

TRANSFORMING AND BUILDING A NEW JAMAICA FOR ALL



ACHIEVEMENTS
2019



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Legacy Road Projects Completed

The Government completed major road infrastructure upgrades, which resulted in improved traffic flow and more comfortable and quicker travel time for commuters in the Corporate Area and other sections of the island.

- The National Works Agency (NWA) spent just over \$5.1 billion to complete legacy road infrastructure upgrading projects, aimed at improving traffic flow in the Corporate Area and Westmoreland.

These developments were the US\$56-million Hagley Park Road Improvement Project, the US\$1.1-million Barbican Road Upgrade Project, US\$19-million Constant Spring Road Improvement Project, the US\$64-million Mandela Highway Realignment and Reconstruction Project, and the US\$24.9-million Ferris Cross to Mackfield Project.



Vehicles traversing the Mandela Highway in St. Catherine.

- A record of over 400 roads resurfaced and rehabilitated.
- Rehabilitation works were completed on the relocation of the Jamaica Defence Forces' (JDFs') entrance on Camp Road.
- The NWA spent \$5.89 billion through small and medium-sized contracts for roadworks, drainage features, retaining walls and bridges.
- Ground was broken to commence the US\$195-million Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project (SCHIP). The undertaking will entail the rehabilitation of approximately 110 kilometres of roadway



Vehicles travel along a section of the upgraded South Camp Road.

between Harbour View in St. Andrew and Port Antonio in Portland, and the 26-kilometre thoroughfare from Morant Bay to Cedar Valley in St. Thomas.

The project will also include construction of the May Pen to Williamsfield segment of Highway 2000.

The project will be executed by China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC).

- South Coast Highway Improvement from Harbour View to Port Antonio and extension of the East West Highway from May Pen to Williamsfield.
- Over 12 major bridges repaired or currently under construction.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (3rd left) walks across the new Chesterfield Bridge in St. Mary along with (from left) Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Audrey Sewell; Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Works, Everald Warmington; and Member of Parliament, St. Mary South Eastern, Dr. Norman Dunn. In the second row between the Prime Minister and Dr. Dunn is Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) views the newly rehabilitated Georges River Bridge in East Rural St. Andrew. Also looking on are: Member of Parliament for the constituency, the Most Hon. Juliet Holness (centre), and National Works Agency (NWA) Communication and Customer Services Manager, Stephen Shaw.

Thousands of Youth Empowered

Thousands of young people were empowered through skills training and work placement opportunities.

- Over 25,000 young people trained through Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE). Over 3,000 trained through Jamaica National Service Corps under the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF).
- 16,000 youth received summer work under the Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme.
- Merger of HEART Trust, Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning (JFLL), National Youth Service (NYS) and the Apprenticeship Board to create a comprehensive and effective human capital development agency, the HEART Trust National Service and Training Agency.
- Three memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were signed by the Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica (CCCJ) and



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) stands with the 48 recipients of the Prime Minister's Youth Awards for Excellence, at the awards ceremony on the lawns of Jamaica House. Also sharing in the moment are Minister with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda (10th left) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Alando Terrelonge (10th right).

Jamaica Producers Group, Bureau of Standards Jamaica and GraceKennedy Limited to provide young people with training and work experience. Areas of training included agribusiness, the creative industries, and health and tourism wellness.

- Windscreen wipers from communities in Kingston were exposed to sessions in

civics, conflict management, family life management and career development.

- 72 persons from 10 communities in St. James, St. Catherine and Kingston, were trained in air-condition installation and maintenance and certified under the Jamaica Social Investment Fund's (JSIF) Alternative

Livelihood Skills Programme (ALSP).

- 27 young people from the communities of Granville and Tucker in St. James received training in various skill under the JSIF's Behaviour Change Programme.
- The training, aimed at preparing the youth for the

world of work, focused on areas such as barbering, customer service, cosmetology, baking and soft furnishing, and included on-the-job training at hotels across western Jamaica.

- Recent graduates of the HEART Trust/NTA's National Apprenticeship Programme received job offers at the inaugural 'Get Hired' event hosted by the agency.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) observes Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme intern, Shenelle Adams (left), during a visit to the HEART GARMEX Training Institute. Looking on is National Coordinator of the HOPE Programme, Lt. Col. Martin Rickman.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) and President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ), Professor Gordon Shirley (2nd left), observe Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme interns, Shemar Brown (left) and Rasheed Thompson (2nd right) under the guidance of facilitator, Leon Grant (right), during a visit to the PAJ's Newport East Facility.

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Morant Bay Urban Centre Under Way

- Ground was broken to begin construction of the new Morant Bay Urban Centre in Springfield, St. Thomas.

The 365,000 square feet property will house the St. Thomas Municipal Corporation; a town hall; conference centre; justice square, which will include a family court and parish court; tax office; Registrar General's Department (RGD); and the Passport, Citizenship & Immigration Agency (PICA).

Also included in the plan are spaces for financial institutions; food court; library; medical centre; wellness centre; day care; space for tertiary-level institutions; shopping facilities; purpose-built manufacturing and industrial space for small, medium and large enterprises; museum; recreational park; and a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) facility. The development, being implemented by the Factories Corporation of Jamaica (FCJ), is expected to provide approximately 3,000 jobs for the people of St. Thomas.

Continued Improvement in Service Delivery

- A Service Excellence Policy was developed that sets out the core principles, values, standards, strategies, and accountability mechanism to promote and institutionalise service excellence across government.

The policy falls under the Service Excellence Programme, a component of the Public Sector Transformation and Modernisation Programme.

- The Cabinet Office handed over framed



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) greets residents of St. Thomas during the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new Morant Bay Urban Centre at Springfield in the parish.



Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Mike Henry (2nd right) looks at the plan for construction of the new Barnett Street Fire Station in Montego Bay, following the ground breaking ceremony. Also examining the plan (from left) are Custos Rotulorum of St. James, Bishop the Hon. Conrad Pitkin; Managing Director of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Omar Sweeney; Senior Director of the Parochial Revenue Fund in the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, Rupert Pryce; Mayor of Montego Bay and Chairman of the St. James Municipal Corporation, Councillor Homer Davis; and Managing Director of Pave-Con Limited, Bryan Ingleton.

copies of vision and mission statements to various ministries, departments and agencies throughout the year in a bid to modernise and revamp customer service delivery in public institutions.

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JSIF Constructs School

- JSIF constructed an infant department at the Barrett Town Primary School in St. James at a cost of \$34 million, through funding by the European Union (EU) under its Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP IV). JSIF also renovated the school's kitchen.

Bringing Hope to Fire Victims

- Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness handed over keys to residents of 194 Bay Farm Road in St. Andrew, who were dislocated after a fire destroyed their home and resulted in the death of a one-year-old boy. The five-bedroom structure was reconstructed under the housing component of the HOPE Programme.

Jamaica Exits IMF Programmes Following Successful Run

Jamaica successfully concluded programme arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in November, following a six-and-a-half-year engagement. This, incorporated the US\$932 million Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and US\$1.7-billion precautionary Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).

The IMF is maintaining its country office for another two years to provide technical and consultative support for the Economic Reform Programme (ERP), which recorded several positive outcomes during the year.

- Record fall in Jamaica's Debt to GDP to 93 per cent.
- Longest period of Consecutive Growth (19 quarters).
- Economic growth of 1.2 per cent for the first nine months of the calendar year, between January and September.
- Healthy Net International Reserves totalling more than US\$3 billion.
- An increase in Non-Borrowed Reserves at the Bank of Jamaica (BoJ) by more than US\$1 billion.
- Record low inflation ranging between 1.4 and 3.3 per cent up to October.
- Consumer Confidence at 179.9 points, and Business Confidence rounding out at 141.2 points up to September.
- Record low unemployment of 7.2 per cent.
- A 2.4 per cent increase in the number of persons employed to 1,254,400.
- Introduction of Special Procurement Incentives for medium and small enterprises.
- Reduction in Transfer Tax from five to two per cent.
- Removal of the Minimum Business Tax.

Contingency Fund

- A Natural Disaster Contingency Fund was established to preserve Jamaica's economic gains, with an initial \$2 billion being deposited.

Upgraded Global Ratings

- International agencies, Fitch, Standard and Poor's and Moody's upgraded Jamaica's rating from stable to positive.

EPOC

- The Economic Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC) will, through a memorandum of understanding, continue monitoring the reforms until the proposed independent Fiscal Council is established.

Multilateral Support

Jamaica continued to benefit from additional multilateral funding support.

- US\$15 million Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) loan to initiate the Skills Development for Global Services Project, aimed at building out the country's global services sector over the next four years.



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), in discussion with former International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission Chief for Jamaica, Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan, during a press conference at the Ministry.



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre), signs the memorandum of understanding extending the Economic Programme Oversight Committee's (EPOC) monitoring of the Economic Reform Programme (ERP). Also signing (from left) are Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) Governor, Richard Byles, and JMMB Group Chief Executive Officer, Keith Duncan, who is co-chair of EPOC.

- US\$5 million United States Agency for International Development (USAID) grant to bolster the country's resilience to natural disasters, in support of Jamaica's Disaster Risk Financing Strategy.
- US\$140 million World Bank loan to strengthen three key economic safeguards – building Jamaica's resilience against natural disaster risks; supporting human capital development; and

strengthening the social safety net for the society's most vulnerable.

Budget

- The 2019/20 Estimates of Expenditure, totalling \$803.24 billion, was tabled.

