

UPGRADE JAMAICA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JAMAICA 'RIPE' FOR CWC TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS
- BOARD CHAIRMAN, SIR RICHARD LAPTHORNE, UPBEAT
ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S PROSPECTS**

Chairman of the Board of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), Sir Richard Lapthorne, says the company's massive US\$250 million (J\$29 billion) investment to upgrade the LIME network is flowing into Jamaica at the right time. He points to the country's improving regulatory and economic environment as a solid base for continuing the technology upgrades to 2017. Around US\$70 million has so far been spent and it has already delivered significant improvements in the availability of faster landline and wireless broadband speeds across Jamaica.

Sir Richard added that the investments are designed to bolster customer experience and enhance the delivery of First World telecommunications services island-wide. He was speaking at a small reception in Kingston on Tuesday, attended by all nine members of the CWC Board, Government officials, private sector leaders and LIME executives. Sir Richard congratulated the government on its economic stewardship of the country during what he described as "challenging times" and he praised the Government for Jamaica's leap on the 'Ease of Doing Business' Index - according to the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2015.

"Jamaica has a good investment climate. We greatly appreciate the support of the Government for encouraging investments whether through levelling the playing field so that customers can benefit from more affordable Mobile Termination Rates (MTR) or, more recently, for the approval of the merger of Cable and Wireless Communications and Columbus International."

Sir Richard continued, "We are now ready to unleash the sort of investment that neither company could have afforded alone."

Because of the merger and these additional investments, Jamaicans will significantly benefit as CWC will expand the country's broadband infrastructure and give customers a first-generation super-fast, robust network experience. The combined companies will also deliver the best value through 'quad-play' offers, significantly enhance customer service and continue to support community development.



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These, Sir Richard says, will add to existing investments that contribute to economic growth and support other important aspects of national life.

He pointed to education, where LIME has partnered with the Government to provide free Internet in over 400 schools across the island and community access points, such as Post Offices and Churches creating homework centres. In health care, the Telco has provided mobile telephony for all hospitals, regional health authorities and personnel for the over three thousand users in the in the Ministry of Health. In micro industries – LIME is a key partner in the 'StartUp Jamaica' programme for young software and App developers who need the support to grow and become the tech entrepreneurs of the future. And, in national development - through the Universal Service Fund – where LIME's longstanding partnership with the Government of Jamaica continues to expand the reach of broadband connectivity across the island to police stations, libraries and high schools.

In an endorsement of CWC's commitment to the technology investments, Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, with Responsibility for Information, Senator Sandra Falconer, read remarks on behalf of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller. She shared, "We are very heartened when large reputable, longstanding corporations like Cable and Wireless continue to make robust investments in Jamaica, even as the Government takes steps to ensure that investing in our country is rewarding and easy."

Senator Falconer added, "The establishment of a logistics sector, leveraging our competitive advantages in location, connectivity and language, is a significant win for Jamaica and will redound well for the business community, investors and the labour force. It is against this background that we commend Cable and Wireless for the considerable timely investments being made that will support these exciting national developments that will augur well for our country and our region."

Besides the significant investments, the Prime Minister also applauded LIME for its strong focus on corporate social responsibility through the LIME Foundation.

A company of firsts, CWC has been in Jamaica since 1883 when the first 50 fixed telephone lines were installed in the city of Kingston. Since then, other firsts have included: first to connect the region to the world; first to introduce broadband and high speed internet; and, first to launch mobile telephony.

The CWC Board is in Jamaica to hold its next round of strategy meetings from February 2 to 4, to establish broad policies and objectives going forward.

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About LIME

LIME is the Caribbean's leading full service telecommunications provider. A member of the New Cable & Wireless Communications group, the company has been the 'technology backbone' of the Caribbean for over 140 years. LIME's state of the art network keeps families connected and the wheels of business and industry turning. LIME's extensive on island network is complemented by a network of 42,000 km of sub-sea cable spanning 42 countries carrying voice and data traffic for its customers and also other telecoms operators.

Recognized as one of the Caribbean's largest investors and biggest employers, CWC has embarked on a US\$1.05b major investment led strategy across the Caribbean and Latin America, increasing superfast mobile and broadband penetration throughout the region. A strong contributor to local economies, LIME has a proud history of connecting with the people in every market it serves. LIME's contribution encompasses a broad spectrum of nation building initiatives spanning education, health, community development, culture, music, sport and a range of other activities. LIME provides premium Data, Telecoms and IT Services Solutions to Businesses and Governments through its new unit, Cable & Wireless Business. For more information you may visit www.lime.com.

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