

Kingston Terminal Divested

THE GOVERNMENT has divested the Kingston Container Terminal (KCT) to Kingston Freeport Terminal Limited (KFTL).

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness made the announcement at a press briefing at Jamaica House on July 1.

He said financial closure was attained on Thursday, June 30 for the concession agreement between KFTL and the Port Authority of Jamaica. KFTL assumed operation of the KCT effective July 1.

Mr. Holness said all fees required under the concessionary agreement have been paid over to the Port Authority of Jamaica.

The agreement between the Port Authority and KFTL is for the development and expansion of

KCT, Jamaica's main trans-shipment port. The agreement gives the KFTL a 30-year concession with the right to finance, expand, operate, maintain, and at the end of the concession, transfer the container terminal.

The Prime Minister said KFTL has secured all the funding required for the first phase of the capital works, which will see the dredging and deepening of the harbour.

"Under the concessionary agreement, the new concessionaires will finance (expansion) works without recourse to the Government resources and without any Government guarantees," he informed.

The agreement also commits KFTL to a second phase of development to expand capacity and further



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) shares a conversation with French Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Jean-Michel Despax at a press conference held on July 1 at Jamaica House.

deepen the access channel and basin.

The Prime Minister said the development is timely, coming on the heels of the opening of the expanded Panama Canal.

KFTL is a subsidiary of the global terminal operators, CMA CGM Group, which is the third largest shipping company in the world.

Review Commission to Strengthen Jamaica's Position in CARICOM – PM

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the work to be undertaken by the newly established Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Review Commission is aimed at strengthening Jamaica's position within the regional integration process.

The Commission will provide a forum for these and other issues to be addressed, with inputs from persons "who can give context, direction, interpretation, and analysis."

This, Mr. Holness says, is "absolutely important" in ensuring increased economic growth and development for Jamaica over the next 50 years.

He was speaking at the Commission's launch at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on June 28.

Mr. Holness, who announced the Commission's

formation in April, indicated then that the time had come for Jamaica to fully assess the benefits, opportunities and challenges of CARICOM.

While acknowledging CARICOM's successes, Mr. Holness highlighted "significant concerns" for Jamaica in the area of trade.

He said the Commission will provide a forum for these and other issues to be addressed, with inputs from persons "who can give context, direction, interpretation, and analysis."

"This is the approach I intend to take...to have that conversation that will guide our path for the next 50 years," the Prime Minister added.

Mr. Holness thanked former Prime Minister, Bruce Golding, for accepting the invitation to chair the Commission, describing him as an "excellent choice" for the position.

He said the other members of the Commission will be announced shortly.

Gov't Exploring Investments Valued at \$800 Billion

THE GOVERNMENT is exploring several proposed investment projects valued at approximately \$800 billion, with employment potential of 80,000 jobs.

This was disclosed by Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz, during a post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House on June 29.

He said some of the proposed investments are far advanced, noting that the country will be updated as the developments and investments unfold.

"Based on what I have seen coming into office and also what has happened in terms of the renewed appetite for investments in Jamaica... I commit that I



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz

will give an update in short order of actual committed investments and implementation dates," he said.

Speaking on the matter during his contribution to

the 2016/17 Sectoral presentation in the House of Representatives, Minister Vaz said the investments span various sectors and consist of public and private partnerships.

Alluding to some of the projects, he said the Ministry has facilitated talks between the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation and PA Benjamin, to expand factory space to increase productive capacity. The total amount to be invested for this project is approximately US\$25 million.

Another project, he said, is being undertaken by

the Heineken Group, which will see US\$31.5 million being invested between 2016 and 2020 in Cassava Project Grow.

The project aims to develop a sustainable cassava starch supply chain with some 3,000 acres of cassava under cultivation and agro-processing capacity of 100 root tons/day.

'Jamaica Moves' to Tackle NCDs



Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, participates in a mini-march outside Gordon House on June 29 to promote the Government's 'Jamaica Moves' National campaign, which is to be launched shortly. The campaign is part of measures to combat non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cancers.

\$350M Project to Reduce Waiting Time at Public Health Facilities

THE GOVERNMENT is putting in place measures to reduce the waiting time of patients at the nation's public health facilities.

Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, announced on June 29 that a \$350-million project will be piloted at eight hospitals and six major health centres. This will cut the time it takes for a patient to see a doctor, starting with the Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments.

Dr. Tufton, who was making his Sectoral Debate presentation in the House of Representatives, said the pilot will involve improving customer service and assessment and redirecting non-emergency cases to the closest designated primary care health centre.

The hospitals involved in the pilot are: Cornwall Regional, St. James;

Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland; St. Ann's Bay Regional, St. Ann; Kingston Public, Kingston; Spanish Town, St. Catherine; Mandeville Regional, Manchester; May Pen, Clarendon; and the Bustamante Hospital for Children, St. Andrew.

The designated health centres are: Mount Salem in St. James; St. Ann's Bay, St. Ann; Comprehensive and Glen Vincent in Kingston; St. Jago Park, St. Catherine; Mandeville in Manchester; and May Pen in Clarendon.

Minister Tufton said the clinics have been adequately resourced to extend opening hours to 10:00 p.m., and are equipped to provide additional diagnostic and pharmacy services to facilitate persons who have been redirected to a primary care setting.

Gov't Allocates \$29 Billion for Social Protection

THE GOVERNMENT has increased the allocation for social protection programmes to \$29 billion for the 2016/17 fiscal year, which is \$2 billion more than the previous period.

Of this amount, \$6.5 billion is for the provision of safety net initiatives through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, representing a nine per cent increase.

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Shahine Robinson, said the increase is to ensure that the provisions made to assist the most vulnerable are not eroded by inflation.

"This will go a far way in consolidating the gains



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson, makes a point during her presentation in the 2016/17 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on June 28.

we have made so far in tackling poverty and advancing prosperity through social protection," she said.

Mrs. Robinson was making her contribution to the 2016/17 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on June 28.

She informed the House that a Social Protection Floor is being developed through the Planning Institute of Jamaica, which will establish a minimum guaranteed level of social provision for the poor and vulnerable.

Recommendations will be sent to Cabinet for approval by the end of the fiscal year.

PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

It's Everybody's Responsibility

DISPOSE OF GARBAGE PROPERLY

COVER ALL CONTAINERS

PUNCH HOLES IN TINS