Show which is held in the Denbeigh showground, some 3km west of May Pen. The three day festival is held every year in August, over independence weekend.

Farmers travel from all over Jamaica to showcase their agricultural products. Farmers also compete for the coveted “Farmer of the year”, “Young farmer of the year” and “National Farm Queen” titles.

Live music and food vendors also appear at the festival.





JUDGES COMMENTS

This office was filled with information on Jamaica's History. The May Pen RSC was a library of information and a gallery of artefacts. The focal point showcased various foods and other culinary items indigenous to Jamaica. The staff entertained the public with the vibrant voices in a skit.



DID YOU KNOW

1. Apart from the United States, Jamaica has won the most world and Olympic medals.
2. Jamaica stands strong in 3rd place on the list of countries to win the Miss World titles
3. Jamaica has more multiple (two or more) live births than anywhere else in the world.
4. The Manchester Golf Club in Jamaica, established in 1868, is the oldest in the western hemisphere!
5. The 'Doctor Bird (*Trochilus polytmus*) -a national symbol of the country- lives only in Jamaica.
6. 2006-2007: World Fastest man and woman in the world- you bet, are Jamaicans [Asafa Powell and Sherone Simpson].
7. We have the second largest butterfly in the world? (The Giant Swallowtail).
8. Jamaica was the first tropical country to enter the IOC Winter Olympics. The bobsleigh team's efforts inspired the film 'Cool Runnings'.
9. Another of the interesting facts on Jamaica is that it was the first British colonial territory to establish a postal service (in 1688).
10. Jamaica was the first country in the caribbean region to launch a web site, jamaicatravel.com. This was in 1994!



St Ann's Bay
MOST UNIFIED OFFICE







JUDGES COMMENTS

The RSC of unification. The synergy of the staff was contagious, as it was evident in the presentations. This office focused on the monetary aspect of the Jamaica's history and incorporated the collections aspect of their job function. The office boasted a focal point of various Jamaican currencies, foods and history. The staff was attired in jeans, white shirt and bandana.

St. Ann's Bay's claim to fame is that it was the site where Christopher Columbus first Anchored when he "discovered" Jamaica in 1494. However, there is some debate about this as many believe Columbus first landed at the site which is now called Discovery Bay. Columbus named the landing spot Santa Gloria and established the town of Seville as Jamaica's first capital city. He famously remarked that the land he had discovered was "the fairest that eyes had beheld" Christopher Columbus's discovery is remembered today with a statue of his likeness on the roundabout just West of town.

St. Ann's Bay became the capital of St. Ann Parish, largely due to the town's extensive shipping facilities. However, in recent years, Ocho Rios has grown rapidly and eclipsed St. Ann's Bay, both in terms of shipping and tourism. A visit to St. Ann's Bay nowadays is a step back to olden times. Many of the buildings in the town

have been preserved in their original form, most notably the St. Ann Parish Church and the St. Ann's Bay Courthouse.

The St. Ann Parish church is on the corner of Main Street and Church Street, dating from September 1871. Close by, the St. Ann's Bay Courthouse on Main Street was built in 1860.



Oxtail

Oxtail is cooked frequently in the Jamaican home. Traditionally braised on a coal stove for long hours on low heat, the otherwise tough parts in the cow's tail soften up into a lovely gelatinous consistency that makes you want to lick your fingers.

Prep Time: 30 Min Cook Time: 45 Min
Ready In: 1 Hr 15 Min

INGREDIENTS

1 pound beef oxtail, cut into pieces
1 large onion, chopped
1 green onion, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger root
1 scotch bonnet chile pepper, chopped
2 tablespoons soy sauce

1 sprig fresh thyme, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 1/2 cups water
1 cup canned fava beans, drained
1 teaspoon whole allspice berries
1 tablespoon cornstarch
2 tablespoons water

DIRECTIONS

Toss the oxtail with the onion, green onion, garlic, ginger, chile pepper, soy sauce, thyme, salt, and pepper. Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Brown the oxtail in the skillet until browned all over, about 10 minutes. Place into a pressure cooker, and pour in 1 1/2 cup water. Cook at pressure for 25 minutes, then remove from heat, and remove the lid

according to manufacturer's directions. Add the fava beans and allspice berries, and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Dissolve the cornstarch in 2 tablespoons water, and stir into the simmering oxtail. Cook and stir a few minutes until the sauce has thickened, and the beans are tender.

COOK'S NOTE

A slow cooker may be used instead of a pressure cooker in step 1. Simply place the browned oxtail and water into the slow cooker, and cook on Low for 10 hours, or High for 6 hours. Proceed with step 2 as stated.

Amount Per Serving Calories: 425 | Total Fat: 22.4g | Cholesterol: 125mg

Original Recipe Yield 4 servings

Constant Spring
MOST CREATIVE OFFICE





JUDGES COMMENTS

The Constant Spring RSC started their presentation with a meet and greet of the Committee members.

