

# Finance Minister Confident of Successor Arrangement With IMF

**F**INANCE AND Public Service Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw, remains confident that the Government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will reach an agreement on a successor arrangement for the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

He said based on the Administration's discussions now under way with members of the IMF's Country Team who are in the island, it is "most likely going to be what we call a Precautionary Standby Agreement".

The Minister was speaking at Prime Asset Management Limited's ninth



Finance and Public Service Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw emphasises a point while addressing Prime Asset Management Limited's ninth annual pension seminar at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel on September 29.

Annual Pensions Seminar, Pegasus hotel, in New Kingston, on September 29.

Mr. Shaw said the new arrangement being explored would see the Administration maintaining its targets of fiscal prudence and consolidation, adding that "we will have half-yearly instead of quarterly reviews".

"The discussions are going well, and it is our intention to make sure that there is a seamless transfer from the Extended Fund Facility. We feel assured that we have our hands on the wheel and we are confident that we are going to move smoothly into a new programme with the International Monetary Fund," the Minister said.

## Action to Take Profit out of Crime

CABINET HAS approved further amendments to the Proceeds of Crime Act to take the profit out of crime. Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague, made the announcement during a sitting of the House of Representatives on September 28.

"We look forward to the full support of both Houses of Parliament, and we will further move to add praedial larceny under that Act," he said.

In addition, Mr. Montague said a comprehensive review of the 1867 Constabulary Force Act is under way, in keeping with the efforts to modernise the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

The Minister noted that the changes seek to reflect the JCF as a "citizen safety and peacekeeping force as against a militia force that



Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague

is embodied in the current legislation".

Other pieces of legislation being looked at include the recently tabled Road Traffic Act, the Noise Abatement Act and the Offensive Weapons Act.

"We will shortly bring to the House more legislative measures targeting crimes committed with the gun. We seek the support of both sides with this legislative programme," said the Minister.

## Development of First Integrated Resort Begins Early 2017

WORK TO undertake Jamaica's first integrated resort development, incorporating casino gaming, is expected to commence in early 2017.

This was disclosed by Finance and the Public Service Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw, who said the development is being carried out by one of the two investors for whom integrated resort development orders were approved by the previous Administration in 2015.

The Minister was speaking at the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission's (BGLC) annual Gaming Industry Summit, held recently at

the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston.

Mr. Shaw said the investor, who will break ground in January, "also plans to operate a temporary casino as they build out hotel rooms".

With respect to the other investor, the Minister said "discussions continue regarding new construction timelines, among other matters".

Integrated resorts are large-scale developments that must include a minimum of 2,000 hotel rooms with linked casinos, the Minister explained.

These, may also include other facilities such as shopping malls, restaurants, water parks and golf courses, he added.

"They are expected to strengthen the tourism industry's competitiveness and bolster economic development through job creation, increased tax revenue and additional demand

for locally produced goods and services," Mr. Shaw said.

The Minister pointed out that those developments will incrementally increase new hotel room construction now under way.

## Four Campbell's Academy Receives Books



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) interacts with students at the Four Campbell's Academy, on Booby Drive in his West Central St. Andrew constituency on September 27. Mr. Holness presented books and other educational materials to the school, donated by the Palmyra Foundation.

## Hurricane Tips

JAMAICANS ARE being urged to take all the necessary precautions in order to mitigate the impact of Hurricane Matthew which is expected to affect the island. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management provides the following tips.

### After a Hurricane:

- Seek medical attention at first-aid stations, hospitals or clinics for persons injured during the storm.
- Do not touch loose or dangling electrical wires. Report these to the power company, the nearest police station or Parish Council.
- Report all broken sewer or water mains directly to the Parish Council, the Public Works Department

or Water Resources Authority for your area.

- Don't use stored water for washing houses, cars and watering gardens until normal water services have been restored.
- Do not empty water stored in bathtubs or other receptacles until safe drinking water is restored.
- Boil all drinking water until you are sure that a safe water supply has been restored.
- Watch out for fallen trees. Collect fallen branches and other debris and pile them where they can be easily collected.
- Do not go outside barefooted. Avoid wearing open shoes and watch out for broken glass.



Employees of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) carry out clean-up operations along Washington Boulevard in St. Andrew.

## Agriculture Ministry to Spend \$150M to Eradicate Cocoa Disease

THE MINISTRY of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries will spend \$150 million over the next three years to eradicate the frosty pod rot disease that is affecting the local cocoa industry.

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Karl Samuda, says the disease, which was first detected in Clarendon, could result in crop losses of between 70 and 80 per cent of production and would have a devastating effect on the industry.

Mr. Samuda was speaking on September 29 at a press briefing, held at the Ministry in New Kingston.

"In late August, a cocoa farmer in Clarendon observed a fungal disease that looked different from black pod in his field and reported his observation to



Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Karl Samuda (right), addressing a media briefing on September 29 at the Ministry's offices in New Kingston. At left is Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dr. Reginald Budhan.

the Cocoa Industry Board (CIB)," the Minister said.

The disease, which is highly contagious, is caused by the fungus

*Moniliophthora roreri*, which invades actively growing cocoa pods damaging them and the seed they produce.

To contain and eradicate the disease, the Ministry and the CIB, with support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), will put measures in place to assist cocoa farmers across Jamaica, the Minister said.

Mr. Samuda is imploring farmers to be vigilant and to report all cases or suspected cases of the disease immediately to the Plant Quarantine Unit, or other departments of the Ministry.

Farmers are also being encouraged to use the WhatsApp number 435-5828 to send pictures where it is suspected that the disease has infected a crop or farm.

## PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

It's Everybody's Responsibility

**DISPOSE OF GARBAGE PROPERLY**

**COVER ALL CONTAINERS**

**PUNCH HOLES IN TINS**