Bank of Jamaica

Several adjustments were made to the Central Bank's operations.

- The interest rate on deposit-taking institutions' overnight placements was lowered to 0.5 per cent.

- The cash reserve requirement was lowered to nine per cent, thereby releasing some \$16.8 billion to deposit-taking institutions for lending.

Foreign Exchange Global Code

- The BOJ piloted the signing of the Code by key finance stakeholders. It provides guidelines for all authorised foreign exchange trading entities, and promotes the integrity, transparency and effective functioning of the market.



Minister Finance and Public Service Minister, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Chief of Operations, Adrianna La Valley, shake hands after signing a US\$15 million IDB loan agreement to fund the Skills Development for Global Services Project. The initiative, being spearheaded by Jamaica Promotions Corporation, aims to buildout the country's global services sector over the next four years.

More Housing Solutions

More Jamaicans became homeowners as the Government continued meeting the growing demand for home solutions.

- A record of over 27,000 new housing starts between the National Housing Trust (NHT) and the Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ)
- The Prime Minister announced an increase in the loan limit for construction on NHT serviced lots.
- The NHT delivered 5,321 housing starts, serviced lots and housing solutions islandwide. These included the Spanish Ridge housing scheme in St. Catherine; Darliston Grove and Shrewsbury in Westmoreland, as well as the Winchester housing development in Green Island, Hanover.
- The NHT embarked on housing projects in part-

nership with private contractors. A total of nine projects were approved under the agency's Guaranteed Purchase Programme, an initiative through which the NHT agrees to purchase houses for its customers that are designed and constructed by private builders.

HAJ Delivers

- HAJ issued 434 titles to informal residents who have been regularised.
- The HAJ delivered 114 lots and 25 units; and broke ground in Grange Pen, St. James, to provide infrastructure to serve informal settlements comprising 535 households.
- Work began on 2,273 new HAJ housing solutions in two locations in St. Catherine – Shooter's Hill and Catherine Estates.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) breaks ground for the construction of 406 homes and serviced lots in Phase Two of the National Housing Trust's (NHT) Hummingbird Meadows project in Birds Hill, Clarendon. Also participating (from left) are Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Mike Henry; NHT Board Director, Doran Dixon; Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, Hon. Rudyard Spencer; and NHT Managing Director, Martin Miller.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) presents a St. Catherine family, with the key to their new home. Occasion was the handover of 37 solutions in the Spanish Ridge Housing Development.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) points to the model for the new Silver Sun Estates housing development in St. Catherine to Managing Director, WIHCON, Delroy Alcott (centre); and National Housing Trust (NHT) Managing Director, Martin Miller.

Significant Investments in Water Supply Systems

The Government continued to make significant investments to improve water supply systems islandwide.

- Over 50 water facilities rehabilitated.
- Major upgrades and replacements of water and sewer mains within the Corporate Area
- Reduced National Water Commission (NWC) water losses from over 60 per cent to about 40 per cent in the Corporate Area.
- A record \$800 million investment in rural water which brought water to thousands of Jamaicans who never had it in parishes including Clarendon, St. Elizabeth and St. Mary.
- NWC customers who were severely affected by drought conditions benefited from a debt write-off under a Bill Redemption system.
- \$630 million Essex Valley Water Supply Project in Junction, St. Elizabeth commissioned and more than 20,000 residents in 3,300 households are receiving potable piped water supplied by the NWC.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Parnell Charles Jr. (foreground), commissions into service a \$7 million rainwater harvesting system at the St. Catherine-based Enid Bennett High School. Looking on (from left) are Managing Director of the Water Resources Authority (WRA), Peter Clarke; teacher at the school, Kenneth McNeil; RWSL board member, Rhoda Crawford; Managing Director, Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL), Audley Thompson; and Regional Manager at the National Water Commission (NWC), Garwaine Johnson.

- Residents of several communities in West Rural St. Andrew are benefitting from the installation of a supply system in Golden Hill. The \$13 million project, undertaken by Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL) involved instal-

lation of a 60,000 gallon water storage tank.

- More than 150 residents of Bucknor and surrounding communities in Clarendon signed contracts to

become new customers of the NWC.

- More than 46 households in Section H in Norwood, St. James, received water in their pipes, following the

commissioning of a water supply system.

Rainwater Harvesting

- A \$7 million rainwater harvesting system was commissioned into service at the Enid Bennett High School in St. Catherine.
- The Rock Hall All-Age School in St. Andrew benefited from the commissioning into service of a \$9 million rainwater harvesting system.
- RWSL provided water solutions to the Garden Hill Primary School in St. Catherine.
- Rainwater harvesting systems, storage facilities, and a number of 400 gallon black tanks were also provided for residents of Gibraltore, St. Catherine with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
- The Government launched a water-monitoring initiative among primary and high school students to encourage the culture of water conservation.



A resident of Golden Hill in St. Andrew washes his face from the tap, during the commissioning of the water supply system to serve the area.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) turns on the main water valve to officially commission the Essex Valley Water Supply System in Junction, St. Elizabeth.

Advancing the Climate Change Agenda

- Jamaicans will be planting three million timber and ornamental trees over the next three years under a National Tree Planting Programme.

The initiative, being managed by the Forestry Department, will see 3,000 hectares of land planted with two million timber seedlings. The remaining one million timber and ornamental seedlings will be distributed to the public. This is part of the Government's strategic response to climate change.

Plastic Ban

- A ban on plastics came into effect on January 1. It prohibits the importation, manufacture, distribution of single-use plastic bags measuring 24" x 24" and smaller; the importation and manufacture of polystyrene foam products used in the food and beverage industry; and the importation and manufacture of plastic drinking straws.
- A plastic recycling pilot project was launched in

Rae Town, Kingston, to reduce the volume of waste entering the harbour.

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- The nation's capacity to access more climate finance was boosted with the formal launch of Jamaica's first Country Programme for engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) and student at the Jamaica House Basic School in St. Andrew, Zaire Quest (centre), plant a Jamaican Mahogany tree, at the launch of the National Tree Planting Programme. The initiative will result in the planting of three million trees over the next three years. Looking on is Chief Executive Officer at the Forestry Department and Conservator of Forests, Marilyn Headley.

- Contract signed for the design, supply and installation of a new S-Band Doppler Weather Radar in Jamaica. The radar is used to locate precipitation, calculate its motion, and estimate rain, hail and

others, and will significantly improve Jamaica's ability to accurately forecast extreme weather events.

- The WRA and the Meteorological Service signed an MoU to collaborate on sharing information to

mitigate climate change impacts.

- A contract was signed to facilitate conducting multi-hazard assessments of eight priority coastal areas across the island over two years.



Government Senator, Matthew Samuda (2nd left), examines reusable shopping bags provided by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) for public distribution. Former Programme Director, Vision 2030 Jamaica, Elizabeth Emanuel (2nd right), highlights the features. Looking on are Director General of the PIOJ, Dr. Wayne Henry (left); and Director of the Environmental and Conservation Division at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Anthony McKenzie.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz (left), examines one of the recycling bins that will be used to store plastic waste under the 'Red Stripe Circular Economy Project'. At right is the brewery's Managing Director, Luis Prata.

Protecting the Environment

Warning System

- An upgraded Rio Cobre Early Warning System (RCEWS) that will assist in the management of potential water-related disasters was launched.
- The Met Service developed a one-to-five-day forecast tool to predict the likely outbreak of bush fires in Jamaica.
- Major mitigation, sanitation, drain-cleaning and beautification programme undertaken at a cost of \$1.3 billion. The programme, being executed up to February 2020, is being implemented by the National Works Agency (NWA) and the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), with the Ministry of Health and Wellness providing guidance.
- An MoU was signed to undertake the removal of between 1.5 and two million

tyres from the Riverton City landfill.

New Look NLA

- The Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP) was merged with the National Land Agency (NLA). The merger is in keeping with the Government's Public Sector Rationalisation Programme, which seeks to streamline the services offered by public bodies through mergers, closures, privatisation or reintegration into the public sector.
- The NLA launched a queue management system and an Online Surveyor Search Request Service (OSSRS), which are aimed at enhancing customer service delivery.
- The NLA and the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) signed an MoU to facilitate hydrographic surveys of the seabed in the country's territorial waters.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz (2nd left), symbolically hands over a central processing unit (CPU) to Local Government and Community Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (2nd right). Occasion was the presentation of 33 desktop computers by the Meteorological Service of Jamaica to the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) for establishment of a Bush Fire Warning Index. Also participating are Director, Meteorological Service of Jamaica, Evan Thompson (left) and Commissioner of the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB), Stewart Beckford.



Prime Minister Holness (left) places a permanent marker in the designated protected area of the Cockpit Country in Trelawny. Observing are European Union Ambassador, Malgorzata Wasilewska (2nd left), and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Forestry Department, Marilyn Headley (right).

Security Forces Given More Resources to Fight Crime

The Government invested billions of dollars to enhance the capabilities of the security forces to fight crime as well as to improve systems and processes governing the sector.

Renovation and Refurbishing Facilities

- Project Rebuild, Overhaul and Construct (ROC) became operational, under which more than 200 facilities will be rebuilt, renovated and retrofitted at a cost of approximately \$5 billion.
- The newly rebuilt Shady Grove Police Station in St. Catherine was officially opened, and the Bog Walk Police Station is being rehabilitated, equipped and expanded at a cost of \$33.6 million.
- The JDF's new Lathbury Barracks officially opened at Up-Park Camp.
- The new Burke Barracks in Providence, St. James, was officially opened.
- Work began to upgrade the Carl Rattray Staff College in Runaway Bay, St. Ann.

