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BUILDING FORWARD TOGETHER

ACHIEVEMENTS 2020



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Strong Leadership in Tackling COVID-19

The Government initiated preparations for the national response to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) weeks ahead of the first confirmed case on March 10.

Early Response Mechanisms

- Travel restrictions were imposed on certain countries, beginning with the People's Republic of China.
- Early-childhood institutions, primary, preparatory and secondary schools, and community and teachers' colleges were closed for an initial 14 days, with subsequent extensions of this intervention.
- Teaching and learning continued remotely, while face-to-face instructions were reintroduced later in the year as a pilot.
- Special powers under the Disaster Risk Management Act, the Emergency Powers Act and the Public Health Act were activated.
- Airports and seaports were closed to incoming passengers on March 21 for an initial 14 days.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness leads fight against COVID-19.

Measures for Workers

- In mid-March, the Government stipulated that all non-essential employees

sengers on March 21 for an initial 14 days.

and persons over age 65 in the public and private sector work from home for an initial seven days as part of containment measures.

- Stipulations relating to non-essential workers

expired on May 31, and were replaced by a new Order on June 1, which allowed those employees to return to the workplace.

- Employers were encouraged to make allowances for certain categories of employees to continue working from home.
- These included persons with underlying health conditions, those with children, and those who had sick and/or elderly persons in their care.
- All business process outsourcing (BPO) centres were ordered closed for 14 days, in response to a workplace outbreak that caused a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases.

Equipment Procured for COVID-19 Fight

- A US\$2.2 million contract was approved to procure personal protective equipment, inclusive of 400,000 N95 masks, for front-line health workers.

- The United States donated US\$700,000 (\$J95 million) towards the national COVID-19 response.

- Canada provided PPEs for healthcare workers and medical equipment and supplies for five isolation areas in hospitals, including 457,372 surgical masks, 27,445 KN95 respirator masks, and five resuscitation trolleys.

- The Medical Association of Jamaica donated 100,000 N95 masks.

- Ventilators, N95 masks, and other medical equipment and non-medical support were obtained through donations from international partners - including the European Union, South Korea, People's Republic of China, International Atomic Energy Agency and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness converses with police officers working on the front-lines on the COVID-19 pandemic.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (5th left) and Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (3rd left), with members of the Jamaica Fire Brigade during a special service at the Webster Memorial United Church in St. Andrew on July 19 to recognise the country's front-line workers, who have been integral in the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Jamaicans Return Home

Controlled Re-Entry Programme

- The country's borders were reopened to repatriated nationals on June 1, and on June 15 for all international travellers.
- Under this programme, the Government assisted repatriated Jamaicans, some of whom were trapped in vessels at sea and elsewhere overseas, to return.

- The Government partnered with technology company, Amber Group Limited, to create the Jamcovid19 website.

Other Prevention and Containment Strategies

- Some high-risk communities were placed under quarantine and an island-wide curfew was instituted.
- Limitations were placed on the operation of churches,

including the prohibition of funerals, crusades, conferences, conventions and other special events.

- Strict stipulations were also instituted in relation to weddings and burials.
- Entertainment events requiring permits were suspended.

- Bars, beaches and other entertainment venues were ordered closed.
- Community bars were eventually allowed to reopen under strict guidelines.

Special Bodies to Deal with COVID-19

- The 28-member multisectoral COVID-19 Economic

Recovery Task Force, chaired by Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, was established to oversee Jamaica's economic recovery from the pandemic.



Public health nurses, Stacy Reynolds (left); and Fern Henlon (centre), interview a member of the Church Corner community in St. Thomas while carrying out health checks in the quarantined area in August.



Prime Minister Holness converses with an elderly resident of West Central St. Andrew while handing out care packages in the community.



Residents returning from the United Kingdom sanitise their hands after disembarking the aircraft at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston in May.



Wife of the Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Juliet Holness, presents Iturla Parker with a bag of goodies. Occasion was the presentation of gifts and care packages to children from Harbour View and Bull Bay in St. Andrew, at St. Benedict's Primary School in Harbour View in December.

COVER PHOTOS

1. Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, uses a backhoe equipped with drilling mechanism to break ground for the Factories Corporation of Jamaica's (FCJ) redevelopment and expansion project at the Garmex Free Zone Complex on Marcus Garvey Drive in Kingston, in May.
2. Workmen asphaltting a section of the Hampden to Adelphi roadway in St. James. – *Contributed*
3. Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre), celebrates with new homeowners at SilverSun Estates in St. Catherine.
4. Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, commissions into service, the \$110-million Flower Hill Water Supply System in Montego Bay, St. James.

Health Ministry Steadfast in Fight Against COVID-19

Over \$6 billion was spent in the national response which included:

- \$775 million to health facilities to help in supporting the associated needs;
- Infrastructure upgrades at a cost of more than \$89 million;
- The provision of medical equipment, such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 test kits at a cost of more than \$1.7 billion;
- Procurement of prescription drugs, valued over \$500 million, through the National Health Fund for COVID-19 treatment.

COVID-19 Recovery Plan

This plan targets the attainment of an adequate legal framework to implement responses to COVID-19. It also targets:

- Multisectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches through the strengthening of national partnerships.
- An increase in skilled and competent personnel for public health surveillance.
- The strengthening of 87 laboratories.



State Minister in the Ministry of Health & Wellness, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert Flynn (left), hands a mask to vendor, Stony Hill market, Gloria White, during a 'Market Pop Up' in December.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, leads a team of health workers through Falmouth, Trelawny, in December following the launch of the 'Mask Up Before You Talk Up' COVID-19 sensitisation blitz.

- Strengthened surveillance systems to detect significant developments relating to public health and health security.

Specific actions under the plan, many of which are now underway, include:

- A review of existing legislation to align them with the International Health Regulations requirements, and drafting of policies that support infection prevention and control

measures at home, in communities and at the workplace;

- The strategic and human resource review of the Health Emergency Operations Centre;
- The creation of some 2,208 posts for community health aides;
- Accelerated programme for contact tracing;

- The creation of 500 posts for public health inspectors; and

- The review of the organisational structure for medical officers of health in each parish.

PROMAC

- All four high-dependency units (HDUs) under the Programme for the

Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC) were constructed at a cost of \$1.5 billion.

- Jamaica now has 48 high-dependency spaces, 38 new high-dependency beds and 10 new isolation suites, specifically for pregnant women and their newborns.

These are in addition to:

- Six ambulances, radiographic, ultrasound equipment and some 150 midwifery bags, which were procured at a cost of \$187.6 millions, to enhance the quality of primary care and improve the referral system.
- The training of more than 230 doctors and nurses in specialised programmes, including paediatric medicine, obstetrics, gynaecology, and anaesthesia and intensive care; and
- Fellowships in neonatology, maternal foetal medicine and emergency obstetrics.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, interacts with a toddler in the Bottom Town community in Clark's Town, Trelawny, in July, while her mother looks on. Occasion was a sensitisation walk in the community, which recorded two imported cases of COVID-19.

Health Systems Strengthened

- The Ministry launched a major tender for the retrofitting of 110 health facilities with technology that will provide high-speed Internet capacity, modern ICT infrastructure to include laptops and tablets, and the widespread use of the WHO's Go Data platform for the collection and analysis of surveillance data to detect and management diseases.

Vector Control Programme

- A massive communication and behaviour change campaign designed to reinforce the principle of personal responsibility for health, was launched.
- Employed more than 1,000 vector-control workers;
- Increased the number of dedicated vector-control vehicles from 25 to 85 at a cost of more than \$289 million; and
- Collaborated with municipal corporations and the National Solid Waste Management Authority to remove bulky waste that harbours the dreaded Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes.

Compassionate Care Programme

- The programme has, so far, facilitated the training of approximately 3,000 health workers, including clinical, technical, administrative, skilled and non-skilled staff.
- 10 facilities have been upgraded, which included accident and emergency and/or waiting rooms. These are:
 - Victoria Jubilee Hospital;
 - Cornwall Regional Hospital;
 - St. Ann's Bay Hospital;
 - Falmouth Hospital;
 - Black River Hospital;
 - Black River Health Services (Type 5 Health Centre);
 - Noel Holmes Hospital;

- Robins Hall Health Centre;
- Kitson Town Health Centre; and
- St. James Health Services (Type 5 Health Centre)

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Adopt-À-Clinic

- 22 clinics have been adopted while seven are pending, with committed support of approximately \$81.4 million over three years.

Handover Ceremony for Vector-Control Fleet

In keeping with activities to combat the dengue outbreak, the Ministry handed over 35 new vector-control vehicles to the four regional health authorities to enhance their fogging activities islandwide.

Technical Cooperation Agreement between Jamaica and Cuba

- Portfolio Minister Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, and Cuba's Ambassador to Jamaica, Her Excellency Inés Fors Fernández, signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement to facilitate additional Cuban health professionals and technicians to boost the public health sector's staff complement.



1. Acting Director of Nursing Services at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Nadine Anderson-Lawrence (right), attends to a patient, assisted by Nurse Shantol Ashley-Bell.
2. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie, looks at a piece of equipment, which was among several items donated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to support Jamaica's COVID-19 response. Also looking is PAHO/WHO Representative for Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, Dr Bernadette Theodore-Gandi.
3. Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (2nd right), applies larvicide to a small pool of water on the grounds of the St. Catherine High School in January as part of the National Dengue clean-up exercise. Observing are Principal of the school, Marlon Campbell (right), students, and vector-control workers.
4. Health Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (2nd left), visits with two-year-old patient, Zaira Doyle, before her cardiac surgery during a tour of the Bustamante Hospital for Children, in Kingston in January. With the Minister are Intensivist with Chain of Hope, Dr. Intikhab Zafurallah (left) and Zaira's father, Errol Doyle.

