

[National Pride In Manchester](#)

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Photo Credit: Gregory Bennett

MANDEVILLE, Manchester — It had to be done in inclement weather, but the formalities here to usher in Jamaica’s fifty-five years as an independent nation, though having less-than-usual Independence celebration turnout, was not significantly dampened.



Miss Manchester Festival Queen 2017 Kayan Milwood (centre), her first runner-up Jay-Lee Morgan (left) and second runner-up Asha Chang at the Independence ceremony at the Cecil Charlton Park in Mandeville. (Photos: Gregory Bennett)

Messages of the progress and the road ahead as a nation, attire and decorations reflecting national pride made it evident that the spirit of the day was not forgotten.

With Usain Bolt's first race at his farewell World Championships still fresh, he was lauded at the function as an excellent sportsman, a legend and a metaphor for Jamaica, which is said to be a cultural “superpower”.

Residents also had the opportunity to celebrate Independence through other activities such as concerts.

Prior to Independence, the Emancipation commemoration was another cultural feast.

Mayor of Mandeville Donovan Mitchell used the customary Emancipation vigil on the grounds of the Mandeville courthouse to pass on the message that children should be encouraged to know their culture.

Here are photo highlights from the Independence Day Parade and flag raising ceremony and Emancipation Vigil in Mandeville.