- Work commenced on a \$200 million state-of-the-art autopsy suite to facilitate the efficient and effective operations of local forensic pathologists.

Boosting Operational Capacity

- The US Embassy handed over a new 37-foot Boston Whaler and a new 38-foot Secure All-around Flotation Equipped (SAFE) boat to the JDF.
- The anti-violence campaign dubbed 'Liv Gud' was launched.
- The Police Federation received eight buses from the Government.
- New bilateral security cooperation agreement signed with the United States (US) that will assist in the fight against transnational criminal activities.
- \$43.9 million injected to facilitate improvement of the coverage, range and distribution of data collected by the Jamaica Crime Observatory.

- Approximately 341 new police constables joined the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF); 146 new sol-

diers joined the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), while the Department of Correctional Services

(DCS) welcomed 144 new Correctional Officers and 23 Probation Aftercare Officers.



National Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (left), and Police Commissioner, Major General Antony Anderson, inspect some of the 80 new motorcycles acquired for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement Branch (PSTEB).



The newly-rebuilt Shady Grove Police Station in Lluidas Vale, St. Catherine.



The police force received the first set of purpose-built cars fitted with tracking devices and onboard computers (see inset).

Gains Under SOE

SOE were declared in St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Catherine and St. Andrew South Police Division to address the rise in crime.

St. James, Westmoreland and Hanover

- Tri-Parish area experienced an overall reduction in murders and shootings by 27 per cent (182 to 133) and 26 per cent (166 to 123), respectively, for April 30 to November 25.
- Murders and shootings declined by 23 per cent (173 to 133) and 28 per cent (172 to 123), respectively.

Clarendon and St. Catherine

- The bi-parish area experienced an overall reduction in murders and shootings by 56 per cent (101 to 44) and 57 per cent (75 to 32) respectively from September 5 to November 25.
- The rates of murders and shootings were collectively reduced when comparing the corresponding periods of 2018 by 36 per cent (from 69 to 44) and 40 per cent (from 53 to 32), respectively.

Cumulatively, murders and shootings in Clarendon were reduced by 55 per cent (29 to 13) and 56 per cent (16 to 7), respectively; and by 40 per cent in St. Catherine South (25 to 15) and 58 per cent (24 to 10), respectively.

St. Andrew South

- There was an overall reduction in murders by 18 per cent (77 to 63) and shootings by 31 per cent (83 to 57) for the period July 7 to November 26.
- A total of 2,044 persons were detained, 1,967 of whom were released.



Members of the security forces engaging with children in Kingston.

- There were 160 arrests and charges for various offences including breach of the Firearms Act (33), breach of the Dangerous Drugs Act (15), murder



Members of the security forces walk with children in a community in Kingston.

(11), shooting (12) and robbery (8). Twenty firearms and 274 rounds of ammunition have also been seized.

ZOSO Interventions Continue in Mount Salem

- National Works Agency continued road works in the community
- Design works completed for the Mount Salem Primary and Infant School.
- Rehabilitation works for the Mount Salem Police Station tendered.
- Mount Salem Economic Fair staged.
- Youth from the community participated in a six-week training programme as Event Management professionals.

Denham Town

- Rehabilitation of 3.05 km of roadway; installation of 6.99 km of new water pipelines in the community; upgrading of sewage and drainage systems; and installation of fire hydrants.
- Fourteen parents benefit from parenting development sessions.

Traffic Management

- New Radar System.
- More than 250,000 traffic tickets issued for breaches of the Road Traffic Act.
- Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement Branch (PSTEB) received 80 new motorcycles valued at \$100 million to improve mobility.
- 240,000 traffic tickets have been cleared, following software modification to the island's traffic ticket management system.
- The electronic warrant module developed to address traffic violations was piloted in four courts.

Enhanced Rehabilitation

Department of Correctional Services (DCS)

- The Howard Pre-release Hostel, which will house qualified, low-risk inmates was reopened.
- Young persons at South Camp Juvenile Correctional and Remand Centre benefited from a six-week empowerment summer programme.
- Scores of young people in remand centres and State-care facilities benefited from training and apprenticeship under the 'A New Path' programme.
- Ground was broken for the construction of the US\$300,000 multipurpose building at the South Camp Juvenile Correctional and Remand Centre to provide additional educational, vocational and recreational activities for the wards.



Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, Hon. Rudyard Spencer (centre), engages with male wards at the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre in Spanish Town, St. Catherine, during sports and fun day at the facility.

Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP) III

- 284 parents and 22 community parent trainers graduated from the CSJP

III parent education programme.

- More than 100 persons from vulnerable communities successfully completed substance misuse

treatment under CSJP III.

- More than \$85 million put into the rehabilitation and expansion of the Gayle Multi-purpose Centre in St Mary.

- \$9 million was provided to support activities in the summer for more than 800 youth.
- 91 unattached young people from communities in Kingston and St. James benefitted from skills training under a \$50 million Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP).

Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA)

- PICA began automating its citizenship application process for greater efficiency.
- The number of automated kiosks at the Sangster International Airport increased to 30.
- 77 foreign nationals living in Jamaica granted citizenship.
- The 'I Am Jamaican' citizenship campaign was launched in New York.



Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (2nd left), plays a game of dominoes with community members, following the launch of the Ministry's anti-violence campaign, dubbed, 'Liv Gud', at Roxborough Avenue, Top Range, Mountain View in Kingston. Observing (3rd left) is Minister of Science, Energy and Technology and Member of Parliament for Eastern St. Andrew, Hon. Fayval Williams.



National Security Minister, Hon. Horace Chang (left), presents newly sworn-in Jamaican citizen, Jeremy Hoaxiang Zheng, with a certificate formalising his status during the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency's (PICA) citizenship oath ceremony in February. Jeremy was one of 33 foreign nationals living in Jamaica who were granted citizenship at the event.

Billions Allocated Under PATH

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security continued to provide support to the most vulnerable in society through the implementation of several programmes throughout the year.

PATH:

- \$8.3 billion was allocated in the 2019/20 fiscal year for the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) to facilitate cash benefits.
- An allocation of \$562 million is included in the Budget to support retention of the PATH back-to-school grant, which was first introduced in August 2018.
- A sum of \$347 million, representing a seven per cent increase, was made available to facilitate expansion of the PATH School Feeding Programme to beneficiaries at the early childhood level.
- An additional \$200 million was provided under the Examination Fees Assistance Programme to support payment for four more subjects for PATH students sitting Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations.

Increase in NIS and Support for Special Needs and Elderly

- The National Insurance Contribution Rate increased from five per cent to 5.5 per cent effective April 1, 2019.
- Eighty special needs children received assistive aids, such as specialised wheelchairs, hearing aids and walkers. This was done in partnership with the World Bank and the Japanese Embassy.

Labour Division:

- The 'Labour Department and You' islandwide road-shows continued to increase the visibility and awareness of the programmes and services of the Labour Division.
- An MoU was signed with The Mico University College to better disseminate labour market intelligence, increase career development and populate the Skills Bank with certified persons.
- An enhanced website and mobile application was launched to enable ease of access to the services offered by the Labour Market Information System (LMIS) as well as facilitate effective navigation of the website.
- More than 16,000 persons went on the Overseas Work Programme.
- National Minimum Wage Advisory Commission held public consultations across the island.

New Office Opened

- The Ministry opened a new office in Hanover. The 4,000-square-foot facility, located at Bustamante Square in Lucea, was purchased at a cost of \$92 million, with an additional \$20 million spent to complete refurbishing works.

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Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson (left), gives a supporting hand to young David Forrest as he tries out his new special needs walker, at the Early Stimulation Programme's offices in downtown Kingston. Looking on in the background is Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of Japan, Shinichi Yamanaka.



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson (right), presents mother of five, Sara Lemonious, with a Back-to-School grant under the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH).



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson (right), and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Zavia Mayne (centre), converse with farmworkers who took up employment opportunities in Canada under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP).

Robust Growth in Tourism

The tourism industry continued to generate robust exponential growth with yet another record-breaking year.

Visitor Arrivals and Earnings

- The island welcomed approximately 4.3 million visitors.
- Earnings totalled some US\$3.7 billion
- New Cruise Shipping Terminal at Port Royal and the Redevelopment of Port Royal began.

Market/Airlift Expansion

- Thousands of additional airline seats were negotiated for the 2019/20 Winter Season, which served to expand traditional markets, while building out new locations.
- December saw LATAM Airlines inaugurating three weekly flights out of Chile and other South American countries to Montego Bay. This is in addition to 11 weekly flights that were already being offered by Copa Airlines between Panama and Jamaica.



Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, greets passengers arriving at Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay aboard an American Airlines flight from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, following the reintroduction of daily non-stop service between the destinations.

Human Capital Development

- The third cohort of 415 candidates graduated from the Jamaica Centre for Tourism Innovation (JCTI).
- Launch of the Tourism Workers Pension Fund.

Destination Assurance and Sustainability

- Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) spearheaded an intensive security audit of all hotels and attractions.
- Among the proposed outcomes is the development of a Manual on Tourism Ethics.



The mega cruiseship, 'MSC Meraviglia', which made its inaugural visit to Ocho Rios in December, and is slated to make port of calls up to April, bringing approximately 50,000 passengers.

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Building Resilience

- Jamaica and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) hosted the second Global Conference on 'Jobs and

Inclusive Growth: Small and Medium Tourism Enterprises (SMTEs)'.