Gov't's Largest Stimulus Package Ever

The Government initiated the \$10-billion COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) Programme, to assist affected individuals and businesses.

The package formed part of a \$25-billion stimulus, the largest in Jamaica's history, which was earmarked in the \$853.5 billion Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21.

- Grants totalling more than \$3.6 billion have, to date, been paid to more than 400,000 applicants.
- \$1.1 billion was also earmarked to supplement the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH).



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke gives an update on the CARE Programme.



COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force

- Portfolio Minister, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, chaired the 28-member multi-sectoral committee that was established to assist in piloting Jamaica's recovery from the economic fallout. The committee collated its findings and recommendations in a June 2020 report, titled, 'Rebuild Jamaica'- which was tabled in Parliament.

Safety Net for the Elderly

- Approximately 30,000 seniors are benefiting from a \$1-billion safety net programme, instituted for persons not on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH), or covered under the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), poor relief, or a pension plan.



Shared Corporate Services Jamaica (SCSJ) is the new, innovative hub that will provide some corporate services across the Government of Jamaica.

It will support Ministries, Departments and Agencies in delivering efficient, innovative and customer-centric services in **seven areas of operations**, on a phased basis.

- Human Resource Management**
- Internal Audit**
- Finance and Accounts**
- Procurement**
- Asset Management**
- Public Relations and Communication**
- Information and Communication Technology**



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SCSJ is a project of the Transformation Implementation Unit.

Economy Remains Stable

- The lowest levels of interest rates for mortgages and consumer loans in the history of Jamaica;
- The most stable period of low inflation to benefit consumers and fixed income earners;
- Abolition of the minimum business tax and the introduction of the \$375,000 MSME tax credit;
- 1.5 per cent reduction in General Consumption Tax.
- 7.8 per cent growth in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing and 2.2 per cent in Manufacturing during the March Quarter.
- Net International Reserves totalling over US\$3 billion.

Global Ratings

- Fitch Rating Agency and Standard and Poor's affirmed Jamaica's 'B+' rating.

Rapid Financing Instrument

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board approved a US\$520 million disbursement to Jamaica, under the entity's Rapid Financing Instrument

(RFI), in response to the Government's request to access the facility as part of COVID-19 precautionary safeguards.

Bank of Jamaica Safeguards

- The provision of \$76 billion (four per cent of GDP) in Jamaican Dollar support, and direct foreign exchange sales to authorised dealers and cambios, with daily purchases averaging US\$30.4 million between March and November.
- Foreign exchange sales, totalling US\$242.3 million, via the B-FXITT platform since March to make up for market shortfalls.
- Facilitation of the real-time gross settlement system, which enables electronic payments, in collaboration with commercial banks to prevent disruption in critical services.
- Maintaining the policy rate offered on overnight placements by deposit-taking institutions at 0.50 per cent.

Multilateral Support

- \$262-million Japan Economic and Social Development Programme



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, and Canada's former High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Laurie Peters, discuss details of Jamaica's provision under the CAD\$20-million (J\$2.12-billion) Canada-CARICOM Climate Adaptation Fund. The discussion was held during Dr. Clarke's courtesy call at the High Commission in Kingston.

grant to purchase medical equipment and supplies in response to COVID-19.

TransJamaica Highway Limited IPO

- A total of 36,428 applications were received for the Initial Public Offering (IPO), which opened on February 17 with eight billion shares and was upsized to 10 billion shares

as a result of oversubscription. The shares were priced at \$1.41 each, and saw the venture yielding more than \$14 billion.

CAP Commercial Agreement

- Clarendon Alumina Production Limited (CAP) reached a commercial agreement with its partner in the unincorporated

Jamalco joint venture – the Noble Group.

- Under the terms, CAP will, among other things, repay debt obligations totalling approximately US\$136.7 million to the Noble Group, via government loan.
- Additionally, Noble's loan security arrangement will be released on repayment of the debt.



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), and World Bank Country Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Tasheen Sayed, display the US\$40-million loan agreement for phase two implementation of the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI II), which was signed in March.



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Caribbean Group Country Manager, Therese Turner Jones (centre), sign the US\$25-million Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Programme agreement, in March. Looking on is Managing Director of the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), which is executing the project, Milverton Reynolds (right), and Negotiating Officer in the Finance Ministry, Dwayne Haynes.

Improved Road Network

The Government continued to demonstrate its commitment to improving the country's road infrastructure to reduce travel time and ensure the connectivity and productivity of urban centres, by embarking on, and completing several rehabilitation projects island-wide.

Maintenance of Secondary Roads

- A sum of \$1.58 billion was spent to undertake works on several community roadways across the island, under the National Works Agency (NWA) Maintenance of Secondary Roads Programme.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd right), observing construction activities on the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project (SCHIP) in Portland in July.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Everaldo Warmington (right) applauds as a motorist crosses the Barracks River bridge in St. Mary, at the official opening of the new structure in October. Also sharing the moment are Senior Director at the National Works Agency (NWA), Varden Downer (left) and residents.

- Work was completed on the Hampden to Adelphi roadway at a cost of \$22.7 million, as well as upgrading works along a section of the North Gully, located in the Green Pond community, at a cost of \$10 million.
- Rehabilitation of the Somerton to Virgin Valley roadway, was completed at a cost of \$21.8 million.
- Several roadways across western parishes were repaired under the \$160 million Hot Mix Patching Programme, including several corridors in Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James and Trelawny.

Other Road Projects

- The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) rolled out a major road rehabilitation project in Treadlight, Clarendon, at a cost of approximately \$150 million.
- The Guava Ridge to Content Gap roadway in East Rural St. Andrew was rehabilitated at a cost of \$253 million.
- Several retaining walls were restored and drainage

systems repaired along roadways serving nine communities in East Rural St. Andrew, at a cost of \$30 million.

- NWA collaborated with the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) to complete road-marking activities over the 57-kilometre stretch from Runaway Bay, St. Ann, to Rose Hall in St. James, at a cost of \$65.4 million.
- Also, through partnership with TEF, the NWA commenced improvements along sections of West End Road in Negril, Westmoreland.
- NWA also completed special projects to rehabilitate community and parochial roads that are used to access social institutions such as schools, health centres and churches, at a cost of \$173.6 million.
- Two tranches of mitigation activities were undertaken in May and November under the Government's Islandwide Mitigation Programme, at a cost of \$956 million.

- NWA cleaned gullies and drains islandwide at a cost of \$179.8 million

Recovery Assistance for Road Repairs Following Heavy Rains

- Government spent \$2.35 billion to clear landslides, reopen roadways and undertake temporary restorative works due to infrastructural damage caused by the passage of Tropical Storms Laura, Delta, Zeta and Eta.
- The Gordon Town alternative main road in Savage Pen, east rural St. Andrew, was completed in December at a cost of \$60 million.

Bridges

- A new bridge in Bowden Hill, St. Andrew was commissioned into service at a cost of \$31 million.
- A rehabilitated bridge was opened along Liguanea Avenue in St. Andrew, at a cost of \$26.5 million.
- The renovated East Palm Bridge in Port Antonio was officially opened at a cost of \$24.3 million.



Workmen lay asphalt along a section of the Lagoon View Walk roadway in St. James.

Government Continues to Invest in Training and Jobs

Throughout the year, the Government continued to invest in implementing programmes aimed at empowering Jamaican citizens, particularly young people, who benefited from skills training and employment opportunities.

Jamaica House Fellows

- Seven young professionals were selected as the second cohort for the Jamaica House Fellowship Programme and will serve in various capacities within the public sector for a two years.

HOPE Programme

- 50 youngsters were recruited to assist with the electronic monitoring of Jamaicans, who returned to the island under the controlled re-entry programme, to control the local spread of COVID-19.
- 40 young people were recruited to work on the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology's digitisation programme for 12 months.
- An initial cohort of 50 young persons benefited



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) using one of the laptop computers in the HEART/NSTA Trust Mobile Training Unit, which was launched in December at the Garmex Academy in Kingston. Looking on are Chairman, Board of Directors, HEART/NSTA Trust, Edward Gabbidon (left); and Managing Director, Dr. Janet Dyer.

under a driver-training programme, aimed at transforming them into professional public transportation agents.

- 23 interns were engaged in the production of more than 50,000 cloth masks, with 30,000 distributed

to citizens, particularly the needy, and the rest sold to corporate sponsors.

- 7,546 persons were facilitated in educational and job opportunities over four weeks under the HOPE Summer Employment Programme.

Utility Wardens Trained

- 93 persons from 18 communities across seven parishes were trained to work in their communities as utility wardens to ensure that residents had access to plumbers with leak detection and water conservation expertise.

HEART/NSTA Trust

- The HEART/NSTA Trust launched a mobile training unit, which will serve trainees in rural areas.
- MOU signed with Overseas Examinations Commission (OEC) to increase the viability and sustainability of the National Council on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET) assessment and certification of the labour force.

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Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, offers words of encouragement to young people engaged under the Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme Volunteer Project. They are (from left): Raimona Gowie-Roberts; Demar Brown; Sebastian Lawrence and Nile Anderson.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (4th left) and Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Audrey Sewell (4th right), with six of the seven young people selected for the second cohort for the Jamaica House Fellowship Programme, at the orientation session at Jamaica House in November. They are (from left) Christopher Harper, Christal Parris-Campbell, Asha-Gaye Cowell, Anabelle Jones, Jervian Johnson, and Kiddist McCoy. Absent is Mikol Mortley.

