

# PM Launches National Export Strategy Phase II

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, on August 20, launched phase two of the National Export Strategy (NES II), which is aimed at increasing Jamaican exports in the global marketplace.

NES II is a follow-up to NES Phase 1, which was implemented for the 2009 – 2013 period by Jamaica Promotions Corporation, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

The NES II is to last from 2015 – 2019 and is intended to realise export-led growth by implementing precise and targeted initiatives with measurable outcomes across focused priority sectors.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (at the podium) launched phase two of the National Export Strategy (NES II) at the Terra Nova All-Suites Hotel in Kingston, on Thursday August 20.**

This is to be achieved by advancing the competitiveness of firms and sectors, while enhancing the environment for business and trade.

Nova Hotel, the Prime Minister said the NES is a major plank of Jamaica's economic programme.

**"We have to continue on this course in the interest of Jamaica's economy, more so to the benefit of our people."**

"In order that Jamaica's participation in global trade can significantly improve the lives of the Jamaican people, it is important to consistently strengthen our export capacity through a major and deliberate strategy," she emphasised.

She noted that the launch of NES II, is taking place at a time of greater economic stability for the country, supported by improving macro-economic indicators and positive ratings by the international rating agencies.

"We have to continue on this course in the interest of Jamaica's economy, more so to the benefit of our people," the Prime Minister urged.

She added that despite growth of the economy in critical sectors, additional growth is needed in the manufacturing and export sectors.

"We will have to identify market niches that are underserved and fill those markets. Jamaica cannot afford to miss the export boat," she pledged.

## Jamaica on Course for 9<sup>th</sup> Drawdown of Funds From IMF

JAMAICA IS on course for a ninth drawdown of funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This is based on the country's positive performance for the first quarter of the fiscal year under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), despite the effects of severe drought.

Head of the IMF Mission to Jamaica, Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan, said the country has met all the quantitative targets under the four-year EFF for the April to June quarter.

As a result, the country is expected to receive an additional US\$40 million under the EFF, when the IMF board reviews the programme in September.

She was speaking at a press conference held on August 21 at the Ministry's Kingston offices.

She highlighted reduction in the unemployment rate in April, historical low levels of inflation, signifi-

cant reductions in the current account deficit and improvements in the country's international reserves, as positive developments in the economy.

"A gradual economic recovery is underway, growth outlook is improving although the drought is hampering agricultural recovery for the second year in a row," Dr. Ramakrishnan noted.

Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, said the positive assessment, shows that the country continues to demonstrate positive macro-economic performance despite the impact of the drought on growth.

He also reiterated the Government's commitment to the economic reform programme, while noting that his Ministry will not engage in any "reckless unlocking of spending simply to satisfy a set of short term calls and needs."



**Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips (left) and Head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission to Jamaica, Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan, address journalists at a press conference held in Kingston on August 21, 2015.**

## Medium Risk Block to be Built at Tamarind Farm

WORK IS to commence on a 304-bed, 2-storey Medium Risk block at the Tamarind Farm Adult Correctional Facility, following the signing of a \$164 million contract for the improvement project.

The contract was signed on August 19, in Kingston, by the Ministry of National Security, M and M Jamaica Limited, and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS).

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Peter Bunting, said it is the first in decades that capital expenditure is going into the correctional system.

He argued that the move "is important," because there needs to be a separation from high risk prisoners of those in the system on

crimes that are not very serious, and also to provide the necessary rehabilitation for those incarcerated.

The project is to be managed by the Jamaica Defence Force and is expected to be completed in six months.



**A delighted Minister of National Security, Hon. Peter Bunting (standing), looks on as (from left): Commissioner of Corrections, Ina Fairweather; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Stewart Saunders, and Managing Director of M and M Jamaica Limited, Donald Mullings, shake hands after the signing of the contract to construct a medium risk block at the Tamarind Farm Correctional Facility at his Oxford Road offices, on August 19.**

## High Density Filing System for Supreme Court Registry

A HIGH density filing system is to be established at the Supreme Court's Registry located in the new Public North building, downtown Kingston.

Minister of Justice, Senator the Hon. Mark Golding and Managing Director, Keith Ryan & Company Limited, Richard Josephs,

signed the \$48 million contract for the procurement and implementation of the system, during a brief ceremony on August 20, at the Ministry's Oxford Road offices.

In his remarks, Senator Golding said the filing system forms part of the reform programme for the justice sector.

He noted that a significant part of the Supreme Court's activities depends on the Registry where documents are filed, kept and managed and made available to judges for matters that are before the court.

The high density system will ensure that all of the documents within the control of the court are properly filed.

"This is an important technological facility to support the activities of the Registry...a critical element in the efficiency of the business of the Supreme Court," Senator Golding said.

It is expected that the high density filing system will be installed over the next eight weeks.

The system allows for reduction in time for retrieval and filing, enabling immediate improvement in productivity, while saving time and money on filing and re-filing. It also serves to increase storage capacity, thereby freeing up valuable floor space.



**Minister of Justice, Senator the Hon. Mark Golding (left), along with Managing Director, Keith Ryan & Company Limited, Richard Josephs, hold a copy of the signed contract for the procurement and implementation of a high density filing system for the Supreme Court. The contract was signed during a brief ceremony held at the Ministry's Oxford Road office on August 20.**

## PM Thanks China for Enjoyment Garden



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and wife of the Governor-General and Patron of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Her Excellency the Most Hon. Lady Allen, observe the writings on a plaque at the Chinese Gardens during the opening at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hope on August 19. Others (from left) are: Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Robert Pickersgill; Leader of the Opposition, Andrew Holness; Economic and Commercial Councillor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Liu Lei; and Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Xia Guoshun.**

## NLA Prepares 873 Titles for Properties in Three Parishes

THE NATIONAL Land Agency (NLA) has prepared 873 of 1,005 certificates of title for properties in St. Ann, St. Mary and Portland, under the Government's \$235 million (US\$2 million) land registration project being implemented in those parishes.

The remaining 132 titles are currently being processed by the NLA, and should be ready in short order.

Preparation of the titles is being carried out under phase two of the Govern-

ment's Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP), with grant funding from the Korea International Co-operation Agency (KOICA).

Of the 873 titles produced, 223 have been delivered to the recipients, including four which were presented by Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change Minister, Hon. Robert Pickersgill, during a brief ceremony at the NLA's St. Mary parish office, in Port Maria, on August 20.

Mr. Pickersgill, who has portfolio responsibility for the NLA, expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by KOICA.

"I want to assure the Korean Government that our country has benefitted tremendously from this project. It has helped us to address issues of security of tenure, land development, and poverty alleviation, the impact of which will last for generations," Mr. Pickersgill said.

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