

WELCOME REMARKS BY PROFESSOR TREVOR MUNROE
AT THE PUBLIC FORUM SERIES “ENHANCING INTEGRITY FOR
DEVELOPMENT” AT ST. MICHAEL’S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019 AT 6:00 PM

Welcome to the Most Reverend Kenneth Richards, Archbishop of Kingston, Most Reverend Donald Reece, Archbishop Emeritus, Reverend Walter Dorsey, Acting Rector and Director of St. Michael’s Theological College, Reverend Adinair Jones, Executive Chairman, Church of God in Jamaica, Mr. Howard Mitchell, Moderator Dr. Anna Perkins, JMMB and Nationwide News Network, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to welcome each one of you on behalf of St. Michael’s Theological College and NIA to this forum “Enhancing Integrity for Development”.

It is said “The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively – Marley”.

We regard it as a privilege to collaborate and partner with St. Michael’s Theological College – as we have done with the Umbrella Group of Churches, Parish Ministers’ Fraternal in St. Catherine, St. James and Clarendon in forums and workshops and rallies.

Born of **recognition that no one individual leader, organisation, no one denomination, no one sector can** successfully tackle the critical responsibility of enhancing integrity and combatting corruption and its twin evil crime in our country.

Most recent surveys tell us that almost **eighty percent of our people believe that corruption is a serious problem in Government and between sixty to seventy percent of us want to get involved.**

We have to find, make available channels for their involvement – forums such as this; Crime Stop is another – average tips every nine months – 2016-2017 (100); 2018-2019 (200); multi-stakeholder consultations. This forum could not be more timely.

As we depart our borrowing with the IMF, we and them acknowledge achievement in stabilising our economy. But we must also – Jamaica is under-performing in relation to the combat of corruption and corruption can contribute to inequality, undermine economic growth and erode the gains made... So welcome.

Our Moderator this evening is Dr. Anna Perkins – specialist in ethics, BA in Theology from the UWI, PhD from Boston College, MPhil University of

Cambridge, Senior Programme Officer, Quality Assurance Unit, UWI Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies. Anna has published widely and there is no better person to moderate our discussion.