

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Civil Society Activism on Information

.....TAKING UP THE GAUNTLETT FOR A BETTER JAMAICA

Embarking on the Journey

Upon the commencement of the Act, the challenge for Civil Society will be to use the Act and the system it creates for accessing information.

The Government's mandate will continue to be the sustained education of government employees (and more specifically ATI administrators), the continued development and execution of quality public education and customer service programmes, and the exercise of the type of leadership and clear political will signaling its commitment to the Initiative.

Even as we unhesitatingly invite you to use the Act and exercise the level of responsibility which our Nation has come to expect from us all, it is our simultaneous desire that in doing so, we come to understand the novelty of this new Initiative, appreciate that there will be stumbling blocks and a learning curve with consequential challenges and that through this appreciation, good will may prevail.

The experience in the United States, where they have had Freedom of Information Laws for the past 30 years, shows that the early years are crucial in determining habits – on both sides. Let us help each other to establish good habits and foster the partnering which will be conducive to the advancement of a change in the culture.

The Access to Information Initiative offers much from which to benefit and so in a sense, we are all stakeholders embarking on a quest for a more transparent and participatory democracy.

Let us do so believing it can be done.....