



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ministry Moves to Develop the Industrial Minerals Sector

With the recent closures within the bauxite/alumina sector, the Ministry of Energy and Mining is moving to develop the Industrial Minerals Sector to complement the bauxite alumina sector.

Senior Director for Policy and Planning in the Ministry, Oral Rainford says “we have been trying to develop the industrial minerals sector, largely limestone, sand and gravel, gypsum, shale, pozzolan, hard volcanic rocks, marble, clay and other minerals.”

He added that “a major push is being made to develop the limestone subsector. Over the last four years, we have attracted some of the largest companies in the world, involved in mining and quarrying. Some of these companies include CEMEX, LAFARGE and Martin Marietta Materials, and these companies are giants [in the business].”

LAFARGE has embarked on a Jamaica Joint Venture with Jamaica PRE-MIX called Jamaica Aggregates. Even though this is good Mr. Rainford feels that local companies must be given an opportunity to develop.

“My interest lies with the local companies such as Jamaica PRE-MIX, Lydford Mining Company, Caribbean Cement Company, Somerset Enterprises and Shagor Aggregates. These companies would get a chance to develop, they would employ local people and more of the profit would remain here. It is important that they grow and possibly grow into foreign markets thereby creating wealth.”

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