



## BMA comes out against takeover of airport

**By Shanderia K. Posey**  
*Editor*

The Business Ministerial Alliance of Mississippi has added its voice against the state's attempt to takeover the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport.

BMA held a press conference in front of the state Capitol Jan. 15, and the Rev. Dwayne Pickett, pastor of New Jerusalem Church in Jackson, spoke on behalf of the organization.

"The Business Ministerial Alliance of Mississippi is deeply

concerned when it comes to the conflict between our state and city government surrounding the Jackson Evers International Airport. Officials from the state of Mississippi and the city of Jackson must work together to create a path ... where both entities gain economically and respect each other's right to survive, to exist, to prosper and grow for the well being of all of its citizens," Pickett said.

"Now we do recognize that the state has the authority to do what can be looked at as a

hostile takeover of the airport's governing authority. We are also aware that certain leaders desire to exercise legislative muscle to pass a bill that changes the Jackson Municipal Airport governing in our capital city and for that and for us that's a problem."

From several media reports the Hinds County Board of Supervisors, Jackson City Council, Jackson Mayor Tony



The Rev. Dwayne Pickett and members of the Business Ministerial Alliance of Mississippi held a press conference last week in opposition to the state taking control of the Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport. PHOTO BY SHANDERIA K. POSEY

**BMA**  
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## Eyes on the Prize



Journalist Juan Williams delivers the keynote address Jan. 15 during the 48th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Convocation at Jackson State University. Williams spoke about the contributions of civil rights activists and the impact of his celebrated historical book *Eyes on the Prize: American's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*, which was published in 1987. PHOTO BY CHARLES A. SMITH/JSU

### Williams reflects on book's impact on race relations

**The Mississippi Link Newswire**

With his eyes still on the prize and using reflections from his best-selling book of the same name, national journalist and author Juan Williams spoke rivetingly at the 48th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Convocation at Jackson State University Jan. 15, about historical events and people who shaped the country's civil rights

movement.

"I walk in faith, and I believe Dr. King is alive. I feel (him) everyday in my life," said the Emmy Award-winning political analyst for Fox News and contributor to numerous publications, including *The New York Times*.

Friday's event was sponsored by JSU's Margaret Walker Center and was a prelude to Monday's national

holiday celebrating the legacy of the martyred civil rights legend.

Williams – who has interviewed Presidents Barack Obama, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan – said his acclaimed *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965* continues to surprise him today because "people always come back to the book." He said,

"It's opened my mind to the idea of a talking book that's constantly in conversation – not just in my head – but conversation with the readers, conversation with current events and conversation in terms of ongoing racial controversies in our country."

**JSU**  
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## Legislators, community honor King at breakfast

**By Janice K. Neal-Vincent**  
*Contributing Writer*

Hinds County black legislators, corporate partners, and Jackson community service organizations began their day Jan. 18, in Greater Bethlehem Temple's family life center at the 24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast.

While breakfast was served, tables were decorated with JPS children's artworks, and the stage

was aligned with elected officials who demonstrated a consolidation of leadership and credibility as they reminisced about King, the Civil Rights Movement, present conditions and directions. The audience was filled with public officials, Jackson residents, and neighboring citizens who occasionally responded with applause, head nods and standing ovations.

At the outset Rep. Earle S. Banks

set the pace as presiding officer. Soon to follow was the Rev. Tim Curston who began one of three prayers of cultural diversity. Those present then fervently sang James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" that was backed up with "Dreamer's Litany" led by Jean C. Frazier, director of business development, marketing and communications.

Rep. Chris Bell, D-65, delivered the occasion. He explained that

King cried "for justice for a multicultural presence." That presence was met with a timeframe when Mayor Tony Yarber of Jackson issued a caveat in his greetings: "How long depends on all of us. It is dependent upon the people in this room...leave to serve compassionately."

Hinds County District Supervisor Peggy Hobson Calhoun stated that

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## Tougaloo celebrates King's life

**By Ayesha K. Mustafaa**  
*Contributing Writer*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday celebrations take on many forms each year reflective of the legacy he endowed. From a day of giving and working to improve the lives of the less fortunate, to assessing if his "dream" has been realized "for all of God's children."

At the historic Tougaloo College annual prayer breakfast commemorating the life of King, its theme "The Courage to Love: Social, Racial and Ethnic Harmony" was demonstrated with its audience and its multicultural, interracial and diverse interfaith presentations.

**Tougaloo**  
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Jackson Mayor Tony Yarber presents City Councilman Kenneth Stokes with the Eagle Award during the MLK awards banquet held on Jackson State's campus. PHOTO BY STEPHANIE R. JONES

## Locals awarded at MLK banquet

**By Stephanie R. Jones**  
*Contributing Writer*

Days of activities in Jackson celebrating the memory and birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. culminated Monday, with the 24th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. awards banquet recognizing people from Jackson and Mississippi whose achievements and service to community were in keeping with King's vision.

The event, organized by Jackson City Councilman Kenneth Stokes, was hosted by Jackson State University with Mayor Tony Yarber as the keynote speaker.

An overflow crowd filled the banquet room in the JSU Student Center ballroom for the event emceed by radio broadcaster Stan Branson of WKXI-107 FM.

Awards were handed out to more than 70 people

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