

IMF Approves Funds for Jamaica

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the disbursement of US\$39.8 million following the completion of the eighth review of Jamaica's economic performance under the four-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

In a release issued on June 16, the IMF noted that Jamaica's economic performance is on track and has remained strong.

The document further noted that all performance criteria for March 2015 were met, with the exception of the central Government primary balance criterion, which was narrowly missed. Structural reforms have advanced broadly in line with the programme.

"Halfway into the authorities' four-year reform programme, investment and growth prospects are gradually improving. Growth is



Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips (centre), addresses journalists at a recent media briefing at the Ministry's offices in Kingston, where details of Jamaica's eighth International Monetary Fund (IMF) quarterly review were provided. Listening keenly are Minister with responsibility for the Public Service, Hon. Horace Dalley (left); and new Chief of the IMF Staff Mission Team to Jamaica, Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan.

projected to approach two per cent in 2015/16, as the full impact of lower oil import costs and the recovery from last year's drought materialise, and as the improved business climate

and confidence feed economic activity," the IMF said.

In addition, the IMF said that continued proactive implementation of the Government's growth strategy will be critical to improve

Jamaica's economic growth and job opportunities.

The four-year EFF arrangement with Jamaica was approved by the IMF's Executive Board on May 1, 2013.

Ministry of Health to Get 10 New Ambulances

THE HEALTH Ministry's fleet of ambulances is to be significantly boosted with the acquisition of 10 new vehicles from auto dealer, Toyota Jamaica Limited, valued at approximately \$81.13 million.

The arrangement was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Portfolio Minister, Hon. Dr. Fenton Ferguson, and Toyota Jamaica Sales and Marketing Manager, Howard Foster, on June 17, at the 6th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James.

Delivering brief remarks, Dr. Ferguson said the ambulances represent the second set of new units being acquired by the Ministry within the last three years.

He thanked Toyota Jamaica for partnering with the Ministry to provide the new ambulances, which are slated for delivery by the end of 2015.

The Minister also disclosed that procurement arrangements are far advanced for the acquisition of an additional six ambulances through the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Care Mortality (PROMAC).

Dr. Ferguson said he will shortly be signing off on arrangements to acquire two new ambulances, to be funded through the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund, and that two buses are to be purchased for use in the Ministry's mental health programme.



Health Minister, Hon. Dr. Fenton Ferguson (2nd left), presents Toyota Jamaica Limited's Sales and Marketing Manager, Howard Foster (right), with a copy of the agreement formalising the auto dealership's provision of 10 new ambulances, valued at approximately \$81.13 million, to the Ministry of Health. The signing took place on Wednesday (June 17) during the 6th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre, in St. James. Others (from left) are: Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry, Dr. Marion Bullock DuCasse, and Permanent Secretary, Dr. Kevin Harvey.

Government Committed to Reducing Poverty

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller says the Government will continue to implement poverty reduction and alleviation measures in a bid to improve the conditions of the most vulnerable Jamaicans.

"We are working diligently to eliminate poverty through economic growth, job creation, the expansion of business ownership, the generation of wealth and social programmes to benefit the most vulnerable," she said.

Mrs. Simpson Miller was speaking at a farewell luncheon in honour of former Managing Director of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Scarlette Gillings, at the Mona Visitors' Lodge on June 17.

The Prime Minister noted that JSIF, implemented in 1996, continues to be a central part of the Government's integrated poverty reduction strategy.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (left) presents a framed citation to outgoing Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Scarlette Gillings, during a farewell luncheon in her honour at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre in St. Andrew on June 17.

"A vital part of JSIF's mission, in the current socio-economic policy framework, is to mobilise resources and channel them to community-based projects that will give Jamaicans the opportunity to improve their living conditions and earn a livelihood for themselves," she pointed out.

She further added that the organisation is helping to attain the outcomes of the National Development Vision, particularly as it relates to achieving a healthy and stable population; world-class education and training; effective social protection; safety and security; strong economic infrastructure;

and internationally competitive industries, among other areas.

"We are working diligently to eliminate poverty through economic growth, job creation, the expansion of business ownership, the generation of wealth, and social programmes..."

PM Urges Jamaicans to Keep Faith With Economic Programme

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller is imploring Jamaicans "to keep faith" with the social and economic programme that the Government is pursuing.

She said the programme is being pursued to achieve sustainable growth and development for all Jamaicans.

"I know that there are many challenges in the family, the community and the nation. However, working together, we are

on our way to a brighter future. This is the ultimate aim of our Economic Reform Programme (ERP) and the poverty reduction efforts," she said.

Mrs. Simpson Miller was speaking at a farewell luncheon in honour of former Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund, Scarlette Gillings, at the Mona Visitors' Lodge on June 17.

She noted that while the country has made

some progress in terms of its economic recovery, "we all recognise that we still have a lot more to do to achieve lasting prosperity for our people."

Under the current ERP, significant progress has been made in reducing the debt, improving the country's Gross Domestic Product and Net International Reserves and reducing inflation, among other things.

Record Attendance at 2015 Diaspora Conference

STATE MINISTER for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Arnaldo Brown, has reported that a record 3,000 participants attended the 2015 Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference, which concluded on June 18.

This is the highest level of attendance since the inaugural staging of the conference in 2004.

Speaking at a Jamaica House media briefing at the Montego Bay Convention Centre on June 17, Mr. Brown also highlighted several key outcomes from this year's conference.

Notable among these, he said, was the forging of a partnership involving the Ministry of Education, United States Agency for International Development



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. A. J. Nicholson (right), and State Minister in that Ministry, Hon. Arnaldo Brown, engage in discussion during the opening ceremony for the 6th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort in Montego Bay on June 14.

and members of the Diaspora, to stage a numeracy summer camp this year, targeting approximately 500 youth in Portland, St. Thomas and St. James.

Mr. Brown also highlighted the donation of a mobile blood unit, valued at £100,000, to the Ministry of Health by Diaspora members in the United Kingdom.

Ministers of Gov't Tour Newly Commissioned Cassava Starch Factory



Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Hon. Anthony Hylton (centre), examines cassava starch produced at the newly commissioned cassava starch factory of brewery company, Red Stripe, during a tour of the facility on June 18. Looking on at right is Minister of Agriculture, Labour and Social Security, Hon. Derrick Kellier. Also pictured is Lab Analyst, Michael Henry.

e-WASTE PILOT PROJECT

National Solid Waste Management Authority

Pilot Project Communities

- Duhaney Park, Patrick City
- Harbour View in St. Andrew
- Hellshire, Angels 1, 2
- Angel Grove in St. Catherine

Drop off point for the public

- Dermason Plaza, (Independence City, Portmore).
- King Street Spanish Town, St. Catherine
- NSWMA Head Office at 61 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10.

Items to be collected

CPUs, Monitors, Used and end of life computing equipment, cellular phones, Tablets and Laptops, Printers, Keyboards, Mouse, Chargers and Cables.

Frequency and day of collection

Once per month on the last Sunday of each month.

For additional information, you may contact us at 1 888 253 2652 or 448 3220, email nswma@nswma.gov.jm and nswma1876@gmail.com.

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