More Houses Provided For Jamaicans

More Jamaicans realised their dream of owning their own home as the Government continued to fulfil its mandate of providing affordable housing solutions for citizens.

More opportunities were created for the young, elderly, poor and indigent person to become homeowners, with the National Housing Trust (NHT) completing 1,045 housing solutions at a cost of \$7.6 billion and the Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ) delivering 292 solutions comprising serviced lots and houses.

NHT Developments

- 113 housing solutions were completed at Forthill Estate, 90 at Windcrest Hills, and 110 at Twickenham Glades in St. Catherine; 12 at Yeast Plant in Westmoreland; 28 in Denham Town, Kingston; 41 in Savannah Park, Westmoreland; 115 at Perth 1A, Manchester; 63 at Industry Manor, Hanover; 81 in Monymusk Glades, Clarendon; 14 at Brompton Manor, St. Elizabeth; and 28 in Cashew Grove, St. James.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) greets beneficiary of a one-bedroom house, courtesy of the Government's New Social Housing Programme (NSHP), Winston Wint, at a handing over ceremony in Bogue District, St. Elizabeth, in July. Mr. Wint also received a new wheelchair.

Increased Assistance to Purchase NHT Units

- Existing mortgagors benefited from a 0.5 per cent reduction and new mortgagors benefited from a one per cent reduction.
- Contributors up to age 70 are able to access housing benefits as voluntary contributors.

Special Relief for NHT Mortgagors

- Moratorium on payments for mortgagors impacted by COVID-19. All late fees were suspended for accounts with arrears less than 90 days.
- Special relief for mortgagors with loan

accounts in arrears (90 days or more).

- Special waivers on unpaid late fee penalties.

Housing Agency of Jamaica

- Ground broken for \$9.5 billion Catherine Estates housing development in Dunbeholden, St. Catherine, which will provide 1,650

affordable solutions at a cost of \$9.5 billion.

- Over 195 solutions, comprising 123 serviced lots and 72 housing units, were handed over to new owners.
- 455 titles were prepared for the January to November period, of which 82 were issued and 375 are awaiting collection.
- The HAJ partnered with Food For the Poor to provide housing for two single-family households in Portmore, St. Catherine.

Social Housing Programme

- A new \$22.6 million multi-family house, was handed over to three sisters in Annotto Bay, St. Mary.
- A one-bedroom unit was handed over to an 88 year-old physically challenged man in Bogue District, St. Elizabeth.
- Two units were presented to recipients in Old Harbour Bay, St. Catherine, one of whom is visually impaired, who received a two-bedroom house. The other beneficiary was presented with a three-bedroom house.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd right) cuts the ribbon to symbolise the official opening of the SilverSun Estate housing development in St. Catherine. Also participating (from left) are Member of Parliament for South Central St. Catherine, Dr. Andrew Wheatley; Chairman of the National Housing Trust (NHT), Lennox Channer; new homeowner, Treveen Palmer, and Chairman of West Indies Home Contractors Limited (WIHCON), Peter Melhado. Mr. Holness presented keys to 50 new homeowners during a ceremony held in July.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right), presents Andrew Brodber with the keys to his new home at the official opening of the SilverSun Estates housing development in St. Catherine in July. Mr. Holness handed over keys to 50 new homeowners.

More Persons Have Access to Potable Water

The quality of life for many Jamaicans was greatly improved, as the Government continued its work to establish and upgrade water supply systems.

Water Supply Systems Commissioned

- The \$400-million Claremont to Jericho Water Supply System in Hanover was commissioned into service, benefitting approximately 8,000 persons.
- The \$110-million Flower Hill Water Supply System in Montego Bay, St. James, was turned on.
- A \$135-million upgrading project in Portland Cottage, Clarendon, became fully operational, bringing water to some 8,000 residents.

Other Water Supply Projects

- Ground was broken to establish the \$300 million Caanan/Adelphi Water Supply System, which will benefit more than 70,000 residents.
- A total of 20 catchment tanks were renovated with capacity to hold more than 100,000 gallons of water.
- Some 38 schools were fitted with solar-powered rainwater harvesting systems.
- Contract signed for US\$13 million Portmore Co-management Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction Programme.
- A US\$25 million contract signed for a transmission main upgrade that will improve the water supply between Six Miles and Blake Road in Kingston.

Drought Mitigation –

- More than 100 one-thousand-gallon storage tanks

were distributed to the hardest-hit communities.

- A Drought Management Committee was established to manage execution of the Government's drought management plan.

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NWC Discount For Customers

- NWC residential and condominium customers benefited from a 30 per cent discount on outstanding bills under the agency's COVID-19 Assistance Programme (CAP). Commercial customers were offered a 25 per cent discount.
- Under CAP, the NWC wrote off \$117 million in debt. A total of 10,607 persons took up the offer.
- The NWC waiver on reconnection fees for customers whose service was disconnected prior to the announcement of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Jamaica.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) turns on the main water valve in Claremont, Hanover, to officially commission into service the \$400 million Claremont to Jericho Water Supply System in August. Sharing in the moment (from left) are: Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang; Councillor Caretaker for Sandy Bay Division, Maverine Brown; President of the National Water Commission, Mark Barnett; and Member of Parliament for Eastern Hanover, Dave Brown.

Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Parnell Charles Jr. (2nd right) and Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, and Member of Parliament for Western Portland, Hon. Daryl Vaz (right), look at the newly installed 100,000-gallon tank for the Charles Town/Kildare water supply in Portland during a tour of the area in January. At that time, Mr. Charles Jr. and Mr. Vaz were Ministers without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation. Beside them are Managing Director, Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL), Audley Thompson (left), and Managing Director, Water Resources Authority (WRA), Peter Clarke.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (front row, 2nd left) and Country Manager for global water utility company, Miya Water Jamaica, Alvaro Ramalho (front row, 2nd right) bump elbows as they exchange copies of a signed contract to undertake the five-year, US\$13 million Portmore Co-management Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction Programme. The signing ceremony took place during a virtual ceremony at Jamaica House in December. Sharing the moment are (front row, from left) Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Aubyn Hill, and newly appointed NWC Chairman, Michael Shaw. In the background (from left) are Councillor for Bridgeport in Portmore, Kenord Grant; Member of Parliament for South Eastern St. Catherine, Robert Miller; Member of Parliament for Southern St. Catherine, Fitz Jackson; and President, NWC, Mark Barnett.

Work Continues to Preserve and Protect the Environment

The Government continues to preserve and protect the natural environment, by undertaking a number of projects aimed at building the country's resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

Funding for Climate Projects

- The Government received grants totalling approximately \$120.3 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to finance two projects, aimed at facilitating a gender-responsive approach to climate change and mitigation, and a Caribbean Green Bond listing on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE).

A sum of about \$38.4 million is earmarked to fund the gender-responsive project, while approximately \$82 million is programmed for the JSE listing.

- The national GCF Civil Society Organisation (CSO) project was launched in November. Valued at more than US\$1.2 million, the initiative, which includes six other Caribbean countries, seeks to build on a

number of other GCF readiness initiatives.

EU Technical Assistance in Conserving Forests

- The Forestry Department received technical assistance support from the European Union (EU) totalling €850,000 (J\$128 million) that will significantly boost the agency's work in relation to the management and conservation of Jamaica's forest resources, over the next three years.

Environmental Wardens Trained

- Approximately 200 residents from six vulnerable communities were trained as Environmental Wardens, through the solid waste management initiative being implemented by JSIF.

Box Truck for Recycling

- The Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo.) handed over a box truck, valued approximately \$7 million, to Recycling Partners of Jamaica Limited (RPJ) as part of the Government's

commitment to environmental protection.

- The truck serves communities in the western section of the island in Negril, collecting bottles

from established collection points and depots for recycling.

Plastic Ban

- The second phase of the ban on single-use plastics

was effected on January 1, prohibiting the manufacture, distribution and use of polystyrene foam products more popularly known as Styrofoam.



Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. (2nd right), plants a Lignum Vitae tree at the Youth Month tree-planting exercise held on November 25 at Boulevard Baptist Church in Kingston. He is assisted by (from left): Executive Officer, Jamaica Millennium Vision for Youth, Garran Diviney; President of the organisation, Chad Rattray (2nd left); and Chief Executive Officer and Conservator of Forest, Forestry Department, Ainsley Henry.



Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. (2nd right), speaks with Chairman, Recycling Partners of Jamaica Limited (RPJ), Dr. Damien King (left), and Acting Executive Director, Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo.), Stephen Edwards, during the handing over of a box truck at RPJ, Lake's Pen in St. Catherine. At right is Chief Financial Officer, RPJ, Wincella Cummings.



Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal and Climate Change, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. (left), speaks with Principal Director of the Ministry's Climate Change Division, Una May Gordon, during a tour of the Port Royal Coastal Revetment Project, which is being undertaken at a cost of approximately \$950 million.

Employment and Labour Services Strengthened

Special Measures were put in place to strengthen the delivery of employment and labour services, while continuing to provide support to the most vulnerable Jamaicans, including persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Labour Division

- Industrial Disputes Tribunal (IDT) Western Division office was officially opened in St. James.
 - Agreements signed with the Jamaica Household Workers' Union (JHWU) and University of Technology (UTech) to promote the services of the Ministry's Labour Market Information System (LMIS).
 - COVID-19 Labour Market Task Force assembled to address issues affecting employers and employees.
 - The Ministry opened its parish office in St. Ann's Bay. The new two-storey, state-of-the-art facility, built at a cost of more than \$500 million, is designed to enhance service delivery to the people of St. Ann.
- Social Division**
- An additional \$1 billion was channelled into the

Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) to increase cash grants to PATH beneficiaries.