- The Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) was officially launched in January.

Based at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, the Centre is tasked with creating, producing and generating toolkits, guidelines and policies to handle recovery processes following man-made and natural disasters that affect tourism and threaten economies and livelihoods.

- The Ministry hosted the second Tourism Resilience Summit of the Americas to further examine and explore the experiences, best practices and lessons learnt from tourism climatic resilience initiatives around the world.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (left), engages with participants in the Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee Festival Vol-unteer Training Programme, during an awards ceremony at the University of Technology (UTech) in St. Andrew.

Investment Boom

Foreign Investments

- The industry continued to attract significant investor interest from leading global hotel brands, with the out-turn for Foreign Direct Investments for the year poised to climb to a record US\$470 million, up from US\$100 million.

More Rooms, Enhanced Attractions

Hotel Rooms

- Some 1,004 new or refurbished rooms were added to Jamaica's stock:
 - R Hotel in Kingston – 58
 - AC Marriott in Kingston – 220
 - S Hotel in Montego Bay – 124
 - Half Moon Hotel in Montego Bay – 57
 - Ocean Coral Spring by H10 Hotels in Trelawny – 500
 - Riu Ocho Rios - 45 Artisan Village

Beach Development

- Ground was broken for the development of the \$1.3 billion state-of-the-art Closed Harbour Beach Park in Montego Bay.



The new state-of-the-art water park at RIU Ocho Rios.

- The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) has contributed \$700 million towards funding this major 16-acre development, being undertaken in partnership with the Urban Development Corporation (UDC).

'Carnival in Jamaica'

- Last year's carnival saw a record 8.4 per cent increase in the number of visitors participating, as some 50,000 revellers took to the streets of Kingston.

Housing

- Ground was broken to construct more than 754 affordable housing units in the Rhyne Park area of St. James for tourism workers. The project is a joint venture between the Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ) and the China-based firm, Henan Fifth Construction Group.

(UNWTO) Regional Commission for the Americas for the 2019-2021 biennium.

International Awards

- Minister Bartlett copped the inaugural Chairman's Award for Global Tourism Innovation.
- The Jamaica Tourist Board won the Best Tourist Board in the Caribbean award.
- Jamaica won the Best Wedding Destination, Best Honeymoon Destination and Best Culinary Destination Awards.

Global Impact

UNWTO Commission

- Jamaica was elected Chair of the United Nations World Tourism Organization's

- Minister Bartlett was awarded the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) Tourism Minister of the Year for Sustainable Tourism.
- Jamaica copped the PATWA International Travel Award for Destination of the Year.

TripAdvisor

- Jamaica was listed in renowned travel website – TripAdvisor's Top 25 Best Destinations in the World for 2019. The island was ranked 14th on the TripAdvisor® Travellers' Choice™ Awards' 'World's Best Destinations', and the Best Destination in the Caribbean lists.
- Negril's Seven-Mile Beach was named the 10th Best Beach in the World and the Fifth Best Beach in TripAdvisor® Travellers' Choice™ Awards' for Beaches.

RJRGleaner Award

- The Tourism Minister was also awarded the RJR-Gleaner Hospitality Jamaica 2019 Pioneer Award.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) breaks ground for the construction of 754 housing solutions at Rhyne Park Estate in Rose Hall, St. James for tourism workers. Others (from left) are: General Manager of Henan Fifth Construction Group Company Ltd, Baoguo Chen; Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Parnell Charles Jr.; Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett; and Chairman of the Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ), Norman Brown.



A section of the Terminal Building, Old Coal Wharf, Port Royal. A cruise port terminal is being developed at the historic town, creating a platform for a thriving cruise tourist destination.

Public Sector Transformation Programme Continues

Work continued under the Public Sector Transformation Programme:

- The Government signed two agreements with international consulting firm, Ernst and Young, for a compensation review and the introduction of shared corporate services in some areas of Government operations.
- Sixty workers from state entities were trained and certified as Change Managers to assist with the transformation process.
- Approximately \$1 billion in savings has, to date, been realised from the rationalisation of some 30 public bodies.

These include the merger of the Fair Trading Commission and Consumer Affairs Commission; closure of the Correctional Services Production Company and integration of its operations into the Correctional Services Department; closure of National Energy Solutions (NESol) and integration of

that entity's functions into the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology; and the integration of the Golden Age Home into the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development.

Medium-Term Socio-economic Policy

- Cabinet approved the Fourth Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF), which underpins implementation of the country's long-term National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica;
- The fourth MTF covers fiscal years 2018/19 to 2020/21, and presents the medium-term development priorities, strategies and actions to be pursued under each of Vision 2030 Jamaica's 15 targeted National Outcomes.

Education

- Some 250 students from 30 tertiary institutions islandwide have benefited from education grants



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (2nd left), and Country Managing Partner, Ernst & Young Jamaica, Kayann Sudlow (centre), display signed agreements for the consultancy firm's execution of a Public Sector compensation review and introduction of shared corporate services in some areas of Government. Others (from left) are Financial Secretary, Darlene Morrison; Executive Director, Ernst & Young Jamaica, Barry Eligon; and Jamaica Civil Service Association President, O'Neil Grant.

from the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission, totalling more than \$50 million, over a five-year period, up to 2019.

- The Commission also facilitated 72 students under

its annual internship programme last year.

Students' Loan Bureau

- The new 11-member Board, which was appointed in December 2018, assumed office in January. Chairman is Nicholas Scott, with Sandra Glasgow serving as Deputy Chair.

Public Sector Debate Competition

- The Trelawny Municipal Corporation won the inaugural Public Sector Debate Competition, defeating the Ministry of National Security in the finals.



Finance and the Public Service Minister, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (2nd left), indicates his readiness for the second annual Civil Service Week (CSW) 5K Walk/Run, at Emancipation Park. The event formed part of activities organised by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to mark CSW 2019, under the theme, 'Building and Sustaining a Culture of Excellence'. Others (from left) are: Race Director and Head of Running Events Jamaica, Alfred Francis; Chief Executive Officer for the event's main sponsor, First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union Limited (FHCCU), Roxann Linton; and Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA) President, O'Neil Grant.



Members of the Trelawny Municipal Corporation debate team (from left): Garcia McLean; Marlet Wellington; Ricardo Williams; Captain, Shakera Williams and Tamicka Malcolm, with the Champions Trophy, after winning the finals of the Public Sector Debate Competition at the Jamaica Conference Centre. With them are Co-Chairman of the Public Sector Transformation Oversight Committee, Danny Roberts (2nd right), and Executive Director of the Transformation and Implementation Unit (TIU), Maria Thompson Walters.

Initiatives to Improve Safety on Roadways

The Ministry of Transport and Mining continued to implement initiatives to improve road safety.

New features to be placed on a driver's licence

- The Ministry announced that it will be introducing new security features on the driver's licence to eliminate fraud.

These new security features will be facilitated under the Regulations of the new Road Traffic Act.

Hundreds of surveillance cameras installed islandwide

- Hundreds of cameras were installed across the island, to help reduce traffic violations.

Approximately 490 traffic cameras were installed across Kingston, 80 in Ocho Rios, 120 in Montego Bay, 38 in May Pen and 30 in Mandeville. These state-of-the-art systems have licence-plate-reading technology and are geared towards recording vehicles involved in traffic offences.



Vehicles traversing the Mandela Highway in Kingston. Inset– Transport and Mining Minister, Hon. Robert Montague (left), displays the home screen for the 'Drive Safe' app. At right is Managing Director of the Transport Authority, Cecil Morgan.

Online Training for PPV Drivers and Conductors

- Agreement signed for online training of drivers and conductors to receive training in the use of the road code, defensive driving and customer service.
- Agreement signed to offer training to applicants of learner's licences, who, as of January 24, 2020, will

be required to pass a road code test in order to receive the permit.

Government Hands Over Management of NMIA

- The management of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) was officially handed over by the Government to PAC Kingston Airport Limited (PACKAL).

JB I Provides \$4.8 Million in Scholarships

- The Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) granted \$4.8 million in scholarships to eight students attending the Portland-based College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE).

(GDP), while earning some US\$1.3 billion.

- Some 90 exploratory licences granted for semi-precious minerals such as cobalt, copper, gold, silver and zinc.
- The Government heightened discussions with private-sector interests to develop a limestone production facility to boost export and to provide services to refineries.

Minerals Sector Contributes to GDP

- The minerals sector contributed some 2.7 per cent to Gross Domestic Product



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd right) cuts the ribbon to officially reopen the upgraded Kingston Air Traffic Control Centre (KATCC), at the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) headquarters in St. Andrew. He is assisted by Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague (2nd left). Looking on (from left) are Vice President of Sales for French company, Thales, Frédérique Miller; and Director General, JCAA, Nari Williams-Singh.



Minister Robert Montague, boards a Jam Airlink Express plane, at the launch of the entity's domestic flight service, at the Ian Fleming International Airport in Boscobel, St. Mary.

Closer Trade and Investment Ties Forged

Closer trade and investment ties were forged, through several engagements at the ministerial and prime ministerial levels, which served to raise Jamaica's profile globally.

Bilateral, Regional and Hemispheric Developments

- The Prime Minister met with Heads of State and Governments of USA, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea on overseas visits.
- Jamaica welcomed the Presidents of Ghana and Kenya for an Official and State Visit, respectively, as well as the Vice-President of Costa Rica and high-level officials from Canada, China, the UK and USA.
- Bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed on matters of security; economic cooperation; infrastructure development; immigration; health; sports; culture and political consultations.

