

# EU Provides \$2.3 Billion in Budgetary Support

**T**HE EUROPEAN Union (EU) has provided J\$2.3 billion (€17.7 million) in budgetary support to the Government of Jamaica.

The payments of \$1 billion towards the Debt Reduction and Growth Enhancement Programme and \$1.3 billion for the Accompanying Measures for Sugar were accepted by Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller. The presentation was made during a signing ceremony at Jamaica House on November 17.

Mrs. Simpson Miller expressed gratitude to the EU for its support of the country's social and economic development.

She said the payments represented a vote of confidence by the EU in the Government's successful implementation of the Economic Reform Programme.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (2<sup>nd</sup> right) converses with European Union (EU) Director for Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, Jolita Butkeviciene (right), while Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, and Head of the EU Delegation to Jamaica, Ambassador Paola Amadei, look on. They were at a press briefing held at Jamaica House on November 17.

"The EU and the Government of Jamaica are in agree-

ment on the urgency of further reducing the national debt, increasing the rate and level of economic growth and continuing to improve the standard of living of the Jamaican people," she said.

Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, also expressed appreciation to the EU,

noting that the assistance is critical to maintaining macro-economic stability and establishing a sound platform for economic growth and job creation.

Over the 40 years of partnership, Jamaica has received over €1.2 billion from the EU, mainly in grant funding.

## PM Urges Private Sector to Make Use of EU Trade Support

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller is encouraging private sector organisations to make greater use of the European Union (EU)-funded facilities for trade improvement, through the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

She made the call while addressing a signing ceremony for J\$2.3 billion (€17.7 million) in budgetary support from the EU at Jamaica House on November 17.

Included is financial support from the EU to help Caribbean governments implement the accord, and for businesses to use the EPA to increase export and attract more investment.

The EPA is aimed at promoting trade between Europe and CARIFORUM and to boost the countries' economies.

The Prime Minister stressed the Government's



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller

commitment to "doing all we can to improve the opportunities for increased trade participation by Jamaican companies."

Mrs. Simpson Miller also said Jamaica is proud to be rated by the World Bank and Forbes Magazine as the best country in the Caribbean to do business, and pledged that the Government will continue to make improvements to boost economic growth.

## 1.5 Per Cent Growth for July to September Quarter

THE PLANNING Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) is reporting that the economy grew by 1.5 per cent in the July to September 2015 quarter, relative to the corresponding period in 2014.

Director General Colin Bullock said the figure represents the strongest growth recorded since the April to June 2014 quarter, and was largely due to a recovery in the manufacturing industry.

He was speaking at the PIOJ's quarterly media briefing at its New Kingston offices on November 19.

Mr. Bullock said the positive out-turn largely reflects the impact of the implementation of strategic investment projects, including road repair and highway construction; as well as hotel construction and expansion.

He further cited the building of new office space to facilitate the expansion of Business Process Out-



Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Colin Bullock

sourcing (BPO) activities; construction activities of three renewable energy plants; and increased production by agro-parks.

A breakdown of sector performance shows a 4.4 per cent growth in the Goods Producing Industry, while the Services Industry grew by 0.6 per cent.

Within the Goods Producing Industry, increases were recorded for Manufacturing, up by 9.7 per cent; Agriculture, 3.3 per cent; and Construction, 0.8 per cent.

## Investors Pump US\$200M in Hotel Sector

ANOTHER US\$200 million has been pumped into the tourism sector by international investors for the construction of two five-star hotels.

The new Trelawny-based hotels will provide 800 additional rooms, and 1,000 permanent jobs.

The investors are Ocean by H10 Hotels, a Spanish and Canadian joint venture group. Design work for the properties has commenced, and construction is slated to start in 2016, with the openings set for late 2018.

At a press conference at the Jamaica Tourist Board's offices on November 16, Tourism and Entertain-

ment Minister, Hon. Dr. Wykeham McNeill, said the investments will deliver over 10,000 spin-off jobs over the next two years.

"We are seeing a boom in the tourism sector now that is unprecedented. We are creating linkages, so that Jamaicans...can benefit from the investments that are taking place," he said.

Investor with Ocean by H10 Hotels, Carlos Moleon, compared the investment to measures being undertaken by the Government, which have made the country attractive for business.

He said the Administration is doing a "great

## Civil Servants Awarded



Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (2<sup>nd</sup> right); Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (left), and Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips (right), share a moment with Civil Servant of the Year, Barbara Allen, following the Jamaica Civil Service Long Service Awards Ceremony at King's House on November 19. Some 300 civil servants were awarded at the event.

## Trench Town Polytechnic College Opens

YOUNG PEOPLE in the Corporate Area now have increased options for skills and career training with the official opening of the Trench Town Polytechnic College (TTPC) on November 17.

The training facility, located at Eight Street in the South St. Andrew community, offers HEART Trust/NTA and Caribbean Maritime Institute programmes in data operation, auto body repair, customer service, maritime studies, port operations and logistics.

opened the facility, urged the young people to make use of the training opportunity provided.

"This Administration is committed to providing access to education for every Jamaican, who wishes to better himself or herself...we want to see everybody in this community,

who has an ardent desire to better themselves by gaining more education and gaining skills, to be able to come here," he said.

The college is located at the site of the former Trench Town High School, which was merged with Charlie Smith High in September this year.



Tourism and Entertainment Minister, Hon. Dr. Wykeham McNeill

job with its reform towards bringing in foreign investors. Moleon further stated, "that is why H10 has decided to invest in Jamaica."

**"This Administration is committed to providing access to education for every Jamaican..."**

There are also courses in Information Technology, Mathematics, English, Career and Personal Development, and Entrepreneurship.

A total of 381 students are enrolled at the facility and classes began on October 5.

Education Minister, Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, who



Education Minister, the Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites (right), shares a light moment with Minister of Transport, Works and Housing, Dr. the Hon. Omar Davies (left). Occasion was the official opening of the Trench Town Polytechnic College on November 17. Others sharing in the moment are Tossell Small (2<sup>nd</sup> left); and Director, Region 1, Ministry of Education, Patrice Supria.



# BE AN ENERGY CHAMPION

When not in use.. turn it off, shut it down or plug it out