Their theme “Jamaica, Our Island Home” depicted a reggae beach showcasing the beautiful beach and real sand, an “island dread and dawta”. There was also an information corner which highlighted the resorts in Jamaica, top attraction sites and places of interest, and a corner showing the former and present Ministers of Tourism.

St. Andrew was one of the first parishes to be established by Law in 1867 having been known prior to that time as Liguanea. “Liguanea” is one of the few surviving Arawak words, presumably stemming from the word iguana, meaning “lizard”. The parish stretches from Cross Roads to Rockfort in the east and reaches up into the Blue Mountains, sharing borders with St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary and St. Catherine. In 1923, Kingston and St. Andrew were amalgamated to create the Corporate Area of Kingston and St. Andrew (KSAC).

Constant Spring takes its name from a sugar plantation and the spring which (once) gushed from nearby hills, through the lush green golf course, down on to the Liguanea Plains. Today it is another of the main centres of commerce in the Corporate Area.

Liguanea - This was the original name of the Parish of St. Andrew, but now only refers to the small commercial centre mid-way between Half-Way Tree and Papine.





GUEST ACCOMMODATION ROOM TAX



The 6th of June 2012 a revised Special Room Tax (now referred to as Guest Accommodation Room Tax) to be charged in addition to GCT imposed under Section 23A (GCT Act).

Guest Accommodation Room Tax (GART)

GART will be charged per night/occasion on all occupied guest accommodation, broken down as follows:

- US\$1 for accommodations with less than 51 rooms
- US\$2 for 51-100 rooms
- US\$4 for 101 rooms and above

NOTE that complimentary rooms attract the GART. Occasion means any period for which a room is occupied a particular guest or guests.

GART will not apply to:

- Letting for residential purposes
- Persons under a contract of service with the operator
- House Use Rooms
- Rental to diplomats where payment is made by Embassy.
- Letting by educational institutions approved by the Ministry of Education
- Campsites



For more information visit: www.jamaicatax.gov.jm

Montego Bay PARTICIPATION





When Christopher Columbus for the first time visited the island in 1494, he named the bay Golfo de Buen Tiempo ('Fair Weather Gulf'). The name "Montego Bay" is believed to have originated as a corruption of the Spanish word manteca ("lard"), allegedly because during the Spanish period it was the port where lard, leather, and beef were exported.

During the epoch of slavery, from the mid-17th century until 1834, and well into the 20th century, the town functioned primarily as a sugar port. The island's last major slave revolt, the Christmas Rebellion or Baptist War (1831–1832) took place in the area around Montego Bay; the leader of the revolt, Samuel Sharpe, was hanged there in 1832. In 1975, Sharpe was proclaimed a national hero of Jamaica, and the main square of the town was renamed in his honor.

In 1980, Montego Bay was proclaimed a city by act of parliament, but this has not meant that it has acquired any form of autonomy as it continues to be an integral part of St. James Parish.

Today, Montego Bay is known for its large regional hospital (Cornwall Regional Hospital), port facilities, second homes for numerous upper class Jamaicans fine restaurants, shopping opportunities, tourisr restorts, convention centres and snities.

JUDGES COMMENTS

Simplicity was the order of the day for this office as they tied in their theme with the activity in the banking hall section, by bringing a Jamaica 50 atmosphere to their clients. TAJ hospitality was on show as Mobay's JA50 was in full swing.



People will know

YOU ARE JAMAICAN IF...

1. You can't say "three" or "thing" ... **you instead say "tree" and "ting"**.
2. You can distinguish between "cocoa-tea" "bush-tea", and "green-tea".
3. When someone sympathizes with you, you comment **"Yuh tink seh it easy?"**
4. You say words like **Heg (instead of Egg); Hing-land (instead of England)**
5. You **point with your lips**.
6. You **give directions with your hands**, even if it is in another state.
7. You go to parties for the food and drink and then **cuss after wards when the food and drink run out**.
8. You address all the Chinese at the local shop as **"Mr. Chin" or "Ms Chin"**.
9. You **nod your head upwards** to greet someone.
10. You always find yourself **standing next to plenty of luggage and boxes at the airport**.
11. When you travel home, **you bring an extra suitcase** going down, it has none of your clothes; returning, it has food.
12. You **hate to throw away empty containers** as they **might come in handy for pepper sauce or "green seasonings"**.
13. You have one big pot you call **curry pot** when you are not even cooking curry.
14. You have another pot you called **"dutch pot"**.
15. You say **"bwoy"** at the beginning of a sentence and **"man"** at the end of it.
16. You always **hang something** on your rear view mirror.
17. You put **pepper sauce on everything** for the taste.
18. You think **eating ackee and saltfish**, plantain and fried dumplings are a great morning breakfast.
19. You can't go a week **without a rice dish**.
20. You chew and suck out all the marrow from the chicken bone and then **pick out your teeth after wards**.
21. You **bring home food from a party** (enough for your breakfast the next morning, your lunch and your dinner!)
22. You **chew the ice** when you finish your drinks.
23. You must **put dumplings in all soups**.
24. You show **disapproval by sucking your teeth**.
25. You have a dishwasher in the house and **only use it for special occasions**.
26. You have a thyme (or mint) **bush growing somewhere in your yard**.