CARICOM

- Jamaica participated in CARICOM Heads of Government Summit as well as Meetings of the CARICOM Community Council and Council of Foreign Relations.

- Jamaica was elected Chair for the Council of National Representatives of the Special Fund from 2019-2020 and Vice Chair for the Budget and Administration Committee, 2019-2020.
- CARICOM-Third State bilateral meetings held with India, Cuba, Colombia, Ireland, Norway, Nordic Countries, US, Singapore, Canada, Korea and China.
- Jamaica hosted the 172nd Period of Sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in May. It was the first time that a Session was held in the Caribbean.

Multilateral Affairs

- Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness headed Jamaica's Delegation to the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York where he delivered the country's policy statement on the theme 'Galvanising multi-lateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion', which addressed, among other matters, financing for development.

Successful Candidatures

- Elected to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to serve from 2020-2023;



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (centre), is presented with the gavel symbolising the handing over of the Presidency of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) General Assembly by Mariusz-Orion Jedrysek of Poland, at the 25th Session at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston. At left is Secretary General, ISA, Michael Lodge.

- Re-elected to the Council of the International Sea Bed Authority (ISA).
- Re-election of Professor Verene Shepherd to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD);
- Re-election of Margarette May Macaulay to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Regional Trade Relations

- A two-year suspension of the Common External Tariff (CET) for imports of lithium-ion batteries until 30th April, 2021.
- An increase in the CET for imports of clinker and cement into Jamaica to its WTO bound rate of 50 per cent.

- A decision for the CARICOM Secretariat to conduct an independent verification of Jamaica's alleged capacity to supply 75 per cent or more of the regional demand for condensed and evaporated milk.

Diaspora

- The Eighth Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference was successfully convened with participation from hundreds of Jamaicans across the globe.
- The draft National Diaspora Policy was completed and endorsed.
- The framework was established and endorsed for the evolution of the Diaspora Advisory Board into the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC). The new Council is a fresh approach to engagement with diaspora communities and will be more inclusive of Jamaicans wherever they are across the world.
- The Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council was established to galvanise youth leaders in the Diaspora.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre), and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (left), are joined by youngsters in cutting a cake emblazoned with the Jamaican colours, during a meeting with members of the Jamaican community in Nairobi, Kenya.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, makes a presentation to President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, who paid a two-day working visit to the island.

Building a First Class Justice System

The Ministry of Justice continued to develop strategies to improve the delivery of justice and strengthen public trust and confidence in the system.

Infrastructural Developments

- More than \$772 million was allocated for capital development for the 2019/20 fiscal year.
- Justice centres were opened in St. Elizabeth and St. Andrew.
- Contract signed for the refurbishing of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) at a cost of more than \$626 million.

Making Justice Services More Accessible

- For the period January to October 2019, the Mobile Justice Unit visited 85 communities/locations. The Unit registered/encountered 1,002 persons of which 896 of whom requested legal services.
- The Legal Aid Council (LAC) launched its first

official website to increase citizens' access to information and services provided by the Council.

- The Legislative Production Management System (LPMS) was introduced. The LPMS is an efficiency boosting software that seeks to reduce the propensity for errors through the provision of defined workflows for legislative tasks.
- Memorandum of understanding signed with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), for the provision of a \$51 million grant to fund the unification of prosecutorial services and strengthen the overall operations of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).
- Child Diversion Programme stakeholders' sensitisation sessions were held.
- Phase three roll-out of Jamaica's justice reform programme, targeting implementation of the social order component.



Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck (2nd left), along with (from left) Director, Y.P. Seaton and Associates Company Limited, Calvert Mundle; Director of Public Prosecutions, Paula Llewellyn; and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Sancia Bennett Templer, share in a symbolic handshake at the signing of a contract valued at \$626,441,055 for the renovation and expansion of the Office of the Director of Prosecutions.

- Signing of Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Jamaican International Arbitration Centre Limited (JIACL) and Jamaica Chamber of Commerce to promote

the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) across all sectors of the economy.

Justices of the Peace

- 422 Justices of the Peace (JPs) were commissioned

for the period January to November 2019.

- 1326 JPs were trained between January and November.



Justice Minister, Hon. Delroy Chuck (left), presents newly commissioned Justice of the Peace (JP), Asharee Walker (centre), with her Instrument of Office during a swearing-in ceremony for 38 new JPs for St. Mary. At right is Custos Rotulorum for the parish, Errol Johnson.



Justice Minister, Hon. Delroy Chuck (right), looks on as Custos Rotulorum for St. Andrew, Hon. Dr. Patricia Dunwell (3rd left) and Minister Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, European Union (EU) Delegation to Jamaica, Fredrik Ekfeldt (2nd left), unveil the plaque dedicating the new St. Andrew Justice Centre. At left is Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Sancia Bennett Templer.

Boosting Agriculture

Various programmes and initiatives were spearheaded, geared at fostering growth in agricultural production, and stimulating the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Support for Farmers

- 5,000 farmers in St. Thomas, St. Mary and Portland are benefitting from a \$5.6 million project aimed at increasing their capacity to implement climate-smart agricultural practices.
- 300 farmers from Southfield and Bull Savannah in St. Elizabeth received drip irrigation tools and equipment valued at over \$69 million.
- 70,000 pineapple suckers were handed over to some 4,000 farmers in St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. James, Hanover, Trelawny and St. Ann under the

2019/2020 Production Incentive Programme.

- 50 farmers from Cascade in St. Ann are benefitting from improved access to irrigation, through a \$29-million community-based agricultural pilot project.
- Approximately \$50 million worth of relief supplies were handed over to 47 farmers in Flagman, St. Elizabeth, who suffered losses during a fire in August.

Farm Road Rehabilitation

- Several roads islandwide have been repaired under the National Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme. They include White Hall to Spring Road and Barking Lodge to Chapel Hill in St. Thomas; Long Coffee, and Halifax to Bethany in Manchester; Bingham Hill in St. Ann; Back Street, and Donegal to Frazer in St. Elizabeth; and Bois Content to Crawl Pass, and the Ebony Park Agro Park in Clarendon.



State Minister in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green (4th left), presents Leroy Gayle (centre), one of the farmers affected by fire in Flagman, St. Elizabeth, with irrigation hoses. Others (from left) are: Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Derron Spence; Principal Director, Field Services and Operations, Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Winston Simpson; Acting Principal Finance Officer in the Ministry, Ann-Marie Tomlinson; Chief Executive Officer, RADA, Peter Thompson; Chief Technical Director in the Ministry, Dr. Roy McNeil; RADA St. Elizabeth Parish Manager, Nathan Samuels; and farmer, Ian Dowell.



Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw (right), purchases produce from vendor, Keisha Scarlett, during the Jamaica Stock Exchange's (JSE) 'Market Meets the Market by the Sea' event at the waterfront, downtown Kingston.

Mangoes Exported to USA

- In June, 12,000 pounds of Julie and East Indian mangoes were exported to the United States – the first set to be shipped to that country in 20 years. The exports are being facilitated under the Mango Irradiation Programme.

Rationalisation of Sugar Cane Lands

- The report on this exercise was completed. The undertaking will see some lands being utilised to grow other crops, providing thereby providing new investment opportunities for farmers.

Castor Bean Cultivation

- The Government identified 2,000 acres of land in Mitchell Town, Clarendon, for increased castor bean cultivation. This is expected to significantly boost local production of castor oil.

Hemp Farm in Westmoreland

- In November, ground was broken for a 113-acre hemp farm in Lennox Bigwoods, Westmoreland.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, J.C. Hutchinson (right), serves breakfast, which he prepared, to student of Holland Primary School in St. Elizabeth, Janessa Clarke, during a Eat Jamaican School Tour at the institution.

Some 35 farmers from the area have already been employed to work on the farm, which is expected to yield its first harvest by March 2020.

CASE Students on Agriculture Scholarship

- Fifteen students from the Portland-based College

of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) began an 11-month agricultural training programme in Israel. The students, who will be in Israel until October 2020, are the first cohort to benefit under the scholarship programme.

Strengthening the Business Environment

INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

Electronic Business Registration Form

- The innovative Electronic Business Registration Form (eBRF) was launched in August to facilitate 24-hour online business registration from any location globally via the COJ's website – www.orcjamaica.com.

Jamaica Trade Information Portal

- This platform, which provides a single authoritative source relating to import-export regulations, requirements and processes, was launched.

MSME Digital Marketing Plan

- A three-year micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) Digital Marketing Plan launched, to strengthen and empower MSMEs with the requisite solutions. The Ministry signed a memorandum of understanding with Google partner Kolau, for collaboration on the digitisation of 25,000 MSMEs in three years.

Consumer Affairs Commission

The Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC) secured \$18.5 million in compensation and refund on behalf of aggrieved consumers between January and November 2019. This sum was recovered from 1,550 complaints, 1,279 of which were resolved, representing an 82.5 per cent resolution rate.

Global Services Sector Programme

- The Global Services Sector (GSS) programme was launched to help position Jamaica as a digital hub for business, and generate more employment in high-



Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw (right), looks at natural roots drinks, manufactured by D'TOS Woodland Roots and Natural Juices, with proprietor, Oliver Welsh.



Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw (right), cuts the ribbon to officially open Ibex's third location at the Courtleigh Building in New Kingston. From left are Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ibex, Bob Dechant; and Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) President, Diane Edwards.

end information technology (IT)-enabled services.