- The Ministry received \$40 million from UNICEF Jamaica to help some of the country's most vulnerable households cope with the crippling impact of COVID-19. The funding covers cash transfer payments via PATH. Approximately 2,700 families with children with disabilities, as well as pregnant and lactating women are to benefit from this donation.
- Early encashment of pension vouchers was facilitated through post offices.
- \$40 million was transferred to the Ministry to provide support to persons living with disabilities.
- The Ministry acquired two mobile units to promote the various benefits and services to citizens in rural sections of the island. The air-conditioned buses, outfitted with office areas, client number tracking systems, public address systems, and sanitising stations, were retrofitted at a cost of approximately



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd left) cuts the ribbon to open the St. Ann parish office of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, situated at 4 Windsor Road in St. Ann's Bay, in November. He is joined by (from left) Rosemarie Pilliner, sister of late former Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson; Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Karl Samuda; and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Colette Roberts-Risden. In the background are State Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Marsha Smith (left), and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Zavia Mayne.

\$25.5 million with funding from the Government and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

- The 'Innovative Approaches to the Development of Children with Intellectual Disabilities' technical

cooperation agreement was signed. This intervention seeks to provide direct support to children with intellectual disabilities and their parents, through identifying, adapting and testing effective parent-

centred therapeutic approaches.

- Digicel Foundation donated 600 tablet computers to support students registered with the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD).



Labour and Social Security Minister, Hon. Karl Samuda (centre), signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish partnership with the University of Technology (UTech) to promote the Labour Market Information System (LMIS).



Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Zavia Mayne, engages with a cosmetology student at the Abilities Foundation in St. Andrew in November. Looking on at right is Cosmetology Instructor, Caroline Patterson.

Government Invests in Technology to Fight Crime

Significant investment was made in acquiring technology to boost crime-fighting.

ICT

- \$210 million was provided to upgrade and expand the computer-aided dispatch system to allow the police to better prioritise and record incident calls, identify status and locations of officers and assets in the field, effectively deploy resources, among other inputs.
- \$480 million was allocated to upgrade and expand the Jamaica Constabulary Force's (JCF's) radio and data communication networks.
- The JCF's technology platform was expanded with the buildout of the Police Emergency Control Centre (PECC) backroom capacity to monitor up to 2,000 CCTV cameras.
- Connectivity at police stations was improved through the upgrading of the microwave data network.
- \$40 million was spent to upgrade and improve efficiency of the traffic ticket management system. Traffic police were equipped with 100 smart android devices and portable printers to facilitate the electronic issuance of traffic tickets.
- The Jamaica Crime Observatory (JCO) Enhancement project received \$16.7 million from Jamaica Social Investment Fund to acquire computer hardware and software for the JCF crime database.
- A human trafficking e-learning tool was launched.

JamaicaEye

- \$1.2 billion was allocated in the 2020/21 Budget to

supply and install equipment and software under the 'JamaicaEye' CCTV surveillance system.

Servers were expanded to accommodate 1,000 additional video feeds.

- An agreement was signed with the Jamaica Gasoline Retailers Association (JGRA) to allow feed from public-facing cameras at gas stations to assist crime-fighting efforts and maintain public order.

Department of Correctional Services (DCS)

- Four inmates and one Correctional Officer at the St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre were selected as the first recipients of full scholarships valued \$300,000 each per year, to pursue online associate degrees with the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC).
- MOU signed to provide training to DCS staff along with wards and inmates transitioning out of correctional facilities.
- Wards at South Camp Juvenile Remand and Correctional Centre received new multipurpose classrooms.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, looks at crops cultivated by inmates at the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre in Kingston, during a tour of the facility early March.



National Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (left), and Police Commissioner, Major General Antony Anderson (centre), in discussion with Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, during a tour of the Police Emergency Control Centre in Kingston, on March 18. Looking on are Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Leonardo Brown (2nd right), and Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Clifford Blake.



National Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (centre, seated), Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson (3rd left); and other Senior Officers of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), with a batch of new constables at a passing out parade and awards ceremony, held at the National Police College of Jamaica in St. Catherine. A total of 332 new constables graduated.



A smart android device and portable printer that will be carried by Traffic Police in the Corporate Area to facilitate the issuance of electronic traffic tickets.

Police Stations Built, Renovated

Work continued to build and renovate police stations in order to improve working conditions for members of the force and improve security delivery to citizens.

Infrastructure Development

- The new Green Acres Police Station in St. Catherine, built at a cost of \$73 million, was officially opened.
- Rehabilitation works were undertaken at the Bog Walk, Old Harbour, Moneague, and Trench Town police stations.
- A new Police Divisional Headquarters was constructed and officially opened in Portland.
- Work started to rehabilitate six police stations across the island at a cost of approximately \$235 million. The facilities are Denham Town (Kingston) at a cost of \$36.81 million; Franklyn Town (Kingston), \$42.48 million; Lionel Town (Clarendon), \$36.87 million; Mount Salem (St. James), \$42.53 million; Four Paths (Clarendon), \$37.86 million; and Adelphi (St James), \$38.44 million.
- Ground was broken for a police post at the Ian Fleming international Airport in St. Mary, at a cost of \$40 million.
- \$500 million was invested to improve the JCF's capacity and technological capability at Harman Barracks.
- \$65.4 million was allocated for the construction of an additional classroom block at the National Police College of Jamaica in Twickenham Park, St. Catherine.
- The Tranquility Bay facility in St. Elizabeth was refurb-



1. Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (left), and Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson, sit on motorbikes from the Jamaica Constabulary Force's fleet, which were on display during a handover ceremony for 64 new retrofitted Mitsubishi pickup trucks at the Office of the Commissioner in May.
2. Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd left) and Chief of Defence Staff, Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), Lieutenant General Rocky Meade (centre), cut the ribbon to officially open the JDF's new Cannon Ball Gate entrance at Up Park Camp, St. Andrew, in July. Looking on (from left) are Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang; Chief Executive Officer, National Works Agency, Everton Hunter; and Brigade Commander, JDF, Captain David Chin Fong.
3. Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (2nd right), cuts the ribbon symbolising the official opening of the Specialised Operations branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), located at the Harman Barracks facility in St. Andrew. Sharing the moment (from left) are Battalion Commander, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Warren Clarke; and Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson.
4. The HMJS Nanny of the Maroons vessel was commissioned into service at the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Coast Guard headquarters in Port Royal, Kingston.

bished at a cost of approximately \$139 million for the training of new JCF recruits.

- The Jamaica National Service Corps (JNSC) received a \$500-million

multipurpose building at Up Park Camp

New Vehicles/Marine Vessels

- JCF received 107 pickup trucks valued approximately \$700 million, and

43 retrofitted compact sports utility vehicles valued about \$270 million.

Decline In Major Crimes

- As at December 2, murders were down by

1.2 per cent; robberies, down by 18.7 per cent; rapes, down by 15.5 per cent; and break-ins are 18.6 per cent lower than the same period last year.

Tourism Set to Rebound

The Tourism industry showed encouraging signs that it was set to rebound from the downturn in visitor arrivals and foreign exchange earnings, which was sparked by COVID-19 pandemic:

- Preliminary figures from the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) show that the country welcomed 1,297,094 visitors, comprising 847,823 stopover arrivals and 449,271 cruise passengers, and generated approximately US\$1.3 billion in earnings in 2020.
- Several airlines also resumed service to Jamaica, largely out of North and South America, and Europe.
- Among them were American Airlines, Delta, Jet-Blue, United, SouthWest, Air Canada, West Jet, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, and Copa.

Several measures were instituted to safeguard visitors, workers and other industry stakeholders against COVID-19, following the reopening. These included:

- Mandatory testing of visitors.
- Establishment of COVID-19 Resilient Corridors along resort areas to restrict visitor movement.
- Development of robust operational protocols for businesses, in tandem with the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
- Online training for employees, with particular focus on health and safety protocols.
- COVID-19 Resilient Certification for sector entities.
- Establishment of the Jamaica Cares Insurance Programme, which is tailored to provide travel protection and emergency

services to visitors to the island and locals, as well as safeguard industry workers.

- Provision of 500 protective kits for small operators and 10,000 masks for front-line workers.

These were complemented by:

- A US\$200,000 donation by Spanish-owned companies with investments in Jamaica to the Government's COVID-19 response programme.

Industry Recovery

- Relief extended under the Business Employee Support and Transfer of Cash (BEST Cash) component of the Government's COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) Programme.
- \$100-million grant programme to assist micro, small and medium-sized operators.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (right), speaks with craft vendor Hopeton Green (left), about his range of items, during a tour of the Chukka Ocean Post Sandy Bay in Hanover. The attraction, operated by Chukka Caribbean Adventures, was officially opened in December.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (left), engages with children who arrived on a British Airways flight out of Gatwick London Airport, which landed at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay in December.



Passengers disembark the Marella Discovery 2 cruise ship, at the Port Royal Cruise Port in Kingston.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (left), bumps elbows with houseman at the Riu Negril hotel in Westmoreland, Kerry Waugh, during a walk-through of the property in July. The Minister visited a number of tourism entities in the parish to get a first-hand look at the level of compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

Rediscover Jamaica

Training

- More than 5,000 employees completed online training and attained certification in several key skills areas.
- 60 employees participated in a new four-week law programme at the University of the West Indies (UWI).
- Craft Traders in Kingston, Port Antonio, and Negril participated in an executive leadership training programme.

Rediscover Jamaica

- The 'Rediscover Jamaica' campaign, which encourages Jamaicans to feel, see and taste the country's tourism product, was launched.

