

Government Implements Full \$1.5M Tax Break Plan

PAY AS You Earn (PAYE) workers are now benefiting from the implementation of the \$1.5 million tax break plan, which became effective April 1.

The first phase of the income tax break, which

became effective in July 2016, saw the annual personal income tax threshold of taxpayers moving from \$592,800 to \$1,000,272.

The second phase took effect on April 1, 2017, with the threshold

moving to \$1,500,096. This adjustment resulted in an additional increase of \$499,824. Currently there are 469,131 Jamaicans who are on the PAYE tax roll.

“Under this \$1.5 million threshold that this Government has instituted, 397,083 persons of that entire PAYE cohort of taxpayers, will now be exempt from paying taxes, because they are now completely below



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Audley Shaw

the \$1.5 million tax threshold,” said Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Audley Shaw, during his contribution to the 2017/18 Budget Debate in Parliament recently.

“This was a promise we made and we are proud to deliver on our promise. We are proud of that fact, as this reform is aimed at addressing the high tax burden on PAYE workers,” he added.

Government Assesses Flood Damage

MINISTER OF Local Government and Community Development Hon. Desmond McKenzie says various Ministries and Agencies of Government are now assessing the full impact of the rains that affected the island last week.

He made the disclosure during a statement to the House of Representatives on Tuesday (April 25) about the incidents of flooding and landslides in central, eastern and south eastern parishes.

Minister McKenzie said the social impact is of great concern and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, along with the Poor Relief Departments of the Local Authorities, as well as voluntary agencies such as the Salvation Army and the Red Cross, are gathering the necessary information.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie

quito nuisance or water-borne diseases, as the floodwaters subside,” Mr. McKenzie said.

The Local Government Minister said the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management and the Local Authorities responded quickly to the needs of residents, and ensured that relief materials including mattresses, blankets, sheets, cases of drinking water and tarpaulins, were supplied.

Partnership Council Names Working Group Members

THE NATIONAL Partnership Council has named the members of its three Working Group sub-committees.

The Working Group Committee to deal with Rule of Law and the reform of the justice system is chaired by Howard Mitchell. Other members of the committee are, George Overton, Horace Levy, Senator Lambert Brown, Rev. Burchell Taylor, Professor Anthony Clayton and Christopher Townsend.

The Working Group for the Reduction of Violence against Women and Children is chaired by Dr. Marcia Forbes. Other members of the committee are,



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (seated 2nd left) met with members of the National Partnership Council recently.

O’Neil Grant, Joyce Hewett, Diahann Gordon Harrison, Rosalee Gage Grey, Rodjè Malcolm, Christopher Harper, Nekeisha Sewell Lewis and Dr. Michael Abrahams. The committee will also include representatives from the legal fraternity, academia and resource personnel.

Mrs. Diana McCaulay is Chairman of the Environment Group. Other members include, William

Mahfood, Ingrid Parchment, Senator Kavan Gayle, Danielle Andrade, Peter Knight, Dennis Chung and Dr. Donovan Campbell.

The Prime Minister, speaking at the Council meeting held recently at the Office of the Prime Minister said, “a part of the objective of the Rule of Law committee is to build consensus around the various initiatives and get the public support so that persons can know that this is the thing to do”.

“The intention is to use this information to implement a comprehensive Assistance Programme, to restore dignity to our affected citizens. The details of the Programme will be shared with the House in due course,” he said.

He noted that the Ministry will also be providing financial assistance to affected Municipal Corporations.

“Additionally, the rubble created by the flooding and landslides will be removed. Just as importantly, the Ministry of Health is being engaged as we try to guard against any potential mos-



Ground Broken for China-aided Early Childhood Institutions Project

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) examines an artist impression of what the Olympic Gardens Infant School will look like when completed, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the China-aided Early Childhood Institution project, held at Olympic Way on April 25. Others (from left) are Chairman of the National Education Trust, Nicholas Scott, State Minister in the Education, Youth and Information Ministry, Hon. Floyd Green, Education, Youth and Information Minister, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid and the People’s Republic of China Ambassador to Jamaica, Niu Qingbao.

It is anticipated that the Groups will prepare periodical reports which will provide recommendations for each area of focus.



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