Spanish Town PARTICIPATION

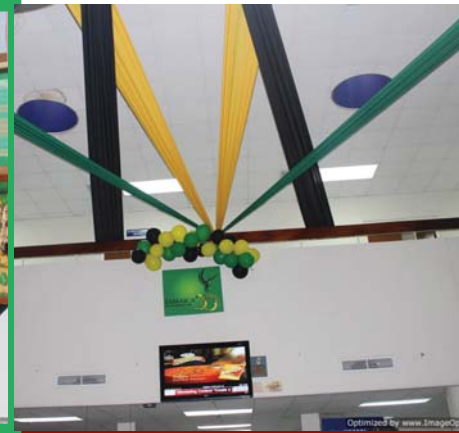


1509, five years after having been marooned for 347 days

in the northeastern town of Sevilla la Nueva, what is now known as St. Ann's Bay, Christopher Columbus bequeathed Jamaica to his heirs. For some 30 years early Spanish colonists settled in or near to St. Ann's Bay until they realized that these locations were plagued by swamps. They looked south to a town on a wide fertile plain, a town they named Villa de la Vega (Town of the Plain). Now known as Spanish Town, it was founded in 1534 and became the capital in 1538. Having been a Taino settlement beginning close to 500 AD, and subsequently the seat of Spanish and British colonial governments for some 333 years, Spanish Town is the oldest continuously occupied city in the Western Hemisphere.



In general, Spanish Jamaica was poor and badly governed. Its economy was based on cow hides and lard. It never prospered and was more of a burden than a benefit to Spain (Black, 1965). Indeed, Spanish governors were rarely present and many of the settlers became discouraged and abandoned the island, frustrated that they had no luck finding the gold they so desired. Spanish Town, however, was a good choice for a capital because for the first time since arriving in Jamaica the Spanish chose a site where the land was good for farming



JUDGES COMMENTS

The focus of this office was the display of Jamaican artefacts, local dishes and pictures of all the Prime Ministers from 1962 to present.

There was also a wall dedicated to reggae icons and a make-shift 'dutchy' on fire made of stones, firewood and paper to ignite the flame.



