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SPEAKING NOTES

FOR

RT. HON. P. J. PATTERSON, P.C., Q.C.

PRIME MINISTER

AT SIGNING OF

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA,

BAUXITE COMPANIES AND TRADE UNIONS

AT JAMAICA HOUSE

ON THURSDAY, 1998 JULY 9

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1. INTRODUCTORY

Historic nature of Signing Ceremony -

JAMAICA HOUSE

**Hope it heralds the dawn of a new era in the relationship
between**

Government - The Bauxite Sector - Labour.

Result of a process -

Emphasising Consultation

Collaboration

Cooperation.

Rejecting the path of

Adversarial relationships

or

Confrontation.

2. FEATURES OF THE UNDERSTANDING

- i) underscores the critical importance of the bauxite alumina sector to the country's future economic growth.

It demonstrates an understanding and an acceptance of the new economic realities which Jamaica must face, if we are to have a fighting chance in the new millennium.

- ii) It sets the trend for dialogue, communication and co-operation between the social partners for other sectors within the nation.

- iii) It reflects the resolve and commitment of our overseas partners as to their role in the country's future.

- iv) It provides an assured basis for going forward to expand growth within the bauxite mineral area, by appropriate incentives for significant capacity expansion and plant modernisation.

- v) **It highlights and gives due recognition to the critical role of the workers, and accords them pride of place within the production spectrum.**

- vi) **It re-enforces Government's willingness to do its part in the national interest and to work tirelessly towards achieving the best for the country.**

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3. THE BAUXITE SECTOR

Exploiting our Competitive Advantage

- Extensive resources
- Surface Mining
- Energy Deficiency (-)
- Labour Costs
 - Meaningful increases must be earned through greater productivity.

This requires greater productivity, an integrated structure of harmonious and co-operative relationships between workers and management;
an end to Trade Union rivalry and industrial friction.

The need to maintain:

Inflation control

Stable exchange rates.

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4. APPRECIATION

- Minister of Labour and Officials**
- Minister of Mining and Team**
- Cabinet Secretary**
- Jamaica Bauxite Institute**
- Bauxite Companies**
- Trade Union Leadership**

Their hard and conscientious deliberations have borne abundant fruit.

5. THE CHALLENGE

I expect these documents will be implemented within the spirit of the goals we share and towards the greater national good.

I expect this to be a model for industrial harmony and productivity enhancement which others will quickly emulate.

Hope it will be the first concrete step as we build the stairway to a social partnership, brick by brick and contribute to the growth and prosperity of Jamaica.