Infrastructure Development

- The new headquarters of the White River Fish Sanctuary in St. Ann, which forms part of a \$16-million Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) investment in tandem with several other stakeholders, was officially opened.
- The facility is designed to ensure the sustainability of the fish sanctuary, which is managed by the White River Marine Association.

Tourism Workers' Pension Scheme

- Registration for the scheme commenced on October 1.
- The facility, which came into effect in January, is a



The Virgin Atlantic plane carrying passengers and crew from London, England, taxis beneath the symbolic water arch welcome at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, St. James, following resumption of the airline's scheduled flights to the island in October.

defined contributory plan requiring mandatory contributions from employers and workers.

- It will cover all industry employees, aged 18 to

59, whether permanent, contractual or self-employed.

- They include craft vendors, tour operators, red cap porters, contract car-

riage operators, and workers in attractions.

- Benefits are payable at age 65 or older to persons meeting the vested five-year period.



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support to victims of crime of all ages
- Help to resolve conflicts peacefully with Restorative Justice
- Interventions for children in conflict with the law through Child Diversion
- Expungement of criminal records
- Estate management and will preparation
- Training for justice sector stakeholders
- Mobile justice services in your communities
- Free legal aid/ mobile justice services in your communities

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TRANSFORMJUSTJM

Public Sector Transformation Far Advanced

Work under the Public Sector Transformation Programme continued in earnest, despite challenges associated with the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic:

Transformation Implementation Unit (TIU)

The TIU undertook extensive work on several key projects over the period.

This included Standard Operation Procedures, being instituted across the Programme.

Key stakeholder service contracts were also signed for:

- Change Management.
- MyHR+ phase two support and implementation.
- Customisation of the Child Case Management System for the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA).
- GovNet implementation.

Public Sector Efficiency and ICT

- The design for GovNet has been completed and approved for implemen-

tation. A consultant was recruited to oversee the platform's speedy rollout.

- The Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (formerly Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries) received computers and servers to support the Jamaica Single Window for Trade (JSWIFT) Project.
- The CPFSA received equipment, including, tablets and laptops computers, for field officers and resource centres.
- Business analysts and systems engineers were recruited for the Fisheries Licensing and Registration System Project. They will develop technical specifications for systems to be implemented at the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) and Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA).

Shared Corporate Services

- High-level design and project implementation

plans have been developed across all service areas.

- Key technological solutions were acquired and implemented for MyHR+, TeamMate+, Case Management, Knowledge-based systems, online chat, and a web portal.

Public Bodies Rationalisation

- The Correctional Services Production Limited was closed and its operations transferred to the Department of Correctional Services.
- Operations at the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) ceased and its functions transferred to the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology.
- Stand Up Jamaica Limited was formally closed.
- These bring the total number rationalised, to date, to 40.

Human Resources Management (HRM) Transformation

- The MyHR+ platform was rolled out in 10 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), bringing the number utilising the system, to date, to 31.
- Design of the Public Sector HR Operating Model was completed.

Compensation Management

- A comprehensive review was undertaken.

- 300 benchmark jobs were selected and evaluations done.

- A public and private sector market survey was undertaken and the findings documented.

Jamaica InvestmentMap Launched

- This digital platform, facilitates interactive access to information on public investment project implementation.



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), discusses the \$1 billion Marcus Garvey Public Sector Scholarship Programme with Jamaica Civil Service Association President, O'Neil Grant, during the virtual launch in July.



Minister of Finance and the Public Service Minister, Dr. the Hon Nigel Clarke (left), listens as Managing Director, Magna Motors Dealership Ltd, Erick Gutierrez, explains the diverse features of one of the three 2020 Hyundai 50-seater buses which the entity provided for the Government Employees Transportation System in February.



Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Patrick Allen, congratulates new Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Marsha Smith, as he presents her with the Instrument of Appointment during the swearing-in ceremony at King's House in September.

Measures Put in Place to Improve Road Safety

The Ministry of Transport and Mining continued to implement strategies geared at curbing indiscipline and improving safety on the nation's roads.

Motor Cycle Training and Outreach Programme

- Outreach and training provided to motorcyclists in the western region of the island.
- The 'I am a safe biker' initiative is a joined-up programme to stem the number of road fatalities, particularly in the Western Region.

Launch of the Driver Training Programme

- The Transport Authority collaborated with the HOPE programme to launch a driver-training programme, aimed at ensuring that a pool of trained drivers is available for the transportation sector.
- 100 young people have been trained.

New Provisional Driver's Licence Process

- Persons wishing to obtain a learner's licence now have to visit any of the Island Traffic Authority's (ITA) Examination

Depots to do a Road Code Test, as part of the application process.

COVID-19 Measures

- The Transport Authority waived fees and extended the period for road licences renewal.
- New road licence applicants were allowed up to six months (by October 14, 2020) to submit police records.
- Police records for renewal of badges were also waived.
- First responders were allowed to ride free on Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) buses as well as Montego Bay (MoBay) Metro buses between March and September.

Donation of School Buses

- Two buses, valued approximately \$19 million each were donated to Tacky High and Mile Gully High schools, to strengthen the transportation capacity of rural school districts.

Police Station at the Ian Fleming International Airport

- Ground was broken for the construction of a



Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague (left), presents Principal of Mile Gully High in Manchester, Christopher Tyme, with documents for a new bus donated by the Ministry, during the official handover ceremony, in October, at the Ministry on Maxfield Avenue in Kingston. Also pictured are Mile Gully High students, Dadria Pitter (2nd right) and Queneice Johnson.

police post at the Ian Fleming International Airport.

Upgraded Offices

- The Transport Authority opened its newly renovated and expanded

Northern Regional and Savana-la-Mar offices.

Bauxite Community Development Programme

- Phase seven of the Bauxite Community Development Programme

(BCDP) was launched in October.

- Sixteen Members of Parliament in the five bauxite-mining areas will benefit from more than \$60 million allocated under the programme to assist citizens.



State Minister for Transport and Mining, Hon. J.C. Hutchinson (centre), speaks with Acting General Manager for Jamaica Ultimate Tyre Company Merline Daley (left) and Factory's Supervisor, Hugh Smith during a tour of the facility.



The \$52 million motorcycle training simulator installed at the Petersfield Vocational Training Centre in Westmoreland, which is intended to reduce road fatalities.

Ongoing Bilateral Cooperation

Jamaica continued its collaboration with bilateral partners to increase opportunities for trade and investment and to develop initiatives to address the challenges presented by COVID-19 pandemic.

Consular Affairs – COVID-19 response

- A JamCOVID-19 controlled re-entry portal and website were developed by the Ministry to manage the re-entry programme.
- Cash allocations were provided to some 220 nationals in China, including students, who were in need of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- The Ministry also facilitated contact with financial institutions to secure waivers, in respect of late fees (student loans, etc.) and provided care packages and support to nationals requiring assistance.
- Assistance was provided in relation to visa and

immigration issues, guidance on travel routes to Jamaica, and information on developments in Jamaica affecting travel.

- The Ministry assisted foreign nationals stranded in Jamaica as a result of the closure of the island's borders.

COVID External Support Coordination Committee

- The COVID-19 External Support Coordination Committee secured over US\$12 million in the form of funding, PPE, medical supplies and technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral partners as well as Non-Governmental Organisations and private-sector groups.

Bilateral, Regional & Hemispheric Developments

- Jamaica welcomed the Vice-President of Colombia, Her Excellency Marta Lucia Ramirez, on an Official Visit.
- Jamaica hosted Senior Director for Latin America



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (right), speaks with a senior citizen, who was among 120 Jamaicans, returning from the United Kingdom in May. The Minister was at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston to welcome the Jamaicans home.

and the Caribbean from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Ambassador Marian Schuegraf, on a Working Visit.

CARICOM

- Jamaica assumed Chairmanship of the Sub-Committee on the Common Protocol to strengthen Food Security within the context of the CARICOM COVID-19 Agri-Food Management Framework.

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

- Jamaica was elected to the post of Chair of the ACS Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction during elections held in June. During the meeting, Jamaica was also elected as Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation.

Organization of American States (OAS)

- Jamaica assumed the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS in

October, 2020, for three months.

Diaspora

- The Ministry hosted the second teleconference of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council. Discussions focused on creating Working Groups to facilitate the Council's approach to operationalisation.
- A new Minister with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs, Senator the Hon.

Leslie Campbell, was appointed.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Jamaica participated in a virtual meeting with the Regional Conference on Social Development in the Caribbean to share actions and measures being taken to reduce the impact of COVID-19.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (centre), converses with Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister, Geoffrey Onyeama, following the arrival of a historic direct flight from Lagos, Nigeria, at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, St. James, in December. At right is Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, welcomes State Minister, Senator the Hon. Leslie Campbell.

Delivering a First Class Justice System

The Government continued to make good on its commitment to deliver a world-class justice system that works for everyone in society.

- The island's courts received audiovisual equipment valued \$85 million to facilitate testimonies from remote locations as well as make it easier to view and play back electronic evidence in court, record proceedings in real time, digitise documents, among other capabilities.
- The Ministry of Justice received funding of £1 million from the United Kingdom (UK) Department for International Development (DFID) to continue Unification of Prosecutorial Services Project in Jamaica.
- Court Administration Division (CAD) established an Emergency Call Centre to facilitate ease of access for Jamaicans to the Courts for information.
- A Witness Care Strategy and Action Plan was developed.
- The first ever Strategic Business Plan for the Judicial Arm of Government was officially unveiled and implemented in the court system.

