

Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, says the Government is aware that advances in socio-economic conditions must be anchored to a foundation of macro-economic stability and economic growth.

“That is why we are moving apace with tax reform, public sector reform and pension reform. That is why we are making determined efforts to reduce our debt burden. We are committed to pursuing sound macro-economic policies, not as a condition imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but as the only way out of our economic underdevelopment,” she said in an address to the nation on January 6.

“We know that economic growth requires economic discipline and we are prepared to exercise that discipline in the interest of our people,” the Prime Minister added.

On foreign affairs, Mrs. Simpson Miller said the Government has been strategic and conscientious in rebuilding Jamaica’s international image.

“We have strengthened co-operation with emerging economies, such as Brazil, China, India and South Africa, while maintaining vibrant relationships with our partners in the developed world, including Russia. Our ‘Open Door and Good Neighbour’ foreign policy framework will continue to guide us in 2013 and beyond,” the Prime Minister said.