

Celebration of Art

Notes: Bruce Bowen – President & CEO

Friday, December 5, 2008

Devonshire, Devon House

7:00pm

- Professor Rex Nettleford, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, fellow Scotiabankers, good evening, and again welcome to our annual Celebration of Art event.
- This is my second time around working at Scotiabank Jamaica and already it is shaping up to be better than the first, which I thought was excellent.
- A few days ago, I was honoured to spend time with one of the island's and the world's most outstanding musicians Beres Hammond, and this evening I am among great artists such as Barrington Watson, Garth Sanguinettei, Marvin Bartley, Donito Davis, Phillip Supersad, Leonia McKoy and Allison Sinclair; and to privileged to pay tribute too to the late Christopher Gonzales, hailed as one of the first wave of post colonial artists.
- As I walked around the exhibition, I experienced a feeling of awe at the artistic beauty and excellence of the craftsmanship on display.
- It also reminded me of one of the many reasons why Jamaica is so special to me – Jamaicans have an innate talent of being the very best at what they do, of creating beauty and joy and excitement out of very limited resources.
- Jamaicans have an indomitable and resilient spirit. And this is the spirit that I am sure will get us through the challenging times that we all now face.

Stay Invested

- As a banker, one word of advice in times like these is to stay invested, particularly in these times when stock values are rising and falling within minutes. During challenges it is the norm to see people becoming flustered and making irrational decisions.
- However, those who are successful are those who remain calm and stay focused on their goals.
- As investors which I am sure many of you are, this is the time to stay invested and of course, we are quite willing to talk business on an occasion like this if you so require.
- One thing that you can invest in and be certain that its value will always appreciate - is art. Hence in the midst of a global economic meltdown, we present you with a melting pot of the old and the new, wood, canvas, silver and diamonds to encourage you to stay invested. And you can be assured that this is one investment you can look at everyday should you need assurance that it is still there.
- So welcome to our Celebration of Art – a signature event on our calendar for our clients in our Private Client Group.

### ScotiaFoundation

- This year, we have added a very special element, which we hope you will enjoy and support - a silent auction. This auction as you would have read from your invitation is in support our Scoliosis Care programme.
- At Scotiabank we always seek to assist in areas where there is a great need and in creating awareness and leading a way for others to follow.
- Since we started the Scotiabank Jamaica Foundation 1996, we have spent some \$550 million on numerous projects aimed at improving the circumstances of those less fortunate among us.
- Today we are pleased to say that our support centers on six areas,
  1. Accident & Emergency Care

2. Renal Care
3. Cancer Care
4. Student Care
5. Community Care

- And the sixth area is Scoliosis Care which was launched in May this year.
- Scoliosis Care provides funding for the cost of corrective surgeries for children with this disease who are faced with deformity and severe respiratory problems which can lead to death if they are not treated.
- ScotiaFoundation has committed \$7.5 million to the programme and we did five of seven surgeries this summer. You would have seen the posters of the happy faces of the young ladies who were the beneficiaries.
- Earlier this week, we increased our support with the donation of a drill to the Kingston Public Hospital to assist with orthopedic surgeries.
- We are hoping that you will feel a compelling urge to join us in supporting this cause, the proceeds of which will go towards raising additional funding, as we try to reduce the long waiting list of children at the KPH.
- Mrs. Griffiths Irving, Executive Director of our Foundation will give a little more information on the auction later.
- So, I trust you have viewed the exhibits and have identified the piece you will be taking home in addition to the other works on sale by the artists.

Close

- Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for supporting this event. As I much prefer meeting and greeting you than speaking to you like this, let me end by saying again thank you and have a great evening.