



Mark Golding Leads St Ann Craft Market Tour to Address Vendor Concerns

St. Ann, Jamaica. December 4, 2024: Opposition Leader Mark Golding, joined by Dr Ryan Simpson, MP Candidate for South East St Ann, Senator Janice Allen, Spokesperson on Tourism and Linkages, Dr Wykeham McNeill, former Minister of Tourism, Doreen Campbell, Deputy Spokesperson on Tourism and Linkages, and Senator Gabriela Morris, MP Candidate for North West St Ann, toured several craft markets in St Ann this afternoon to engage with local vendors and discuss their challenges.

The tour, which included stops at the Dunn's River Falls Craft Market, Fern Gully Craft Market, Coconut Grove Craft Market, Pineapple Craft Market, Old Ocho Rios Craft Market, and Ocho Rios Craft Market, was part of a broader effort by the People's National Party (PNP) to listen to the concerns of key stakeholders in Jamaica's tourism sector.

Vendors highlighted their struggles, particularly the lack of meaningful support from the Government and the absence of tourists from cruise ships, who are often diverted to gift shops elsewhere. Many expressed frustration over lost opportunities to showcase authentic Jamaican craft to visitors.

Speaking during the tour, Mr Golding stated: "Tourism is the backbone of many communities in St Ann, and craft vendors play a vital role in showcasing Jamaica's rich culture. We've heard the voices of these hardworking Jamaicans who feel left behind by the current system. The PNP is committed to implementing sustainable solutions to ensure they receive the support and opportunities they deserve."

Senator Janice Allen added: "The Government must do more to connect vendors directly with tourists and provide the necessary resources to improve these markets. Vendors are the heartbeat of our tourism product, and they need our full backing to thrive."

The day concluded with constructive conversations and commitments to prioritise sustainable and inclusive policies that strengthen Jamaica's tourism linkages.

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