

# MEDIA RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **MBJ's 5th Annual Charity Run Delivers Competitive Racing and \$30M for Education**

*Over 2,500 line up to power scholarships and grants islandwide*

**MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA - SEPTEMBER 11, 2025:** In a powerful demonstration of support for education, over two thousand, five hundred patrons lined up at the starting point of the fifth annual MBJ Charity 5K/10K Run/Walk to support the academic dreams of students across the country. The event drew its largest crowd and sponsorship ever, raising \$30 million dollars to fund grants and scholarships for students and community-based organisations islandwide.

In a thrilling display of athletic talent, Evans Tetteh of Jamaica College claimed the men's 10K title with an impressive time of 34:16, closely followed by Kemar Leslie of Rainforest Seafood (34:23) and Jomo-Rhys Gilman of Pureluv (35:36). In the women's 10K, Cecile Heinrich of Pacers claimed victory in 44:24, with teammate Dandie Williams finishing second in 45:44. Third place went to Arieta Martin of Rainforest Seafood (58:04).

The 5K race saw 28-year-old Garfield Gordon of UCT Steppas lead the men's field with a commanding time of 15:39 while 17-year-old Anieta Gutzmore of Rainforest Seafood dominated the women's 5K division, finishing in 22:21.

### **Outstanding Performances**

The event showcased Jamaica's emerging athletic talent, with young runners filling the podium across categories. In the men's 5K, 16-year-old Amponsah Dominic of Jamaica College secured second place (16:24), followed by 18-year-old Odane Davidson of Rainforest Seafood (16:51). The women's 5K saw equally impressive performances from teenagers Gizelle James, 16, of Papine High School (22:50) and Yasheka Bean, 15, also of Papine High School (23:43).

"Seeing our young people not only participating but excelling in events like this gives me tremendous hope for Jamaica's future," said Shane Munroe, Chief Executive Officer of MBJ Airports Limited. "These results demonstrate that when we invest in our youth through education and provide platforms for them to excel, they rise to the occasion."

### **Corporate Teams Unite for Education**

The record participation was driven by overwhelming support from corporate Jamaica. Rainforest Seafood emerged as the largest corporate participant with an impressive 161 team members, demonstrating exceptional commitment to the cause. Playa Hotel & Resorts (Hyatt Ziva, Jewel Grande, Dreams) followed with 131 participants, while GFS Team Mobay had 78 members participating.



MBJ Airports Limited - Sangster International Airport, Island Mailboxes, Suite 4000, Montego Bay, St. James, Jamaica.

Telephone: +1876 952-2712 / 3124 / 3133; Fax: +187 6971-9598; [www.mbjAirport.com](http://www.mbjAirport.com)

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## Celebrating All Ages and Building a Better Jamaica

The event also celebrated participation across all age groups, with remarkable performances from senior participants. Gerline Nelson, 85, completed the 5K run in 45:04, while Lawrence Watson, 76, finished in an impressive 29:39, inspiring participants of all ages.

In the walking categories, Paula Sinclair of UCT Steppas led the women's 5K walk (32:33), while Duwell Allen of Creation Foods Ltd. topped the men's division (26:39).

The strong and diverse participation reflects continued momentum in Jamaica's wellness movement, as well as support for worthy causes with corporate teams, families, and individual athletes across the country coming together for a common good.

"This event has evolved. It's now a celebration of being more active in support of a healthier lifestyle, while supporting the education of our young people," noted Munroe. "Every participant, from our youngest runners to our most senior walkers, contributed to building a stronger, better Jamaica through their commitment to this cause."

Grant applications for the expanded island-wide programme remain open until September 30, 2025, at <https://www.mbjairport.com/charity-run/walk>

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**Link to Photos:** [MBJ Charity Run Delivers Competitive Racing and \\$30M for Education](#)

### Captions:

**MBJ Charity Run 25 - 1:** Shane Munroe, Chief Executive Officer, MBJ Airports Ltd., pauses after the race for a quick photo op with Rozan Stewart (l) and Keo-Sann Stewart (r).

**MBJ Charity Run 25 - 2:** Evans Tetteh of Jamaica College, winner of the male 10K race

**MBJ Charity Run 25 - 3:** Cecile Heinrich of Pacers, winner of the female 10K race

**MBJ Charity Run 25 - 4:** Oldest run participants, 76-year-old Lawrence Watson (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and 85-year-old Gerline Nelson (2<sup>nd</sup> right) pause for a quick photo with Sharon Hislop-Holt, Manager, Commercial Business Development and Marketing (left) and Lecia Allen (r), Founder of Wings Kidz, after receiving their awards.

### Contact:

Sharon Hislop-Holt

Manager, Commercial Business Development and Marketing at MBJ Airports Limited

1876-564-7713

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### About Sangster International Airport:

Sangster International Airport (IATA: MBJ, ICAO: MKJS) is an international Airport located 3 mi (4.8 km) east of Montego Bay, Jamaica. The Airport is capable of handling nine million passengers per year. It serves as the most popular Airport for tourists visiting the north coast of Jamaica. The Airport is named after former Jamaican Prime Minister Sir Donald Sangster.



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## **About MBJ Airports:**

MBJ Airports Limited, the operator of Sangster International Airport, connects Jamaica to more than 60 international destinations. A record 5.267m passengers used the Airport in 2023. MBJ operates SIA under a 30-year concession awarded in 2003 and the Airport provides employment to more than 7,500 persons. SIA has been named the Caribbean's Leading Airport by World Travel Awards for 17 years.



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