



A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Most Honourable
Sir PATRICK LINTON ALLEN,
Member of the Order of the Nation,
Knight Grand Cross of the Most
Distinguished Order of Saint Michael
and Saint George, Commander of the
Order of Distinction, Knight of Grace
of the Most Venerable Order of the
Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem,
Governor-General of Jamaica.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the people of Jamaica that those who have contributed to the development of the country, particularly in circumstances in which their commitment has culminated in death or impairment, be demonstrably recognized, memorialized and celebrated;

AND WHEREAS it is of great social, cultural and political value that reports of the heroic acts of such persons be preserved for sustained memory and enduring impact on the lives of those for whom this great sacrifice was made, including those not yet born;

AND WHEREAS there are notable gaps in knowledge and memory of many such heroic acts consequent to the paucity of accurate information and, in some instances, the deliberate discriminatory and prejudicial interpretations of the history, with its concomitant intent to vilify and diminish the contributions and noble intent of said persons;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Jamaica has taken legislative and political measures to restore the good name and heroic intent of many of our ancestors, who were deemed criminal by Colonial decree, but recently, in many instances, were declared heroes by the nation of Jamaica, through an Act of Parliament thereby setting aside those Colonial vilifications and criminalizations. Such Act has absolved them of criminal defamations, and has commended them for their valour, determination, resilience, patriotic fervor and willingness to give their lives for the common good;

AND WHEREAS The Right Excellent Paul Bogle, National Hero, was a man of notable acumen and character, displaying leadership and courage in the face of insurmountable odds, having no regard for the potential harm he would face from an entrenched, dehumanizing and oppressive system;

AND WHEREAS The Right Excellent Paul Bogle, Deacon of the Stony Gut Baptist Church since 1864, who was conversant with the rights and dignities ascribed to all human beings, rejected the idea that one race should impose their rights and privileges over the other, but rather aspired to the credo that defines man in the image of a benevolent God, understanding thereby the higher calling of those who would cast their will in solidarity with their brothers and sisters;

AND WHEREAS The Right Excellent Paul Bogle possessed great character and willingly aligned his destiny with that of his brothers and sisters not only in Stony Gut where he lived in the Parish of St. Thomas, but with all blacks across Jamaica, being aware of their struggles against the unfair system of injustice and oppression, demonstrated in the passage of laws and regulations geared at retarding the progress of the newly-emancipated blacks, being conscious of the reasonable desire on the part of the Black population for better social, livable and working conditions;

AND WHEREAS The Right Excellent Paul Bogle assumed a position of leadership among the peasantry of his community and Parish and engaged them in a series of actions aimed at peaceful resolution of the situation by such means as representations, discussions and, on one occasion, an arduous journey of forty-five miles from Stony Gut to Spanish Town to present the case of the poor Blacks to then Governor Eyre, in the hope that the Governor would grant them audience and by such deliberation transform their circumstances by the removal of the burdensome, inequitable poll tax;

AND WHEREAS The Right Excellent Paul Bogle, having been denied audience with the Governor, resolved to find other means to engage for better working and livable conditions, being aware of the entrenched nature of the forms of discrimination embedded in oppressive legislations and regulations and the concomitant social and economic injustices imposed and being willing to align his destiny and personal fortune with them and for the common good of all Black people across Jamaica;

AND WHEREAS The Right Excellent Paul Bogle, being convinced that an action that involved masses of people might present the credibility and force of their claim, convinced that such a mass protestation across the Parish, including in front of the Morant Bay Courthouse, may cause the authorities to respond more favourably, led a march of hundreds of protestors armed with sticks and machetes from Stony Gut to Morant Bay. Such actions resulted in incursions and skirmishes that erupted in the Morant Bay War of the Eleventh day of October One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-five, during which the Morant Bay Courthouse was burned to the ground, and several of the Black protesters as well as of the authorities killed, and for which Bogle was subsequently captured and hanged on the Twenty-third day of October One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-five;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed fitting for a day to be set aside to focus attention on the resilience, heroic stance and achievement of the said Right Excellent Paul Bogle;

AND WHEREAS there is at present no knowledge of the date of his birth, save that he was born and lived in Stony Gut in the Parish of St. Thomas;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed fitting that in lieu of his date of birth, that the most appropriate day on which to celebrate his achievements and solidify his memory in the minds of every Jamaican, including those not yet born, is the day in which his war for the dignity, integrity and better working and livable conditions of his people began, being the Eleventh day of October in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-five;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, the Honourable Olivia Grange, Member of the Order of Jamaica, Commander of the Order of Distinction, Member of Parliament, has hereby given notice of the intention that the Eleventh day of October, being the anniversary of the start of the so-called Morant Bay War, would be appropriate for such a purpose, but should not be a Public General Holiday.

NOW THEREFORE, I PATRICK LINTON ALLEN, Member of the Order of the Nation, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, Governor-General of Jamaica, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM and MAKE KNOWN that the Eleventh day of October shall be observed annually as “**Paul Bogle Day**”.

Given under my hand at King’s House, this Fourth day of October
in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-three.