

RESULTS LANGUAGE ATTITUDE SURVEY OF JAMAICA

- **The Majority Of Jamaicans Recognise Jamaican (Patwa) As A Language**
- **Jamaican (Patwa) Should Be Made An Official Language Alongside English**
- **Ministers Of Government Should Deliver Speeches In Jamaican**

When asked whether or not Jamaican was a language 79.5% of respondents said yes, Jamaican was a language and agreed that it was, “...a form of speech, which can be used to communicate anything people want it to”. Further, 68.5% felt it should be made an official language of Jamaica alongside English and 67.8% thought the Prime Minister or Minister of Finance would “communicate better with the public” if speeches were delivered in Jamaican in Gordon House.

- **Population Wants Bilingual Schools**

Given the option of “...schools that teach children to read and write in Jamaican and English “as opposed to “...schools that teach children to read and write in English only”, 71.1% of the population polled would like to have bilingual schools.

- **Jamaicans Declare Themselves Bilingual**

The results show that 78.6% of Jamaicans polled declared themselves speakers of both Jamaican and English, thereby recognizing the bilingual nature of the language situation in the country. There was little variation in responses across all age groups as 85.6% of 18-30 year olds said they were bilingual while 78.1% of 31-50 year olds and 71.9% of 51-80+ year olds declared themselves bilingual. Only 10.9% and 10.5% respectively of the entire population polled declared themselves to be speakers of English only or Jamaican only. Slightly more women (11.8%) than men (10.0%) declared themselves to be speakers of English only.

- **Some Language Stereotypes Persist**
- **Population Does Not See Language Spoken As An Indication Of A Person’s Wealth Or Honesty**
- **Speakers Of Jamaican Seen As More Friendly And Helpful**

When asked to respond to questions related to language and social stereotypes 57% of those polled said they thought speakers of English to be more intelligent and 61.7% said they thought them to be more educated. At the same time 38.6% do not see language spoken as an indication of a person’s honesty, while 30.4% said the speaker of Jamaican was more honest. 46.5% said neither/both speakers were have money and 44.7% said the Jamaican speaker had more money. Speakers of Jamaican were also seen as more friendly ((39.8%) and more helpful (37%).

- **Respondents Would Like To See Jamaican Written In A Standard Form On School Books**

The sample was asked if they would like to see Jamaican written in a Standard form on the following items: a) road signs, b) school books, c) medicine bottles, d) government forms, e) weed spray. 57.3% said they would like to see Jamaican written in standard form on school books.