

AN INTERNATIONALLY RATED EVENT

The Ministry of Tourism and its agencies are pleased to be associated with the 11 th staging of the Reggae Marathon, Half Marathon and 10K which takes place in Negril on Saturday, 3 rd December, 2011.

This Marathon which grew out of an idea discussed among friends jogging at the Mona Dam in Kingston has become an internationally rated event worthy of a place on the global sports calendar. Now highly anticipated, it has, over the years been playing its part in attracting and retaining visitors who return annually to our island. This is important to Jamaica's tourism and for that I must congratulate the organisers.

Through the Reggae Marathon event, Jamaica has a place in the minds of top rated distance runners. In fact, Jamaica was last year named by "Glancing Askance", a newsletter out of New York, among the top ten best places in the world for marathon running.

That is an endorsement of the highest order, and boosts our reputation as a top sports tourism destination, in addition to being among the world's most attractive destinations.

Indeed at the 2011 World Travel Awards, Jamaica copped the award for being the best sports tourism destination in the world, another significant endorsement of our tourism product.

Again, let me, on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and especially the Jamaica Tourist Board; congratulate the organisers of this event. I am supremely confident that this year's staging will go down as your best yet.

Good luck to all the participants and a special welcome to our visitors. Your presence here is evidence that the Reggae Marathon remains an attractive event. Enjoy this year's competition and enjoy Jamaica while you are here.

Edmund Bartlett, MP Minister of Tourism