Manderville PARTICIPATION





JUDGES COMMENTS

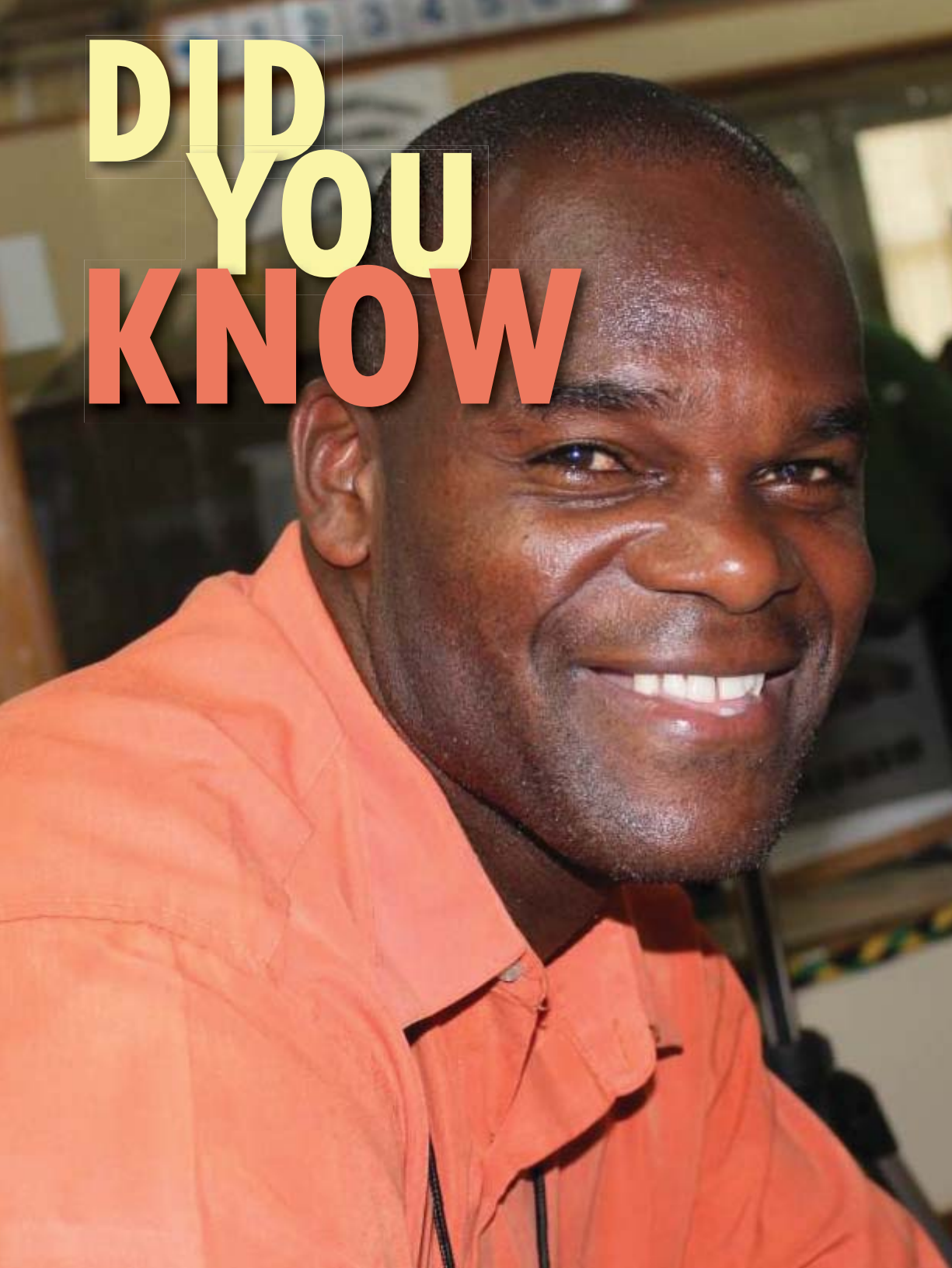
This small office utilized the space they had with creativity. The décor was done to enhance the banking hall and to ensure that the space needed for taxpayers to conduct business was not compromised. The décor was simple yet elegantly done. The focal point displayed artefacts, such as an enamel basin, home-sweet-home lamp and a coal lamp, just to name a few.

Perched on the Manchester plateau 2000 feet above sea level, Mandeville is unlike other rural Jamaican towns: it is cool, it is clean, and there are no slums. Thanks to energetic promotion by the Central and South Coast Tourism Organization, the town is a magnet for discerning visitors and an excellent base for exploring the central hills and the south coast.

The parish of Manchester was created in 1814 by the then governor, the Duke of Manchester. The parish capital, founded in 1816, was named after his eldest son, Viscount Mandeville, and was one of four

hill stations for the Army. Once a haven for English gentlefolk who deemed it the closest thing to home, it was a prim and rather static place until the advent of the bauxite industry in the 1950's. Overnight Mandeville became a roistering boom town, began to grow and flourish and has continued to do so ever since.

As a market centre for farmers, a dormitory town for two large alumina companies and the first choice of returning retired Jamaicans, the town enjoys a relatively stable economic base and offers the pleasures of rural life with the convenience of a mini-city.

A close-up portrait of a Black man with a warm smile, wearing an orange button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden structure, possibly part of a ship's deck.

DID YOU KNOW

1. Port Royal in Jamaica was once labeled 'The wickedest city on Earth'?
2. Better yet, that Jamaica was the first country in the Western world to construct a railway- even before the United States!
3. The Jamaican and Libyan flags are the **ONLY** flags in the world that doesn't share any of the colors of the American flag
4. Jamaica was the first country in the Western world to construct a railway, even before the United States! This was only 18 years after Britain!
5. Jamaica is the first Caribbean Country to gain Independence.
6. Jamaica fielded the first team from the English-speaking Caribbean to qualify for the Football (Soccer) World Cup. This was the 1998 championship.
7. On his second voyage to the New World in 1494, the tip of the Blue Mountains in Jamaica was the first land sighted by Christopher Columbus.
8. Jamaica was the first commercial producer of bananas in the Western Hemisphere.
9. Jamaica also was the first island in the Caribbean to produce rum on a commercial basis.
10. Jamaica was the first country to impose economic sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa.
11. Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean.
12. Jamaica was the first Caribbean island to enact legislation, "The Motion Picture Industry (Encouragement) Act" to promote the making of films.
13. Jamaica is the first country to sign a Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grant agreement.
14. Jamaica was the first colony England acquired by conquest. This was in the year 1655 when the Spanish were driven from the island.
15. We have the second largest butterfly in the world? (The Giant Swallowtail).
16. Another of the interesting facts on Jamaica is that it was the first British colonial territory to establish a postal service (in 1688).

Other Locations



Headquarters



East Street



Harbour Street



Oxford Road



Jamaica

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