



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**July 3, 2019**

## **Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Ceremony.**

On Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> the JSE honored its founders, saluted companies that listed fifty years ago and are still listed and past chairmen who guided the Exchange over the years recognized its staff for long and faithful service ranging between five to twenty-five (5-25) years.

Mrs. Marlene Street Forrest, Managing Director JSE welcomed the more than 500 guests and staff in attendance. She stated, *“As I contemplated my welcome to you, the single most important element of our journey that resonates with me, is that since 1968, we have come this far through team work, perseverance and a deep understanding of our mission”*.

Mrs. Forrest went to highlighted a few significant achievements:

- From a fledging Exchange operating once per week with low volumes and few listings; to becoming the oldest and largest Exchange in the English-speaking Caribbean with vibrant daily trading, many listings and almost 200,000 investors;
- From a paper-covered meeting table at the Bank of Jamaica; to an efficient computer-based network system that is linked into an electronic trading platform, where transactions are automatically matched and settlements are processed in a paperless environment;
- From being a private, closely-held, mutual company; to becoming a demutualized Exchange with publicly held and listed shares.

She closed with the words of Koffee ***“gratitude is a must.... We thank God for di journey, di earnings and jus fi di plus. Gratitude is a must.”***

Host Terri Kerelle-Griffiths and co-host Michael Anthony Cuffe took the audience through the 60s, 70s -90s and the Millennium recognizing individuals and companies for their contributions.

The late former Prime Minister, Most Honourable Edward Seaga was recognized as a key visionary in establishing the Stock Exchange in a citation. Special recognition and citations were given to six companies that were listed in 1968 and are still listed. These are PanJam, Scotia

Bank, Caribbean Cement Company Limited, Carreras, Salada, 1834 Investments (formerly the Gleaner Company). NCB Capital Markets (formerly Edward Gayle & Company). The JSE also recognized past general managers and recognized former chairman Mrs. Rita Humphries for her contribution as chairman (two occasions) and the first female chairman of a Stock Exchange in the region. A citation was given to Ed McKie – Managing Director and Chairman MVL Stockbrokers Ltd., for being the longest servicing board member. Current Managing Director, Mrs. Marlene Street Forrest was also recognized in multiple capacities for her stewardship, which in part has led to the JSE being the Best performing Exchange in the world in 2015 & 2018; her visionary insight in establishing the Registrar Division of the Jamaica Central Securities Depository, her role in the establishing the Junior Market among other programmes and most recently the Social Stock Exchange.

Minister Audley Shaw, was also recognized and awarded for his role as then Minister of Finance & the Public Service that paved the way through legislation for small and medium sized companies to be afforded benefits through taxation provided that equity capital was raised via the market. He was saluted for his transformational leadership that led to a mechanism that has since revolutionized the capital market.

In the staff category, Mrs. Charlette Eddie Nugent was toasted with a citation for her 25 years of service to the Exchange.

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