

JMA RETURNS

As of March, the Jamaica Manufacturers Association re-joined the PSOJ and has taken a seat on our Executive Committee. Another step in achieving unity in the Jamaican private sector!

NATIONAL DEBT

The PSOJ has responded to an invitation from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, for private sector and public sector teams to work together on issues related to improving the management of the National Debt. The members of the private sector team are Peter Melhado (MMB), Eva Lewis (Citibank), Peter Bunting (DB&G), Colin Steele (Mechala) and Christopher Bicknell (Tankweld). The committee is chaired by Colin Bullock (BOJ) and has already started to meet. Another example of the PSOJ's commitment to public/private sector partnership.



PRIVATE SECTOR OBSTACLES

Thanks to our membership for the overwhelming response to our request for a list of barriers which negatively impact on daily private sector operations. The Secretariat is now compiling the information and will forward same to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, as he had requested.

National Security



Members of the Executive Committee met with the Honourable K.D. Knight, Minister of National Security and Justice as well as the leadership of both the JCF and the JDF. Discussions centred around the escalation in criminal activities, the downward trend in some crimes, the public image of the Police, among other issues. The PSOJ pledged to help the JCF with its public relations.

NEW SBAJ PRESIDENT

Welcome to Mrs. Cheryl Phillips, who was elected in March as President of the Small Businesses Association of Jamaica and will therefore represent that organisation on the PSOJ's Executive Committee, replacing immediate Past President Robert Wynter.

THE BUDGET AND YOU

The National Budget Debate has started with the Honourable Omar Davies making his presentation in Parliament on April 15. How will this impact on the Jamaican private sector? Will it lead to more businesses folding? Will there be more unemployment? Is the country now heading for economic growth? What can be expected in 1999? The PSOJ will answer these and other questions at the Organisation's Annual Seminar on the Jamaican Economy. Join us at the Hilton Kingston Hotel on Thursday, May 13, 1999 at 8:30 a.m. Come - ask your questions, get some answers. Express your concerns!

Membership

Five (5) new members were received into the PSOJ. The Membership Committee's advertising campaign has started with the first set of three (3) ads being printed in the Daily Gleaner and the Jamaica Observer. The feedback has been encouraging.

Membership Luncheon

*T*hanks to all who supported the first Membership Luncheon for this year.

This was held at the Terra Nova Hotel in March. One of the highlights of this event was the discussion on rate-rebalancing and its impact on business operations. Mr. Gary Barrow, Senior Vice President at Cable & Wireless Jamaica Ltd. and Mr. Winston Hay, Director-General of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), spearheaded the discussions. It was an interesting exchange of different views/opinions as well as an opportunity for PSOJ members to air their concerns! This is an issue that you need to follow as it could mean higher telephone rates for all of us.

SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS

As part of its Outreach Programme, the Economics Divisions has been conducting monthly seminars at the Secretariat's offices for Sixth Form students preparing for A'Level Economics. April's session was attended by students of Merl Grove High School.



WHAT'S AHEAD!

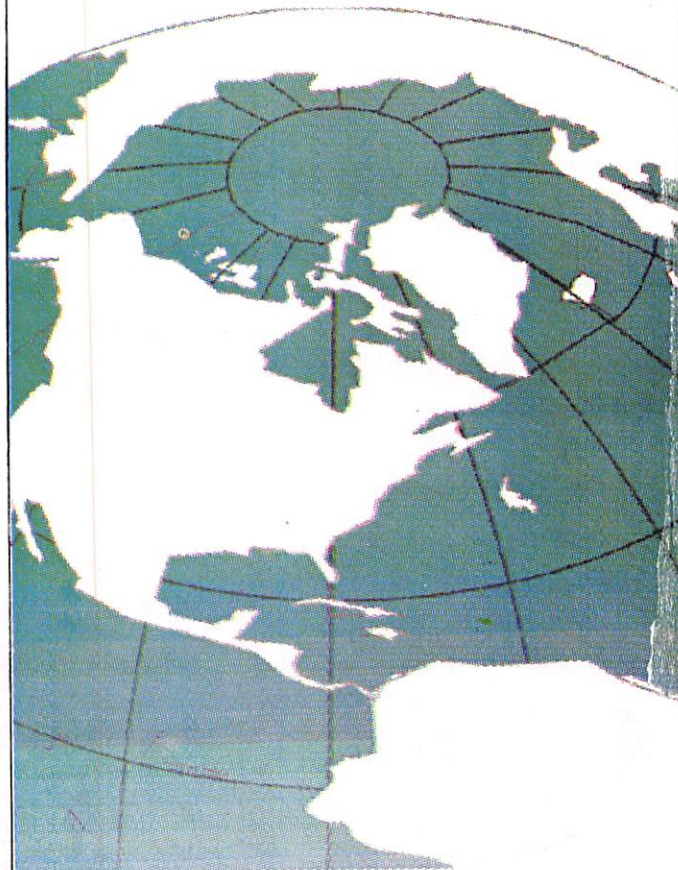
MAY 13 — Annual Seminar on the Economy
(Hilton Kingston Hotel) — **DON'T MISS IT!**

MAY 27 — Membership Breakfast
(Terra Nova Hotel)

JUNE 14-15 — PSOJ/WTO Seminar
(Le Meridien Jamaica Pegasus Hotel) —
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