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Dear Fellow Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica,

I sincerely hope that you and your families remain safe and well despite the continuous challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you may know, the Government of Jamaica has been actively pursuing various avenues to address the many economic and social issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including the challenges in the education sector. One specific action taken in the context of our country having entered the 'community spread' phase of the pandemic, has been the suspension of normal school attendance, and resorting to the use of e-learning platforms across the primary and secondary education system.

Sadly, however, thousands of children are without the requisite electronic devices to participate in the online learning process. It is in this regard that we are seeking your kind and urgent support in relation to an initiative entitled "**A Device for Every Child - Bridging the Digital Divide**". This important initiative is part of the Government's commitment and thrust to provide quality education to every student by ensuring that no child is left behind as a result of the unprecedented challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus far, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information has re-calibrated its budget to provide thousands of devices to students registered to the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education' (PATH) at the primary and secondary levels. In the context of fiscal constraints, the Government continues to work through voucher programmes and partnerships including with the business community, as well as philanthropic organizations and individuals, to reach all in need. However, some 100,000 students who are not on the PATH programme are still without devices or access to any form of electronic teaching and learning facilities. As you can well imagine, this is already having a deleterious effect on the education of those children.

I am aware of the eagerness of many members of our Jamaican family and friends across the world to offer any support possible to Jamaica, as we seek to recover stronger from the impact of the pandemic. Indeed, we are deeply appreciative of the initiatives taken by those of you who have already reached out to our Overseas Missions in that regard. We are, however, fully mindful of the fact that many of you are grappling with your own personal challenges during this time and are limited in your capacity to extend the kind of philanthropic gesture that is characteristic of our Diaspora worldwide. Even the smallest gesture on your part, however, will always be highly appreciated.

Attached therefore, for your consideration, is documentation on the Project proposal, including bank details, device specifications, as well as procedures for the donation of educational material through the National Education Trust (NET). Contributions to this Project may be made either in cash or in kind by way of the donation of laptop or tablets.

I thank you for your interest and philanthropic efforts towards the Government and people of Jamaica and look forward to your usual kind support of this initiative which will greatly benefit our future leaders.

Yours sincerely,


Leslie Campbell
Minister of State