

# JA and US to Strengthen Relations

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says he is optimistic about future relations between Jamaica and the United States (US).

He made the comments during a telephone conversation with US Vice President-Elect, Governor Mike Pence on December 1.

Prime Minister Holness re-affirmed Jamaica's interest in strengthening ties with the United States and enhancing existing partnerships for the benefit of Jamaica, the Caribbean and the world.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness**

According to a release from the Office of the Prime Minister, both leaders discussed Jamaica's strong relationship with the people of the United States as well

as the strong cultural links between the two countries.

Mr. Holness highlighted areas of mutual interest including national security, trade and energy and expressed an interest in strengthening relations particularly in investment. Both leaders pledged to continue their dialogue.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Jamaica in 1962 following its independence from the United Kingdom and remains the country's most important trading partner.

## JA Earns US\$2.06 Billion from Tourism Sector

JAMAICA REMAINS on track to have a record year in tourism as the island continues to register growth of over 5 per cent for both tourism earnings and visitor arrivals.

From January to October 2016, Jamaica recorded earnings of US\$2.06 billion, which represents an increase of 5.7 per cent over the amount earned for the same period last year.

The island also registered an increase of 5.1 per cent in visitor arrivals over the same period last year, with 3,100,235 total visitors.

"Our arrival figures and tourism earnings, from January and October of this year are very positive and an indicator of the considerable impact tourism is having on the growth agenda. Our tourism earnings continue to outpace our arrivals, which is quite significant. It is clear, that



**Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett**

we remain on track to have a record year in tourism," said Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett in a release from the Ministry.

During the first 10 months of 2016, stopover arrivals also increased by 2.3 per cent over the same period last year, with 1,786,394 visitors, while cruise arrivals increased by 9.1 per cent over the same period in 2015, totaling 1,313,841 cruise passengers.

## PM Welcomes US\$1 Million Adventure Park Investment

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, has welcomed the \$128.9 million (US\$1million) expansion and rebranding of the Prospect Outback Attraction in St. Mary to the 'Yaaman' Adventure Park.

The new attraction, which was officially opened by Mr. Holness on December 1, is owned and operated by St. Ann businessman and Chairman of Dolphin Cove Limited, Stafford Burrowes.

Yaaman Park, which is located on the Prospect plantation in western St. Mary, offers camel and horseback riding, dune buggies, and a 'wet and dry' tour, among other activities.

The facility, which was developed over the last six months, will provide direct employment for approximately 200 persons, and generate an additional 150 indirect jobs.

In hailing the development as a "major and significant investment", Mr. Holness commended Dolphin Cove Limited "for taking the risk" and in the process "creating another first world attraction."



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right, seated), peruses one of several dune buggies, which are among the features at the new 'Yaaman' Adventure Park in St. Mary. Also sharing the occasion, from left, are: Labour and Social Security Minister, Hon. Shahine Robinson; Chief Executive Officer, Dolphin Cove Limited, Eduardo Albor and Yaaman Adventure Park General Manager, Alexander Sale.**

He said the undertaking indicates that the environment is "good for and supportive of business" and that the Government remains committed to facilitating this over the long-term.

Mr. Holness also welcomed the extent of employment that the park will generate.

"You have the support and encouragement of the Government (and) we will

support and promote investments that are going to create jobs. Jamaica's tourism product will be better off for this investment," he added.

## Gov't Putting Measures in Place to Address Gender-Based Violence

THE GOVERNMENT will be implementing a raft of measures, including policies and legislation, to address gender-based violence.

Minister for Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange,

said the Sexual Harassment Bill is ready for submission to Cabinet, while the parliamentary committee to review the Sexual Offences Act will be announced before the end of the year.

She noted further that a National Strategic Action Plan

to eliminate gender-based violence will be handed over to Cabinet shortly.

Ms. Grange added that it is imperative to end gender-based violence, calling for persons to rally together to ensure that this is achieved.

She was addressing the launch of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel on November 29.

The first of its kind to be piloted in Jamaica and the English-speaking Caribbean, the globally recognised programme aims to address gaps in the workplace by encouraging the relevant entities to create equitable conditions for both men and women.

The certification programme promotes an environment where women's work and contributions are equally valued, and has resulted in improved productivity and profitability in private and quasi-public enterprises using gender mainstreaming strategies.



**Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, addresses the launch of the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston on November 29.**

## PetroCaribe Provides \$402M for Engineers Training Centre at CMI

THE CARIBBEAN Maritime Institute (CMI) has received \$402 million in grant funding from the PetroCaribe Development Fund for the establishment of a Festo Authorised and Certified Training (FACT) Centre for specialised engineers.



**Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Mike Henry**

The centre, which will become operational in September 2017, will be the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean and will offer world-class training and certification in robotics, mechatronics and automotive engineering.

Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Mike Henry, said the facility will

advance skills development in the country and add to the Government's growth agenda.

"We are now going to be in a position to train and certify students for high-tech jobs in production (sectors) such as bottling companies and the automotive and biomedical industries," he pointed out.

The Minister's remarks were delivered by Chief Technical Director in the Ministry, Dr. Janine Dawkins, at the official signing ceremony held on November 30 at the Ministry's offices located at Maxfield Avenue in Kingston.

He noted that the Festo certification is a global stamp of approval for specialised engineers such as those who will be trained at the CMI.

Meanwhile, Executive Director of CMI, Dr. Fritz Pinnock, said the centre will bolster the Institute's capabilities to deliver international certification in mechatronics and automation to meet the changing needs of the engineering industry.

## Senator Reid Hails JTA 2016 Roll of Honour Awardee



**Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid (left), presents the 2016 Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) Roll of Honour award to Juno Gayle (centre) at the presentation ceremony held at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston on November 29. Sharing the moment is State Minister, Hon. Floyd Green.**

**PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING**

*It's Everybody's Responsibility*

**DISPOSE OF GARBAGE PROPERLY**

**COVER ALL CONTAINERS**

**PUNCH HOLES IN TINS**