Making Justice Services More Accessible

- Mobile justice services were expanded to members of the disabled community and the elderly with the addition of two specially retrofitted units valued Can\$420,000.
- The Mobile Justice Unit provided services to 1,497 persons between January and October.



Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck and UNICEF Jamaica Country Representative Mariko Kagoshima, signing a document to increase support for the national child diversion programme.

- The Restorative Justice Unit hosted 538 sensitisation sessions with 9,172 beneficiaries. Some 40 police officers and 125 school administrators were trained in restorative justice.
- A total of 517 Justices of the Peace were commissioned between January and November.

Victim Services Division

- Therapeutic interventions were provided for 4,679 clients from January to October.
- Play therapy tools, valued at \$1 million, were donated by the Jamaica National (JN) Foundation to be used as therapeutic

aids in the recovery process for children who are victims of crime.

Child Diversion Unit

- 14 Child Diversion Offices and 14 parish Child Diversion Committees were established and operationalised.

- Some 390 mentors were trained and 153 clients referred.
- 56 sensitisation sessions were held in-person and online.
- 18 MOUs were signed with providers to deliver drug abuse treatment, sexual and reproductive health counselling, and other mental health services.

Major Infrastructural Works

- Refurbishing works were undertaken at the Supreme Court at a cost of \$25.83 million.
- Hanover Parish Court (electrical works) done at a cost of \$21.25 million
- Retrofitting and renovation of the James Warehouse Plaza to facilitate the temporary relocation of the Manchester Parish Court was done at a cost of \$36.68 million.
- Additional works at the Trelawny Family Court done at a cost of \$19.93 million.



Manager, Parade Gardens Community Development Centre, Sandra Buchanan, assists Parade Gardens resident, Vincent Walker, to the Legal Aid Council's (LAC) Mobile Justice Unit, which visited the community in February.



Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck (left), observes as former Head of the European Union Delegation to Jamaica, Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska (centre), presents audiovisual equipment to Chief Justice, Hon. Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, during a ceremony at the St. Catherine Parish Court in June.

Gov't Provides Hundreds of Millions to Assist Farmers

The Government allocated hundreds of millions of dollars to assist farmers and fisherfolk and safeguard the country's food security.

Assistance To Farmers

- \$1 billion was allocated under the Production Incentive Programme to assist small farmers affected by COVID-19
- An initial \$240 million was allocated for a 'Buy-Back Programme' to assist in the movement of the excess produce from farmers to consumers.
- The livelihoods of more than 30,000 farmers were secured, by purchasing and distributing the excess produce island-wide.
- Export-related fees and charges were cut by 50 per cent. The reduction impacted agricultural commodities, including coffee, cocoa, spice and coconut licensing fees.

- A \$647-million support package was announced to help more than 14,000 farmers affected by the heavy rains in October and November, to restart planting as quickly as possible, following loss of crops valued approximately \$2.5 billion.
- Some 136 farmers in 22 communities received 275,712 gallons of irrigated water under the Ministry's \$194-million Drought Mitigation Programme.
- \$141 million allocated to safeguard cocoa and coffee industries.
- \$105 million allocated to continue management activities for the Frosty Pod Rot disease affecting cocoa.

Help for Former Sugar Workers

- Former sugar workers of the Monymusk Sugar Factory benefitted under a project aimed at providing them with alternative livelihoods.



Customers flock a farmers' market held at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries playfield, in St. Andrew in July.



Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Hon. Floyd Green (centre), looks at crops during a tour of flood-damaged farms in St. Thomas in November. Looking on is Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) Parish Manager, Bevene Martin Dickenson.



Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green (right), presents a land lease document to Trevor Morris, former worker at Monymusk sugar factory in Clarendon, in February.

Support for Fisheries Sector

- \$120 million allocated to the fisheries sector to assist fishers affected by COVID-19.
- Launch of the US\$4.875 million World Bank Promoting Community-based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector project in July, which will benefit more than 40,000 stakeholders in the local fisheries sector.
- Launch of enforcement vessel in October, under the World Bank Promoting Community-based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector project, which will boost the enforcement capacity of the operators of the special fishery conservation areas and help them to preserve Jamaica's no-fishing zones.



Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green (centre), and Chief Executive Officer, National Fisheries Authority, Courtney Cole (left), interact with a vendor at the Old Harbour fishing beach in St. Catherine, Lavine Henry, during a tour of the facility.



Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green (2nd left), converses with fishermen, Charles Moodie (2nd right) and Harold Lindsay (right), at a ceremony for the presentation of vouchers to fisherfolk in St. Catherine, who have been impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Looking on is Chief Executive Officer of the National Fisheries Authority, Courtney Cole.

Youth In Agriculture

- A \$10-million Agriculture Aide programme was launched to train 40 young people to assist

RADA extension officers in collating information and to bolster their work.

- The Ministry, in partnership with Jamaica 4-H

Clubs, launched an agricultural booklet, 'Youth in Agriculture, A Roadmap to Your Success', to guide youth on a successful path in the industry.

Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection Branch

- Disinfectant mats and amnesty bins installed at

both the Norman Manley and Sangster International Airports to reduce the risk of plant and animal pests entering the country.

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green, speaks with farmers during a tour of a farm in St. Catherine in March.



Internet Access Boosted

Significant investment was made in boosting Internet access, particularly in rural communities, to enable persons to study, work and conduct business remotely due to the impact of COVID-19.

Universal Service Fund

- Free Wi-Fi hotspots were commissioned in Sam Sharpe Square, Montego Bay; Chapelton and May Pen, Clarendon; Annotto Bay, St. Mary; Ocho Rios, St. Ann; and Port Antonio, Portland.
- Donated \$1.5 million worth of information and communications technology (ICT) equipment, including three laptops, two projectors, nine multifunction printers and two monitors, were donated to the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD) to improve the entity's communication with its clients.
- \$2.8 million worth of computer supplies,

inclusive of tablets, printers and associated devices, were donated to the Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA).

- The Jamaica Fire Brigade (JCF) was presented with with a laptop and a desk computer to boost vehicle maintenance and fleet management.
- Community access points (CAP) were opened at Spicy Grove Youth Centre in Oracabessa and Three Hills Resource Centre in St. Mary, and the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (CCCD), Cassia Park, Kingston.
- \$17.5 million in ICT support was provided to the Ministry of Health and Wellness to boost the bandwidth capacity of health facilities in the fight against COVID-19.
- \$700 million was handed over to e-Learning Jamaica to fund the procurement of devices under the Tablets for Teachers Programme.



Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz (left), puts fuel in a South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA) vehicle, during a ceremony for the donation of fuel valued \$350,000 to the Ministry of Health and Wellness to support the fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, at the Petrojam Limited refinery on Marcus Garvey Drive in Kingston in December. Looking on (from 2nd left) are Chairman, Board of Directors, Petrojam Limited, Wayne Chen; State Minister in the Health Ministry, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert Flynn; and Vice Chair, Board of Directors Petrojam, Metry Seaga.



Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz (2nd right), gives the thumbs up at the launch of free public Wi-Fi in the town of Ocho Rios, St. Ann, in December. He is joined by (from left) Director, Enterprise, Government and IT Solutions at Cable and Wireless Business, Carol Robertson; Councillor for the Ocho Rios Division, Michael Belnavis; Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Fayval Williams; State Minister in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and Member of Parliament for North East St. Ann, Hon. Marsha Smith; Charmaine Dean, representing Custos Rotulorum of St. Ann, Hon. Norma Walters; and Chief Executive Officer, Universal Service Fund (USF), Daniel Dawes.

- One tertiary scholarship and 28 Primary Exit Profile (PEP) grants were awarded to students islandwide.
- A Tertiary ICT Graduate Research Grant Programme, through which Master's and Doctor of Philosophy students can access up to \$15 million to facilitate research was launched.

e-Government

- Commenced implementation of the National Public Key Infrastructure (NPKI) project, which will enable individuals and entities to utilise e-signatures to transact business digitally with all State agencies in a safe environment.

Digitisation

- 40 youngsters benefited from a 12-month digitisation programme, with \$18.5 million provided to support a stipend for the participants.

ENERGY

- Approximately 380 motorists, whose vehicles were affected by "bad gas" in 2015, benefitted from a compensation package valued \$24.5 million.

- The electric mobility strategic framework was completed, which will inform the electric vehicle policy for the public transportation sector.



Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz (right), assists Buff Bay Primary School student, Brandon Parkes (2nd right), to interface with the new tablet, which he received during a handover ceremony at the school in October. Looking on are Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Fayval Williams, and student, Tiona Watson.

Gov't Pushes Standards to Boost Competitiveness

The Government continued to push for public and private sector entities to get certified to international standards in order to enhance competitiveness, while enhancing customer service delivery.

- ISO 9001:2015 certification for EX-IM Bank, Passport Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), Auditor General's Department and Companies Office of Jamaica.
- The ISO 22000:2018 Food Safety Management System (FSMS) certification product, aimed at food industry businesses, was launched.
- The JS ISO 31000:2019 Risk Management Guidelines was launched to manage risk in public sector organisations.
- The Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority (HSRA) was officially launched in October, making Jamaica the first country in the English-speaking Caribbean to establish a full regulatory body for radiation protection and safety.

Manufacturing

- Companies substituted imported items such as hand sanitiser with locally-produced brands.
- A 50 per cent reduction in export-related fees and charges enabled more businesses to tap into the export market and boost Jamaica's competitiveness internationally.

Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC)

- The webinar series 'JBDC Virtual Biz Zone' was launched to continue training for entrepreneurs as they tackle COVID-19.



Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Hon. Audley Shaw (left), presents Chief Executive Officer of the Companies Office of Jamaica (COJ), Judith Ramlogan, with the document officially certifying the COJ as ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System-compliant. The presentation was made during a ceremony hosted by the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) at its offices at the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ), Winchester Road, St. Andrew, on November 12. Sharing the moment are State Minister in the Industry, Investment and Commerce, Hon. Dr. Norman Dunn (2nd right), and the COJ's Corporate Planner and Quality Monitoring Officer and ISO Project Manager, Cyleena Gray.

- Things Jamaican e-Commerce was launched with more than 2,000 products being offered on the website.

JAMPRO

- JAMPRO launched the first phase of the National Business Portal (NBP) to facilitate multiple business-

to-government transactions in one online location.

- JAMPRO and UDC partner to promote investment in sustainable eco-tourism projects, with the first being the Two Sisters Cave in Hellshire, St. Catherine.

Companies Office of Jamaica (COJ)

- COJ launched its COVID-19 Compliance Relief Initiative to assist entities that had to be closed due to the pandemic, in being officially removed from the Business Names Register.

Trade Board

- More than 8,000 import and export permits were approved since implementation of the online export and import facilitation platform in June.
- More than 600 persons were engaged virtually to use the platform.

Cannabis Licensing Authority (CLA)

- As at November 30, 71 licences have been issued; 26 licence have been granted and are awaiting the payment of fees for issuance.
- 331 applications are at the Conditional Approval stage of the application process.
- Licensed retail herb houses were able to sell to qualified customers.
- Seven standards for the local cannabis industry were promulgated and gazetted that are expected to help to further enhance trade opportunities for the growing pool of licensees.



Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Hon. Audley Shaw (right), points at a jar of CBD oil being held by State Minister in the Ministry, Hon. Dr. Norman Dunn (left), while chemist at the Organic Growth Holdings (OGH) hemp facility, Jordan McKenzie (2nd from left), and OGH pharmacist, Layanne Bloomfield, observe. Occasion was a tour of the OGH hemp facility in Jackson Town, Trelawny, in December.



State Minister in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Dr. the Hon. Norman Dunn (right), opens a bamboo charcoal kiln while on a tour of the Peckham bamboo facility in Clarendon on December 4. Looking on is executive member of the Peckham Community Development Committee (CDC) and Benevolent Society, Claude Melhado.

Education Ministry Implements Strategies to Facilitate Learning

With the closure of schools due to COVID-19, strategies were implemented to ensure that learning continued, including equipping students and teachers with devices to facilitate online classes.

Online Learning

- The 2020/21 academic year resumed on October 5, with lessons delivered virtually; via television, radio and cable; and through the delivery of printed materials.
- The Ministry established Learning Management System (Google Classroom), which more than 400,000 teachers, students and administrators can access.
- 40, 000 tablets were delivered to students at primary schools, who benefit under PATH.
- 25,000 devices were provided for teachers.
- The Government entered an arrangement with ReadyTV to provide a solution for 238 schools in



Education, Youth and Information Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams (centre), observes as student of Lucea Primary School in Hanover, Avanique Grant (right), uses the new tablet she received in November under the Government's Tablets in Schools Programme. Looking on is fellow student, Linsobia Gourzong.

remote areas that were without Internet access. By the end of December, 100 institutions were equipped.

- The One Laptop per Child Initiative was launched with the support of corporate firms, to provide laptops to students who are not on PATH.

- The Own Your Own Device (OYOD) Initiative was launched, with the parents of 36,000 students each receiving a voucher valuing \$20,000 each, to help with the purchase of devices.
- 17 schools participated in a face-to-face teaching pilot in November. An additional 22 started



Grade-four teacher at Bethlehem Primary and Infant School in Malvern, St. Elizabeth, Kheelia Blake, conducts a class following the resumption of face-to-face teaching at the institution in November under a two-week pilot undertaken by the Government.

in-person classes in December.

- A call centre and special website was launched to help the public with information. An email address, educate@educate.gov.jm was created specifically for back-to-school queries.
- 180 teachers were trained to deliver online and offline lessons.

- School leaders participated in a Virtual Instructional Leadership (VIL) online course, to equip them with the skills and competencies to effectively manage institutions remotely.
- 100 per cent of the 38,918 students who sat the 2020 Primary Exit Profile (PEP) in grade six were placed in high schools.



Grade-one student at the Somerton All-Age and Infant School, Dejaugn Duhaney, washes his hands at a recently installed handwashing station, following the resumption of face-to-face classes at the institution in November under Government's two-week pilot programme.



Students of Middle Quarters All-age School in St. Elizabeth show off tablets donated by the Sandals Foundation under the Government's 'One Tablet or Laptop per Child' initiative.

Child Care and Protection Prioritised

- The Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) staged motorcades at town centres islandwide to encourage proper supervision of children.
- 30 social workers benefited from training aimed at equipping them to provide psychosocial support to more than 6,500 at-risk children who are wards of the State.
- Maxfield Park Children's Home got a \$2.8 million state-of-the-art fire alarm system.
- Reduction in the number of missing children.

Early Childhood Education

- \$13.5 million was distributed to the Brain Builders Centre, which offers support to children zero to three years old, while \$30 million was provided for the procurement of sanitation material and personal protective equipment (PPE) for schools

identified to be in need.

- Early childhood sector stakeholders received COVID-19 protocols training to safeguard children.
- Schools received donation of equipment to become Covid-19 compliant.

Critical Maintenance Projects

- \$446 million was provided to repair 156 schools under the Critical Maintenance Programme

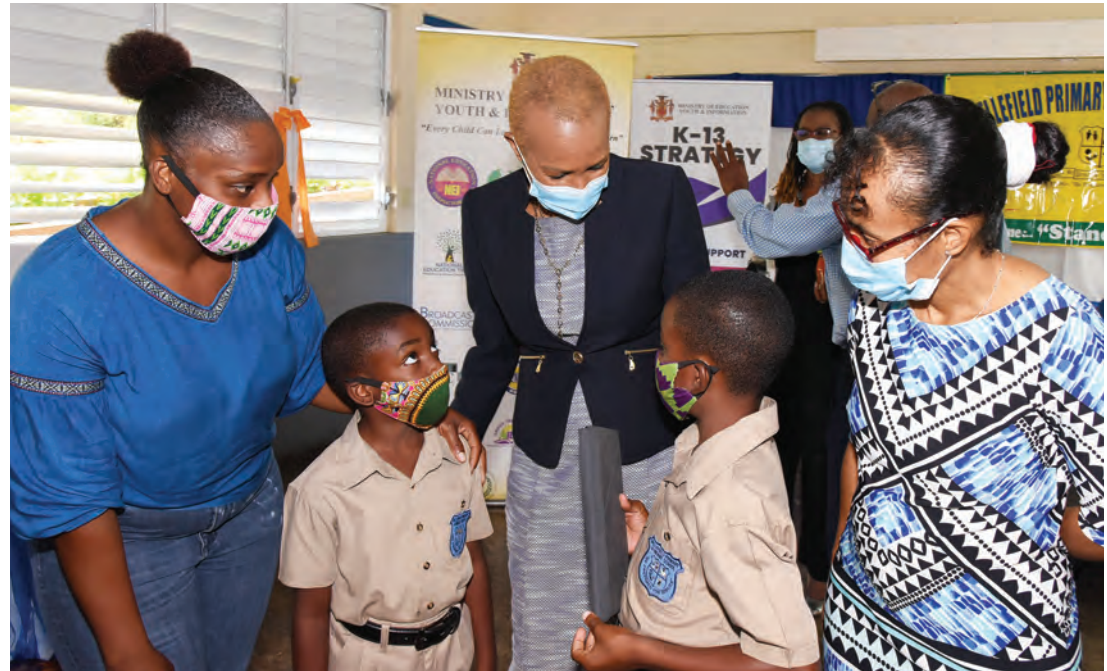
Information Division

- Eighteen Sound Broadcast and Subscriber Television (STV) licences were processed and approved by the Minister and issued licensees.
- Work was advanced on the implementation of the Government of Jamaica Records and Information Management (RIM) Programme in ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

- Preparation and distribution of two RIM Newsletters to more than 250 senior

government officials, RIM and management information systems (MIS)

practitioners across the public sector.



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Fayval Williams (centre), converses with students of Bellefield Primary and Infant School in Manchester, six-year-old Jayden Perron (2nd left), and 10-year-old Terone Thompson (2nd right), following a ceremony at the institution in November for the presentation of tablet computers. Looking on (from left) are the youngsters' mother, Nickole King, and the school's Principal, Brenda Hayles-Anderson.



Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) Children's Officers, Mark Thomas (left) and Carol Cooper-Rodriques (centre), engage with resident of Albion, Delores White, after presenting her with a calendar. Albion was one of the stops during the CPFSA's motorcade in St. Thomas in July, to encourage proper supervision of children.



Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Robert Morgan (left), offers words of advice to members of the National Youth Parliament of Jamaica. They are (from 2nd left), 'Prime Minister', David Salmon; 'Marshall', Shanda Wallace; and 'Leader of the Opposition', Jadon Hewitt. Occasion was the 11th sitting of the National Youth Parliament of Jamaica at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston, in November.