- Ground was broken for GTECH Park, a new business process outsourcing (BPO) complex in Portmore, St. Catherine, which will see the creation of up to 4,500 additional jobs for Jamaicans.
- Official opening of the Montego Bay Free Zone Company Limited's Data Entry Building Number 7 in St. James.

Bureau of Standards

- The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) launched Jamaican Standard (JS) ISO 14005:2017 – Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Guidelines. The standard provides guidance for all organisations, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), on the phased development, implementation and maintenance of an EMS within their entities.

Online Investment Guide

- Jamaica's first ever online investment guides (iGuides) was launched. The facility aims to provide investors with information at their fingertips that will help them in their decision to invest in Jamaica.

Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA)

- The CLA has issued 50 licences for activities such as cultivation, retail, processing, research and development, and transportation.

Export Max III

- 50 companies are benefiting from capacity-building and export promotion support under the Government's Export Max III programme, which rolled out in April.

Energy Sector Expanding

Several activities were undertaken to boost the energy sector; to allow persons and companies to invest more in renewables; and provide the opportunity for Jamaicans to own shares in Wigton Windfarm in Manchester.

Wigton Wind Farm

- Jamaicans purchased 11 billion shares in Wigton Wind Farm, Manchester, offered by the Government at 50 cents per share, at the initial public offering (IPO) on April 17.
- Of the 11 billion shares, some 2.2 billion were reserved for Public Sector workers. The IPO was oversubscribed by \$9 billion, and saw approximately 31,000 Jamaicans purchasing shares, resulting in 11,000 new investors joining the stock market.
- The wind farm, is generating 62.7 megawatts of power, resulting in the country not having to import 100,000 barrels of oil per year at a cost of more than US\$54 million. The projected annual output can provide power for more than 31,500 homes.
- Production of clean energy from the facility has enabled the country to avoid the emission of one million tons of carbon dioxide, thereby reducing the country's carbon footprint.
- Completed the Pilot of LNG buses.
- New 194 Mega Watt JPS LNG plant in Old Harbour commissioned.

Enhancing Energy Security

- Jamaica Energy Council re-established.
- 70 net billing licences were issued to power suppliers, bringing to 800, the total number of

licences approved since the arrangement started in 2012.

Petroleum Corporation Of Jamaica (PCJ)

- The Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) energy-saving programme was implemented in 15 schools and three Government agencies, with Ardenne High reporting \$700,000.00 in savings annually.
- A \$126.5-million contract was signed with Geddes Refrigeration Limited to instal air-conditioning solutions at three divisions of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) – Mobile Reserve Headquarters in Kingston; the May Pen Division Headquarters in Clarendon; and the National Police College at Twickenham Park in St. Catherine.
- More than \$3 million in cash and prizes were



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left), speaks with Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of New Fortress Energy, Wes Edens, at the official commissioning of the New Fortress Energy's Floating Storage and Regasification Terminal, just off the coast of Old Harbour Bay in St. Catherine.

awarded to the top performers in the 2019

PCJ Schools Energy Programme Competition.

Scientific Research Council (SRC)

- Donated biodigesters to Carron Hall High School, St. Mary. The waste treatment process will be used to teach students how to produce organic fertiliser and irrigation for crops, and create energy in the form of biogas, which will be utilised as fuel.
- Equipment was upgraded at a cost of approximately \$100 million, in an effort to assist with the reformulation efforts of manufacturers seeking to make their products healthier for consumers.
- SRC is now able to administer up to 14 tests on products, thereby enabling access to markets in 90 countries without the need for retesting.
- Invested SRC in acquiring the requisite advanced equipment to commence medical cannabis-related evaluations.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd left) observes as Chairman, Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, Russel Hadeed (left), inserts the strip signifying Wigton Windfarm's official listing on the Jamaica Stock Exchange. The listing ceremony took place at the Jamaica Stock Exchange in downtown Kingston. Also sharing in the moment are (from 3rd left) Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke; Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Fayval Williams; and General Manager, Wigton Windfarm, Earl Bennett.

Greater ICT Access

Post & Telecommunications Department

- Renovated three post offices in Kingston, Ocho Rios and Falmouth. The General Post Office (GPO), King Street, downtown Kingston, was also refurbished and reopened.
- Released the Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA) commemorative stamp to celebrate the Association's 100th anniversary.

Universal Service Fund

- Launched its seventh public Wi-Fi Hotspot at Emancipation Park in Kingston
- Hosted a graduation ceremony for 890 unattached youth, aged 18 to 35, who were trained under the Technology Advancement Programme (TAP) and placed at 45 institutions within the private and public sectors

to conduct digitisation or data collection.

- More than 600 participants were engaged in TAP.
- Community access point (CAP) established for students of the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (CCCC), which will provide Internet and other computer-related services.

Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT)

- Hosted a series of events during Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October, to sensitise the public on cyber safety. These included school tours, roadshows, a public safety and security symposium, a conference, a cybersecurity drill and workshops for law-enforcement personnel.

Spectrum Management Authority

- Instituted an online client payment portal to make it more convenient for clients to pay their fees.



Students accessing free Wi-Fi at Emancipation Park, provided by the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology.



Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Fayval Williams (left) Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (2nd left) Chief Executive Officer, Universal Service Fund (USF), Daniel Dawes, and Principal, Maverley Primary and Junior High School, Dorothy Taylor, cut the ribbon to officially open a new computer access point (CAP) at the school. More than 300 (CAPs) have been established across the island to give citizens easy access to Internet services.



Science, Energy and Technology Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams (centre), examines a robotic display at the opening ceremony of the Cuso International World of Tech Open Day at the Wolmer's Boys' School in Kingston. Looking on are Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Laurie Peters, and Robotics Instructor, Halls of Learning, Niles Sadler.

Heightened Focus on Wellness

The Government expanded its focus on wellness as part of a strategic effort to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and ensure the physical, mental and social well-being of Jamaicans. Priority is being given to preventive health care through enhanced health promotion and education.

Adding Wellness to the Ministry's Portfolio

- The name of the Ministry was changed to Ministry of Health and Wellness to reflect the new, strategic direction for public health in Jamaica.
- A Green Paper on a National Health Insurance Plan for Jamaica was tabled to provide appropriate levels of access, coverage and financial protection to the population.
- The \$50 million Research for Wellness Fund was launched to provide research funding for the conduct of studies in five areas: Wellness in the workplace; Wellness in Schools; Wellness in homes; Wellness in com-

munities; and Wellness among persons with NCDs and risk factors.

Mental Health

- More than 30 professionals were trained to boost mental health response.
- National public education campaign launched to reduce mental health stigma.
- 14 buses deployed island wide to bolster mental health interventions.

Combating NCDs

- Restrictions on sugary drinks in schools and health facilities took effect January 1.
- A Physical Activity Guide for persons with disabilities launched in collaboration with the Combined Disabilities Foundation.

Enhancing Healthcare Service Delivery

- The Enhancing Healthcare Service Delivery project was launched to reduce wait time for surgeries and diagnostic tests and address the bed space shortage within public hospitals.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Dr. Christopher Tufton, demonstrates his push-up exercise skills.



- Framework agreements were signed with 10 radiology diagnostic service providers through which thousands of Jamaicans will receive free services.
- Reduction in waiting times at DrugServe pharmacies.

Support for Infants and Mothers

- The Port Antonio Hospital in Portland, Lionel Town Hospital in Clarendon and Port Maria Hospital in St. Mary were certified as 'Baby-Friendly', based on the standards stipulated

by the World Health Organization.

- The National Infant and Young Child Feeding Network, an islandwide coordinated approach to providing support and care to mothers and children, was officially launched.



Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), and Country Representative, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mariko Kagoshima (3rd right), have a playful moment with seven-month-old Sherina Grant, at the National Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) certification ceremony and launch of the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Network. Looking on are Sherina's mother, Patrina Rowe (2nd right), and Food and Nutrition Advisor, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Audrey Morris.



Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), speaks with patients awaiting cataract surgery during the Bright Journey Eye Care Mission at the Kingston Public Hospital. At 2nd left is a member of the Chinese Bright Journey Eye Care Mission technical team, Dr. Xi Chen.

Upgrading Health Facilities

Infrastructure Projects

- Work continued on the \$3.5 billion renovation at the Cornwall Regional Hospital in St. James.
- The Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department at the Princess Margaret Hospital in St. Thomas was officially reopened following an extensive rehabilitation and expansion exercise.
- New elevators were installed at Princess Margaret, Spanish Town, and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals. Approximately \$200 million is being spent to install 14 new elevators at hospitals in the South East Regional Health Authority.
- Ground was broken for the building of the Western Children and Adolescent Hospital, a gift from the People's Republic of China.

- The Stony Hill Health Centre in St. Andrew was renovated, expanded and equipped at a cost of \$80 million.
- Black River Health Centre in St. Elizabeth was expanded and upgraded at a cost of \$13 million under the Reducing Waiting Time Initiative.

Adopt-A-Clinic Programme

- 19 clinics have been adopted.
- The donor commitments for the clinics total \$57.4 million over a three-year period, which is \$19.1 million per year.

Cancer Care

- University Hospital of the West Indies opened a \$78 million Mammography Unit.

