



Professional Jamaicans for Jamaica, Inc.

Working on behalf of the Success of Jamaica and Jamaicans

THE MINDSET OF THE PEOPLE AUTHOR: HORACE A. DALEY

“It takes a village to raise a child”

Over the years, I have come to terms to accept that as a people we have changed; an adverse change from who we were as citizens of Jamaica in the 70s and 80s.

Jamaicans, as I knew my people during my childhood days, exemplified love, care, and kindness to its children. Our community once embraced each child as its own and raised the children with proper mannerism and respect for all, whether young or old.

Gone are those days and the values of our people, either through political tribalism, greed, anger, revenge, or pure selfish attributes associated with the status quo of our society.

On my recent visits in various communities of my country, I sensed people who continue to embrace pride and survival of the fittest.

Poverty has spread across the plains and valleys of Jamaica and everyone is finding ways to survive.

Should we honestly use poverty as the scapegoat for this drastic change?

Jamaica is considered a developing country and since our independence in 1962 we came a long way. We have faced socialism in the 70s, with the implementation of self-sufficiency, to privatization in the 80s. These transition periods were important to our nation's development and a way forward for our people.

As I reflect, these were the times noted when communities played a pivotal role in our society and children had a sense of pride and hope to a better future.

There were vast love expressed in our communities and those who were less fortunate, were fed by those fortunate citizens. There were no excuses. Even residents of a tenement yard embraced each other as a family.

Where did we go wrong?

We can point our fingers in whichever direction we may, be the best of the best critics, find all the excuses to the real problem, and come up with a million or more solutions to the reality. However, have you asked yourself the following question lately, how did “I” contribute to this problem?

We are all guilty of the sad mindset of our people, whether through our selfish outlook at life or believing we are better than our fellow citizens, due to the status quo. We choose to despise each other for simple reasons, such as a minor disagreement or a disassociation of a group. We even walk on cloud nine, with a massive ego because we were accepted by an elite group of our society.

Who we are today as a people, whether rich or poor, we have contributed to the negative mindset of the people.

Today, I have reflected on the past on a nation of proud, warm, loving people, who I am positively sure, can make a significant difference in the development of our nation.

Tomorrow, I look forward to the future, with a bleak eye, of our nation. Our children are isolated, abused, pressured, suffering and living in a society that once was a nation and a community that raises its children to become positive role models.

There is hope!

Who dare to stand and be counted, let them stand today for our nation. Let each citizen be reminded of the National Pledge of Jamaica, as we work together for the future of our beloved country.

Jamaica Land We Love

