

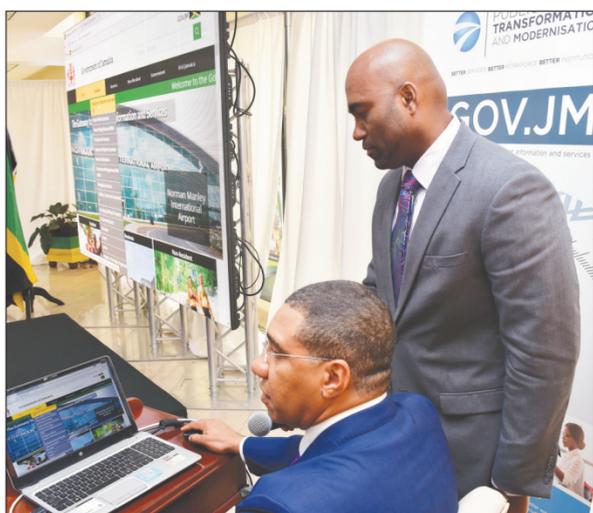
GOV.JM to Make Doing Business Easier

CONDUCTING BUSINESS with the Government of Jamaica has now become easier with the official launch of the GOV.JM online portal.

A one-stop shop for Government-related information and services, GOV.JM will help to reduce cost, while improving efficiency.

It is a project of the Public Sector Transformation and Modernisation Programme (PSTM), the Science, Energy and Technology Ministry and its portfolio agency, e-Gov Jamaica Limited.

Among the services available are tax and traffic fine payments, motor vehicle registration; bill payments; and applications for birth,



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) navigates his way through the GOV.JM web portal, at the official launch at the Office of the Prime Minister on August 9. Looking on is Science, Energy and Technology Minister, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley.

death and marriage certificates as well as passports and driver's licences.

The website also facilitates charitable donations to the National Education

Trust (NET); applications for import and export permits and licences; and access to forms and links for doing business and investing in Jamaica.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness said the portal represents "one of the critical elements of the transformation of the public sector".

He noted that this technology will help to "eliminate hierarchical bureaucratic structures.

"It will change them by making the bureaucracy flatter, increase the decision-making process and make them more efficient," he further noted.

He was speaking at the portal's launch at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kingston on August 9.

The Prime Minister said that a public relations campaign will have to be undertaken in order to encourage Jamaicans to use the web portal.

GOV.JM is being funded by the Government and the Inter-American Development Bank under the Public Sector Efficiency Programme.

CMI Receives Emergency Vehicles

THE CARIBBEAN Maritime Institute (CMI) has received one ambulance and three fire trucks from the Government of Japan, valued at J\$9.6 million (US\$79,721).

Provision of the units was facilitated under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Project (GGP), through partnership with the Society for the Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy.

The vehicles, which were handed over on August 9 during a ceremony held on the school's Palisadoes Park compound, are expected to significantly boost the CMI's capacity to respond to emergencies in Port Royal.

The donation will empower the CMI to reintroduce volunteerism through an emergency and response training programme among the communities of Port Royal, Harbour View, Bull Bay and the general East Kingston area.

Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Mike Henry, said as part of the

initiative to bring back volunteerism to Jamaica, the Caribbean Merchant Marine Cadet Corps has been formed at the CMI, to help improve discipline and build a marine conscience.

"These volunteers will be the first voluntary firefighting, emergency and rescue service in Jamaica, as the CMI partners with the Jamaica Fire Service and the St. John Ambulance Service," Mr. Henry said.

He informed that they will be trained and certified to IMO standards in first aid and firefighting.

"This volunteer programme will be integrated into various school programmes through the Cadet Corps. Over 400 of them are to be trained and certified in emergency fire and rescue services," he added.

For his part, Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, His Excellency Masanori Nakano, said the general expectation is that there should be a decrease in the number of disaster-related losses.

Prime Minister Launches Youth Summer Employment Programme

PRIME MINISTER the Most. Hon. Andrew Holness on Thursday (August 10) launched the National Youth Summer Employment Programme under which 2,300 youths will be employed over a four-week period.