Tackling the Dengue Virus

- The Enhanced Vector Control Programme was launched.
- \$1 billion earmarked to support enhanced measures to contain the spread of the dengue virus.
- Of the sum, \$469.9 million went towards procurement of 31 mounted fogging machines; 35 fogging vehicles; ultra-low volume flushing solutions; 25 handheld fogging machines; 150 cases of Natular tablets for water treatment; and continuing the engagement of 1,000 vector workers into March 2020.
- Approximately \$302.5 million was spent for solid waste removal, and \$227.5 million for sensitisation.

- New vehicles were acquired to enhance vector control
- Communities, schools, and drains were inspected and fogged.
- Some 6,000 notices were served on persons failing to destroy mosquito

breeding sites on their properties

Training of Nurses

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Government of the United Kingdom to train 13 critical care nurses, beginning June 2019.



Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), places his hand over the imaging platform of the new mammography machine at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), while Dr. Derria Cornwall explains the breast imaging process.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), adds Abate to a container of water while on a tour of the Aldyar community in Westmoreland. The Minister is aided by Larvicidal worker at the parish's health department, Etson Mellis.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton and (from left) Chief Executive Officer, National Health Fund, Everton Anderson; Board Chairman, South East Regional Health Authority, Wentworth Charles and Senior Medical Officer, Spanish Town Hospital, Dr. Jacqueline Wright James, cutting a ribbon before opening the newly installed elevator at the Spanish Town Hospital during a handing over ceremony.

Gov't Continues to Invest in Education

The Government continued its investment in education, with billions expended for the upgrading and expansion of school plants, and the provision of critical resources to enhance the environment for teaching and learning.

Infrastructure Improvement

- Increased maintenance grant for secondary level schools.
- 269 school canteens upgraded.
- Almost 7,000 pieces of furniture were repaired before the start of the new school year at a cost of \$19.65 million.
- Work has started on expansion and upgrading of several schools as part of efforts to eliminate the shift system. The institutions are:
 - Cedric Titus High
 - Exchange All-Age
 - Muschett High
 - Albert Town High
- Old Harbour High and Friendship Primary
- A \$35 million educational assessment and resource centre was built on the grounds of the Church Teachers' College in Mandeville.
- A fully equipped learning centre valued at \$10 million opened at Rock River Primary School in Clarendon.
- Campbell's Castle Primary School in South Manchester was rebuilt at a cost of more than \$51 million.
- A kitchen and canteen valued at \$14 million was constructed at the Middleton Primary School in St. Thomas.
- A special education unit was established at Chetolah Park Primary School in Hannah Town, Kingston at a cost of \$13 million.
- The National Education Trust (NET), in collaboration with the Embassy of



Minister with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information Ministry, Hon. Karl Samuda, interacts with students of St. Richard's Primary School, while participating in 'Read Across Jamaica Day' activities at the institution.

Japan, officially handed over two new classrooms and replaced windows at Fair Prospect Primary

School in Eastern Portland, at a cost of approximately \$11 million.

flash drive into their computers and uploading the software.

Primary Exit Profile (PEP)

- 41,617 primary school students sat the Primary Exit Profile (PEP) exam for the first time.

Curriculum Expansion

- The Western Hospitality Institute in Negril has benefited from grant funding of approximately \$10 million (US\$85,094.00) from the Government of Japan for the renovation and expansion of the facility.
- A rainwater harvesting system was installed at Iris Gelly Primary School in Kingston by the National Education Trust (NET) through funding under the Japanese Government's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Project.
- A new eLibrary project was launched in partnership with La Sierra University in California, enabling students to access thousands of current textbooks and more than 100 instructional videos, by plugging a free preloaded
- The curricula for community colleges were expanded to incorporate the Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Bachelor of Science in Social Work; Associate of Applied Science in Agro-Processing and Business Management; and Associate of Applied Science in Health and Wellness Tourism.
- The National School-Leaving Certificate Programme (NSLC) was introduced, under which students who successfully complete the secondary education programme will be awarded a certificate.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd right), is briefed on work being done by students of Penwood High School in St. Andrew, inside the institution's new state-of-the-art information and communications technology (ICT) centre, by Chairman, Gregory Pullen (3rd right), and Principal, Donna McLaren (right), during a tour of the facility which is equipped with 42 computers.

Childcare and Protection

- Seventy primary schools benefited from the expertise of some 130 teachers, who have been trained to detect and successfully correct learning challenges in students.
- The National College for Educational Leadership (NCEL) launched 'The Principal's Voice', a magazine that provides principals with practical, hands-on strategies to undertake improvements at their schools.
- Government awarded a 10-year contract, valued at £12.2 million, to City and Guilds International Limited for the testing and certification for grades 11, 12 and 13 students in Mathematics, English, Engineering and 16 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) occupational areas.
- Textbooks and appropriate electronic and other supplies were provided to support the National Standards Curriculum and other curricula for grades 1 to 13 at a cost of approximately \$817 million.

Teaching Council Bill

- Cabinet signed off on the draft Jamaica Teaching Council (JTC) Bill, which seeks to establish a governing body for the teaching profession and a licensing and registration regime for all Government-paid teachers.

Twinning of Schools

- Some 52 high schools are participating in the Twinning of Schools initiative, which aims to expose students to academic and extracurricular programmes that are not currently available at their own institutions.

Childcare and Protection

- \$23.5 million was spent to renovate the Home-stead Place of Safety in Stony Hill, St. Andrew, making life more comfortable for the 44 young girls who reside there.
- Just over \$1.2 billion was allocated to the Special Education Unit.
- Two Diagnostic Centres were opened for the assessment of students with special needs as well as providing short-term intervention.

Early Childhood

- The Care Bear Early Childhood Development Centre on Waltham Park Road, St. Andrew, was expanded through \$12 million in funding from the Government of Japan.
- The Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) launched Child Justice Guidelines Posters to equip justice sector stakeholders to deal with children coming in contact with the justice system.
- The Early Childhood Commission (ECC) launched the First 1000 Days app and an Early Childhood Parent Partners Directory.

PATH

- More than \$600 million was allocated to pay examination fees for high-school students who are on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH).
- Improved School Feeding from three to five days.
- 47 full-tuition scholarships valued at \$177.66 million per annum were provided to needy students, who started their Bachelor of Medicine,



Minister with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda (left), engages with students at the Savanna-Mar Inclusive Infant Academy in Westmoreland during a tour in October. Looking on are teachers, Dahlia Richards (seated) and Angella McKoy (right).



Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Alando Terrelonge, interacts with grade-six students of St. Aloysius Primary School in Kingston.



Auto Body Repair Instructor, Fitzgerald Thompson (left), conducts a class at the Trench Town Polytechnic College in Kingston.

Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degrees at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona.

Information Division

- Implementation of the Records and Information Management (RIM) Programme was advanced.
- The RIM Oversight Committee approved the RIM System Implementation Plan.
- Cabinet submission for the issuing of drafting instruction for new National Archives and Records Management Bill was drafted and is awaiting final comments from the Attorney General's Chamber.
- Terms of reference developed and finalised for the procurement of consultancy services to conduct strategic review of the Jamaica Archives and Records Department.
- Public Sector Data Collection and Information Sharing (DCIS) Policy finalised and is to be submitted to Cabinet.
- Draft terms of reference developed for the design and implementation of a DCIS Pilot between the Ministries of Education, Youth and Information, and Health and Wellness.
- Charter developed for DCIS Implementation Oversight Committee
- Introduction of an Electronic Content and Media Policy to provide an enabling environment for the sector.
- Draft Cabinet submission for amendments to the Broadcast and Radio Re-Diffusion Act developed.

Improved Services at the Local Level

Several major initiatives were undertaken to improve service delivery to citizens.

Notable were the upgrading of infirmaries, bolstering of the country's firefighting capacity, rehabilitation of parochial roads and the construction of water shops to ease water shortage.

POOR RELIEF DEPARTMENT

(Infirmaries, Indigent Housing)

- Over \$700 million is being spent by the Government to upgrade infirmaries and to expand social programmes at the facilities.
- The National Health Fund (NHF) donated 12 new autoclaves, valued at \$9.3 million, to infirmaries islandwide.
- Work commenced on a new \$40-million female ward at the Manchester Infirmary, while ground

was broken for the construction of a new \$45 million new male ward at the Portland Infirmary.

- The Ministry is spending \$16 million to build a new administrative office on the grounds of the infirmary in Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth.



Ninety-five year-old Nora Johnson (right) proudly displays the key to her new home, which was handed over to her by Local Government and Community Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (left), during a ceremony in Mendez District, Point Hill, St. Catherine.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (5th left), cuts the ribbon to officially open the Hanover Drop-in Centre on Miller's Drive in Lucea. Also sharing the occasion are (from left): Member of Parliament for Eastern Hanover, Dave Brown; Councillor of the Chester Castle Division, Fearon Decarish; Councillor of the Lucea Division, Easton Edwards; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, Marsha Henry Martin; Mayor of Lucea, Councillor Sheridan Samuels; Deputy Mayor of Lucea, Councillor Andria Dehaney Dinham; Chairman of the Poor Relief, Councillor Marvell Sewell; and Councillor of the Riverside Division, Daren Barnes. A new \$12 million centre was also opened in St. Elizabeth.