Focus on Care for the Homeless and Indigent

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development made significant strides in advancing the lives of Jamaicans despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Supervision

- More than 160,000 meals provided to homeless persons and care packages distributed to thousands of individuals classified as the “outdoor poor” through the Poor Relief Department.
- A \$19-million Drop-In Centre for homeless persons in Falmouth, Trelawny, officially opened.
- Three houses, built at a cost of \$1.8 million each under the Government’s Indigent Housing Programme, were handed over to beneficiaries in Trelawny and Portland
- A two-bedroom house was handed over to young Raheem Powell and his family, while a presentation was made to a former Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) member, who has fallen on hard times.
- A 100-bed shelter for homeless persons was opened on Church Street, downtown Kingston.
- A soup kitchen was also established on Church Street, to support the Government’s feeding programme for vulnerable persons.
- Cleaning and sanitising carried out at the Golden Age Home in Kingston and infirmaries islandwide.
- Nine wash stations installed at the St. James Infirmary to promote frequent hand washing in response to COVID-19.
- More than 200 temporary workers recruited to continue the cleaning and sanitisation exercise being

carried out at infirmaries and golden age homes islandwide.

Municipal Corporations

- \$140 million allocated to Councillors islandwide to aid in fighting COVID-19 at the community level.
- Comprehensive cleaning and sanitising of public spaces islandwide undertaken to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- \$20 million allocated to clear roads blocked by landslides caused by flood rains.
- Custos of St. James, Hon. Bishop Conrad Pitkin, issued 450 reusable masks to vendors and residents.
- 450 care packages distributed to residents of Canterbury, Albion Lane, William Street and surrounding communities in Montego Bay, by the St. James Municipal Corporation and United Nations (UN)-Habitat.
- The Westmoreland Municipal Corporation relocated to a new administrative building on Murray Street, Savanna-la-Mar.
- The St. Ann Municipal Corporation launched a \$10-million Dengue Response Programme.
- \$8.5 million spent to complete the Black River Market in St. Elizabeth.

Drought Mitigation

- \$120 million provided to truck water to communities adversely affected by drought, while a number of residents received 500-gallon water tanks.
- \$11 million spent to construct water shop in Tryall, St. Elizabeth.
- \$50 million allocated to truck water to



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right), and Member of Parliament for East Portland, Ann Marie Vaz (left), assist Everaldo Gibson (2nd left) and his wife, Hazel, inside their new home, at a handover ceremony held in Long Road, Portland in July.



Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right), is aided by Councillor of the Tivoli Gardens division, Donovan Samuels, in presenting a care package to elderly resident of West Kingston, Adriana Thompson.

municipalities islandwide as part of the national COVID-19 response.

- Several 1,000-gallon tanks installed in six communities in St. James,

through a partnership with Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL).

Local Government Entities Strengthened

National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA)

- The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) handed over a new garbage truck to Western Parks and Markets (WPM) Waste Management Limited.
- 20 new Geo-X tablet computers handed over to the NSWMA for the children of sanitation workers, to aid in their access to online learning.

Social Development Commission (SDC)

- 600 temporary workers employed to conduct assessments at bars for compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.
- RONA Helpline Senior Care Response initiative activated to assist persons over 70 years old, who are mandated to stay at home due to COVID-19.

- A Registrar Department was established to facilitate the conferment of legal status on community groups under the Local Governance Act, 2016.

Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB)

- 85 new firefighters recruited.
- JFB ambulances equipped with protective gear to transport persons displaying respiratory and flu-like symptoms.
- Two firefighting backpacks donated to farmers in Flagaman, St. Elizabeth.
- Land identified to build a fire station in southern Trelawny.

Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)

- Work continued to strengthen the national shelter management protocols

- ODPEM activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) to coordinate efforts to address COVID-19.
- 200 micro, small and medium-sized enterprise

(MSME) owners trained in business continuity planning.

Other Projects

- Disaster response equipment, valued over US\$250,000, was

donated by the United States (US) Embassy in Kingston, and the Department of Defence, US Southern Command, to boost local disaster relief capacity.



Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Homer Davis (right); and Member of Parliament for Central St. James, Heroy Clarke, scrub a sidewalk along St. James Street, during a sanitisation exercise in Montego Bay in June.



Mayor of Black River, Councillor Derrick Sangster (left), cuts the ribbon to officially commission a new skid unit at the Santa Cruz Fire Station in St. Elizabeth. He is joined by Commissioner of the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB), Stewart Beckford, who handed over the unit to the station in December.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, converses with vendor, Kemeisha Lynch, during a tour of the Brown's Town Market in St. Ann in August.

Jamaica's Cultural Heritage Showcased Online

In response to COVID-19 a number of events were hosted virtually, which showcased Jamaica's rich cultural heritage.

Culture

- The Ministry organised the first virtual staging of Jamaica Festival. This included the Jamaica Festival and Gospel Song Competitions, an 'Independence Spectacular' virtual edition of the Grand Gala on August 6.
 - A made-for-television production of the National Honours and Awards Investiture ceremony was aired on National Heroes Day.
 - Work commenced to develop Seville Heritage Park in St Ann, under the
- Government's \$10.3 million heritage preservation programme.
- The Government contributed \$90 million to the Trust Fund for survivors of the 1963 Coral Gardens incident.
 - The top-10 entries in the Jamaica Festival Song competition were packaged as an album, which is now available for download and/or streaming on international music platforms – Spotify, Deezer, Amazon Music, Apple Music and Tidal.
 - Reggae artiste – Buju Banton – won the Jamaica Festival Song Competition with his entry, 'I Am A Jamaican', following a public vote.



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, chairs the virtual meeting of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

CUSTOMS ADVERT.

Celebrating Sports Achievement and Caring For Young Mothers

Sport

- A statue of Olympian, sprinter, Asafa Powell, was unveiled at the National stadium. It was the final of four statues commissioned as part of the Jamaica 55 Legacy Initiative.
- A mobile unit was handed over to the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission
- The Ministry developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Results Management System to quantify the value of sport to national development.

Gender Affairs

- The first State-run shelter for victims of domestic abuse was opened.
- The Ministry acquired two additional properties that will be similarly developed.

- Adolescent mothers were provided with 'Dignity Kits' under the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation programme.
- The Bureau of Gender Affairs hosted workshops, seminars and counselling sessions to promote positive images of men and boys, while addressing different aspects of manhood and fatherhood.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was forged with the University of the West Indies Open Campus to facilitate anti-sexual harassment training for managers and workers in the public and private sectors.

Entertainment

- The Government announced plans to use the new Port Royal pier facility as an entertainment venue.

- Reggae artiste, Koffee, won the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album.
- Jamaican music stars, Shaggy, Marcia Griffiths, and Ken Boothe received the Jamaica Reggae Icon Awards at the 'Independence Spectacular'.

Three-day National Dengue Clean-up

- Jamaicans cleaned and beautified their homes and communities on January 24, 25 and 26 under the theme – 'Mosquitoes wanted dead, not alive!'
- A three-dimensional mural, under the multi-dimensional mural project, titled, 'Paint Up Yu Creative Space', was unveiled in downtown Kingston.



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, presents a 'dignity package' to an adolescent mother registered with the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation. Looking on is the Executive Director of the Foundation, Dr. Zoe Simpson.



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (right), embraces Grammy-winning Reggae artiste, Koffee, at Norman Manley International Airport. The Minister went to welcome home the singer who won the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album in January 2020.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) and the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (2nd left), share a light moment with Jamaican sprinter, Asafa Powell (2nd right), after the unveiling of a statue in the athlete's honour in Statue Park at the National Stadium. Sharing the moment is the sculptor, Basil Watson.



Principal Director, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Sharon Robinson (centre), pins a white ribbon on the lapel of State Minister in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Alando Terrelonge, at the International Men's Day (IMD) Church Service held in November at the Constant Spring Road Church of God, St. Andrew. Looking on is the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Denzil Thorpe.

Several Pieces of Legislation Passed

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

Legislation Passed

1. The Patents and Design Act, 2020
2. The Appropriation Act, 2020
3. The Data Protection Act, 2020
4. The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2020
5. The General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Act, 2020
6. The Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2020
7. The Registration of Titles (Amendment) Act, 2020
8. The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Act, 2020
9. Authentication (Foreign Public Documents) Act, 2020

10. Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 2020
11. Dogs (Liability for Attacks) Act, 2020
12. National Housing Trust (Amendment) (Special Provisions) Act, 2020
13. Shipping (Amendment) Act
14. Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2020

Legislation before Joint Select Committee

1. The Sexual Harassment Bill
2. The National Identification and Registration Act, 2020

Orders, Resolutions and Regulations Approved

1. Trade (Sale of Goods During Period of Declaration of Disaster Area) Order 2020
2. Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations 2020
3. Tourism Workers' Pension Scheme Regulations
4. Fiscal Administration and Audit (Suspension of Fiscal Target Requirements) Order, 2020
5. Interception of Communications (Designated Persons Who May Request Communications Data) Order, 2020
6. The Electricity (Electrical Work, Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 2020
7. The Colbeck (Irrigation Area) Order, 2020
8. The Banking Services (Designated Financial Services) (Business of Buying and Selling Foreign Currency) Order, 2020
9. The Banking Services (Designated Financial



A record number of eight women were appointed to serve in the new 21-member Senate, increasing the percentage of women appointed to the body to 38 per cent. They are (from left) Natalie Rodrigues; Janice Allen; Sherene Golding Campbell; Sophia Fraser-Binns; Dr. Sapphire Longmore; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith; Donna-Scott Mottley, and Gabriella Morris.



Members of the Houses of Parliament bow their heads as President of the Jamaica Council of Churches, Rev. Newton Dixon (2nd right), says the prayer at the Ceremonial Opening of Parliament in February.

Services) (Provision of Electronic Retail Payment Services) Order, 2020

Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) Act, 2014.

Sexual Offences Act along with the Offences against the Person Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Child Care and Protection Act.

Reports Adopted

1. Report of the Joint Select Committee to review the
2. Report of the Joint Select Committee to review the

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