The young people, from communities across the island, will be engaged in the auditing of street lights and identifying vulnerable persons within communities who may require assistance during periods of natural disasters and other forms of emergency.

Teams will also be required to identify streets for which name signs are missing.

The exercise is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and will run from August 14 to September 8. Each participant will be paid \$8,000 weekly.

Prime Minister Holness, in his remarks at the launch held at Jamaica College, said the work will provide critical information that will better enable the Government to serve the country.

He noted that the Government pays "a significant amount of money" for street lighting

each year "and we have to know which street lights are working.

"Some street lights are on, but the lights are so dim. They are burning up the electricity but not generating any light. We want to know which street lights are out so that we can better provide the service for the communities," he said.

As it relates to the gathering of information about the vulnerable, he said that this will enable the provision of emergency assistance and other support services to communities.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) participates in the official launch of the National Youth Summer Employment Programme, on August 10 at Jamaica College in St. Andrew.

Campaign Launched for Persons Living With HIV to Take Medication for Life

A SOCIAL marketing campaign has officially been launched by the Ministry of Health to encourage persons living with the human immunodeficiency virus (PLHIV) to take their medication and to continue to do so for life.

The campaign, which has been dubbed, 'Test and Start: Get on yu meds and get on wid life', goes further to encourage persons to get tested for HIV in order to know their status and, if confirmed positive, to commence antiretroviral treatment.

Director of Health Services Planning and Integration in the Ministry, Dr. Simone Spence, said the test and start campaign is based on current scientific evidence



Director of Health Services Planning and Integration in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Simone Spence

from clinical trials and observational studies.

"It demonstrates that initiating antiretroviral therapy (ART) earlier, results in better clinical outcomes in persons living with HIV, versus delay in

treatment," she said, at the launch at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston, on August 10.

Citing data from the United States-based Centre for Disease Control, Dr. Spence informed that persons who use ART can be kept healthy for many years.

"Antiretroviral medications lower HIV in the blood, reduces HIV-related illnesses and reduces the spread of HIV to others," she noted.

Jamaica has an estimated 30,000 persons living with HIV or 1.7 per cent of the adult population.

Radio, television and poster advertisements will form part of the social marketing campaign of 'Test and Start'.

Barbican Road Improvement Project to Commence in Two Weeks

WORK ON the J\$564.7 million (US\$4.4 million) Barbican Road improvement project in St. Andrew is slated to commence in two weeks.

The four-month project, being implemented under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) with funding support from the Government of the People's

Republic of China, entails significant upgrading of 1.1 kilometres of the 3.75 kilometre Barbican Road.

This will involve major improvements along the stretch between the intersections at Jacks Hill Road and the roadway leading to Russell Heights, as well as East Kings House Road to the Barbican Centre,

which will be widened to a four-lane carriageway.

It is expected that this will significantly alleviate the traffic congestion that has been a long-standing challenge in that area.

The project is being spearheaded through the National Works Agency and will be executed by China Harbour Engineering Company Limited.

Contracts for the Barbican Road project were signed during a brief ceremony at Jamaica House on August 9.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness said the project underpins the Government's mission to develop a safe, reliable and quality road network that improves the development potential and interconnectivity across communities islandwide.

He pointed out that Barbican Road facilitates the movement of more than 26,000 vehicles daily.

Mr. Holness said as a result of the roadway's low capacity, there is significant congestion, often resulting in gridlocks on this and adjoining roads.

In this regard, he assured that the project "will deliver a corridor that will be able to handle a high volume of traffic in a more efficient and more comfortable manner."



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Niu Qingbao (2nd left), sign the agreement for the Barbican Road improvement project, during a ceremony at Jamaica House on August 9. Others (seated from left) are: China Harbour Engineering Company Limited Project Manager, Liu Xiangang; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Audrey Sewell; and Justice Minister and Member of Parliament for North East St. Andrew, Hon. Delroy Chuck.

Edward Seaga Honoured at Grand Gala



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) presents former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Edward Seaga, with his citation at the Jamaica 55 Grand Gala held at the National Stadium on August 6. Mr. Seaga spearheaded the establishment of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) and other institutions.