- \$1.2 million was allocated to the Trelawny Poor Relief Department to undertake repairs under the Indigent Housing Programme.
- Seven studio units were handed over to elderly indigent persons at Hatfield, Manchester; Lime Hall and Mile End in St. Ann; Palmer's Cross and St. John, in Clarendon; and Point Hill, St. Catherine.
- Staff members of the Poor Relief Department and Councillors in St. Elizabeth were presented with computer tablets. The Department also received new computers and a printer to complement the mobile devices.
- Education grants totalling \$1.5 million were provided to the Poor Relief Department of each Municipal Corporation in the 2019/2020 financial year by the Ministry.
- Ground was broken to construct a \$140-million adult transitional facility in Kingston.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (left), grooms the hair of an elderly resident of the St. Elizabeth Infirmary,



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right), guides wheelchair user Mr. Denroy Rowe, into his new studio unit at Hatfield in Manchester.

Boosting Resources

National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)

- The NSWMA received 12 compactor garbage trucks, valued at approximately US\$1.74 million, from the Government.
 - A Heads of Agreement was signed for wage increases to truck drivers over a four-year period (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2021) and deals with wages and allowances.
 - Western Parks and Markets (WPM) Waste Management Limited opened the Cambridge garbage holding area, in St. James.
- The initiative entailed the destruction of mosquito and rodent breeding sites, and preventing lots from being used as dumping sites.
- Western Parks and Markets received a donation of two pickup trucks from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), to bolster the agency's new enforcement programme.

Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB)

- 16 new fire units acquired.
- The Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) received equipment, valued at over \$30 million, from the United States Embassy in Kingston.
- The Montego Bay Fireboat Station in St. James was opened and two fire units and a fireboat were handed over.
- A total of 150 firefighters islandwide were trained in urban search and rescue, clearing of roadways, recovery of fatalities, and transportation of persons to medical facilities and shelters.
- 109 recruits graduated from the JFB's training programme.

- Contracts were signed to construct the \$217-million state-of-the-art Port Maria Fire Station in St. Mary and the \$109.49-million Yallahs Fire Station in St. Thomas.

Parochial Road Repairs

- The Trelawny Municipal Corporation received \$25 million to rehabilitate roads across the parish.
- St. Ann Municipal Corporation received an additional \$30 million for road projects.

Water Shops Opened

- The Top Hill facility in St. Elizabeth was built at a cost of \$8.9 million and will serve more than 1,500 residents.
- The Retirement District Water Shop, also in St. Elizabeth, was built at a cost of \$9.7 million and will benefit approximately 3,000 residents.
- A \$9.5-million water shop was opened in Central Manchester, which will serve residents of Bellefield, Banana Ground, Blue Mountain, Bombay, Virginia, Top Bellefield, Davyton and Coffee Grove.

Municipal Corporations

- The Youth Summer Employment Programme (YSEP) was expanded to include approximately 4,000 additional persons.
- 400 small entrepreneurs in St. James received grants totalling \$10 million through the St. James Municipal Corporation's Local Economic Development (LED) Programme.
- Sidewalk restoration and improvement continued under the St. James Municipal Corporation's



Local Government and Community Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right), in conversation with Executive Director of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), Audley Gordon (centre), and Deputy Chairman of the NSWMA, Linley Reynolds. Occasion was the handover ceremony for 11 compactor garbage trucks (in background) to the NSWMA.



Top Hill resident, Marilyn Thomas, drinks from the tap at the water shop constructed in the community.

\$100-million rehabilitation project.

- \$8.5 million allocated to councillors of the St. James Municipal Corporation to assist with vector control in their divisions.

Social Development Commission (SDC)

- The Social Development Commission (SDC) provided grants totalling \$1.1 million to 22 small entrepreneurs and micro-businesses in St. James.

Other Projects

- Residents of Ginger House and surrounding areas of Portland now have easier access to their communities, following the installation of a new swing bridge at a cost of \$7.1 million.

Strides Made in Gender Equality

Jamaica continues to make major gains in empowering women and girls and to help men and boys become positive role models in the society.

- Three shelters are being prepared to accommodate abused.
- The Sexual Harassment Bill was tabled in the House of Representatives.
- Young Fathers Jamaica implemented to assist adolescent fathers to become outstanding dad.
- #MentorMe2020 programme launched, which will target at-risk young men.
- Gender Ambassadors Programme (GAP) developed to raise awareness and facilitate activism on gender issues in schools.
- 67 sensitisation sessions held on gender-based violence, men and masculinity, and gender mainstreaming.
- More than 780 girls were registered in the Women's Centre Jamaica Foundation's Programme for Adolescent Mothers

between April and September.

- More than 255 were reintegrated into the formal high/secondary-school system, and approximately 103 were placed into other institutions of learning.

Athletes Excel

- Jamaica secured 12 medals, including three gold, at the IAAF World Athletic Championships in Doha, placing third on the medal table behind the United States and Kenya.
- The Reggae Girlz created history when they competed in the FIFA Women's World Cup in France.
- The statue of sprinter, Veronica Campbell-Brown, was unveiled at the National Stadium.
- Cabinet approved a contract for \$71.5 million to replace the Stadium East running track in Kingston.
- Members of the Independent Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel were appointed in keeping with the Anti-Doping in Sport Act and the World Anti-Doping Code.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right); Olympic sprint champion Veronica Campbell-Brown and her daughter, Avianna (2nd right); Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (3rd left); and Omar Brown, husband of Veronica (2nd left), participate in the unveiling of the statue in honour of Mrs. Campbell-Brown, at the National Stadium in October. Looking on is the sculptor, Basil Watson.



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, delivers Jamaica statement at the 40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris, France.



Reggae Girlz captain, Khadija Shaw (centre), in action at the Concacaf Women's Olympic qualifying game at the National Stadium. Jamaica's senior women's football team defeated Barbados 7-0.

Celebrating Our Culture

CULTURE

- The hip strip in Montego Bay, St James, was renamed Jimmy Cliff Boulevard in honour of Reggae icon, Jimmy Cliff.
- Gordon Town Square was renamed in honour of Louise Bennett-Coverley, affectionately called “Miss Lou,” as part of activities to celebrate the centenary anniversary of the birth of the late cultural icon.
- As part of the centenary, the Ministry declared 100 days of celebration in Jamaica and the Diaspora commencing September 1.
- The 25th film in the James Bond series was shot in Jamaica.
- Ms. Grange led a large delegation of performers, fashion designers and theatre groups to CARIFESTA XIV in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Jamaica elected as a Vice-President of the 40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Entertainment

- Work commenced to build out Fort Rocky, outside Port Royal, as Jamaica’s first designated Entertainment Zone.
- Other locations were identified in Negril, Trelawny and Portmore where facilities will be built to host entertainment.

Labour Day

- Thousands of Jamaicans repaired and beautified schools and community facilities for Labour Day.
- Signage and pedestrian crossings were installed at Holland Primary School in St. Elizabeth; Fair Prospect Primary in Portland; and Barrett Town All-Age and John Rollins Primary in St. James, which were the national projects.



Hundreds of Jamaicans converged at the National Stadium for the annual Grand Gala.

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Minister Grange (left) congratulates Reggae legend, Rita Marley after she received the Special Emperor of Reggae and World Music Award, which was posthumously bestowed on late husband and globally acknowledged King of Reggae, Robert Nesta ‘Bob’ Marley. The award was presented during the 37th International Reggae and World Music Awards (IRAWMA) ceremony in Kingston.

Houses of Parliament Approved Laws to Advance Agendas

Several pieces of legislation were approved by the Houses of Parliament to advance the country's social, security and economic agendas.

Bills passed in the Houses of Parliament

1. The Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Act 2019
2. The Compulsory Acquisition (Shares in Petrojam Limited) Act, 2019
3. The Information and Communications Technology Authority Act, 2019
4. Protection of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Amendment) Act, 2019
5. Tourism Workers Pension Act, 2019
6. National Contracts Commission (Validation and Indemnity) Act, 2019
7. Trusts Act, 2019
8. The Petroleum (Amendment) Act, 2019
9. The Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation (Amendment) Act, 2019
10. The Appropriation Act, 2019
11. The Bauxite and Alumina Industries (Encouragement) (Amendment) Act, 2019
12. The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2019
13. The Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Act, 2019
14. The Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Act, 2019
15. The United Nations Security Council Resolutions Implementation (Amendment) Act, 2019



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (front row, 2nd left) and wife and Member of Parliament for St. Andrew East Rural, the Most. Hon. Juliet Holness (front row, centre), lead Government members to Gordon House for the Ceremonial Opening of Parliament. They are joined by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (front row, left), Minister with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda (front row, 2nd right), and Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (front row, right). In the background (from left) are: Attorney General, Hon. Marlene Malahoo Forte; Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague, and State Minister for National Security, Hon. Rudyard Spencer.



Members of the Houses of Parliament bow their heads as President of the Jamaica Council of Churches, the Reverend Merlyn Hyde Riley, says the prayer at the Ceremonial Opening.

Regulations Approved

1. Public Procurement (Registration and Classification of Suppliers) Regulations, 2019
2. Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019

Resolutions Approved

1. Interception of Communications (Amendment to First Schedule) Order, 2019
2. The Proceeds of Crime (Amendment to Second Schedule) Order 2019.
3. Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering Prevention) (Amendment) Regulations.
4. Terrorism Prevention (Designated Reporting Entity) (Attorney-at-law) Order, Resolution 2019
5. Public Procurement (Domestic Margin of Preference) Order, 2019
6. Public Procurement (Set Aside) Order, 2019

Legislation before Joint Select Committee

1. Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill
2. Customs Bill
3. The Data Protection Bill
4. The Sexual Harassment Bill
5. The Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill

Reports Approved

1. Reports of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament appointed to complete the review of the Sexual Offences Act, the Offences against the Person Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the Child Care and Protection Act.