

PM Awards Medal to World's Oldest Living Person

CALLING HER a national treasure and a global inspiration, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on April 27, bestowed the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation on Violet Mosse-Brown, the world's oldest living person.

He made the presentation during a visit to the home of 117 year-old in Duanvale, Trelawny.

Kneeling at the bedside of the super centenarian honouree, Mr. Holness told her that he was proud to be in her presence. He said she is an inspiration to the nation and has brought the country a lot of positive attention.

"You have brought honour to our nation and we in

turn would like to honour you with the Prime Minister's Medal, which shows our great appreciation for who you are...and the inspiration that you have given to the country," he said.

The Prime Minister commended Ms. Mosse-Brown on her "tremendous" work ethic and healthy lifestyle practices throughout her life, noting that from all indications, she has been a model citizen, a community stalwart and someone who embodies proper values and attitude.

Mr. Holness also handed Ms. Mosse-Brown a citation in recognition of her status as the first verified super centenarian from Jamaica



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness presents a citation to Violet Mosse-Brown (right), which recognises her status as the first verified super centenarian from Jamaica and the world's oldest living person. Sharing the proud moment is Ms. Mosse-Brown's long time caretaker and friend, Elaine McGrowder. Mr. Holness travelled to Ms. Mosse-Brown's home in Duanvale, Trelawny on April 27, where he presented her with the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation.

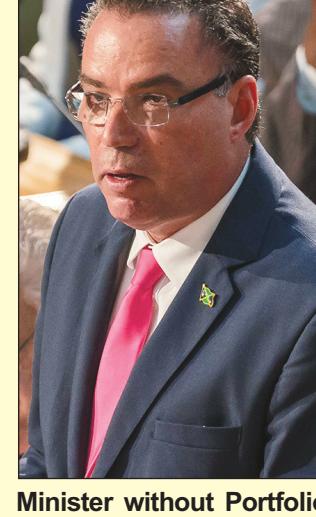
and the world's oldest living person.

"God has chosen me for a purpose. I never believed I could live this long...to all of this 117 years but God is good. I want to thank you all. I don't know how much longer I will live but God has a plan," Ms. Mosse-Brown responded, her voice full of emotion.

Ms. Mosse-Brown, who lived throughout the reign of Britain's Queen Victoria, was born on March 10, 1900 in Duanvale.

When Emma Morana, who was born in Italy in 1899, passed away, Violet, who is fondly called "Aunt V," became the oldest person alive in the world.

170 Jobs Projected From US\$204M Investment in Logistics and Manufacturing



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz

THE GOVERNMENT is projecting that 170 jobs will come from investments of US\$204 million in logistics and manufacturing during the current fiscal year.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz, said investment of US\$104 million is projected for logistics, which will see the creation of some 70 jobs across various subsectors, including airports and seaports, railway, transshipment infrastructure and dry-docking.

Mr. Vaz, who was making his contribution to the 2017/18 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on April 25, said the expansion in logistics will be facilitated through the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Regulations, which is being finalised.

He informed that phase one of the Logistics Industrial Analysis Master Plan has been completed, and phase two is expected in a few months.

In manufacturing, the projects to come on

A COMPREHENSIVE National Anti-Gang Strategy will be developed over the 2017/18 and 2018/19 fiscal years.

The plan will outline the Government's policy and strategy in relation to: social intervention; community and infrastructural development; law enforcement approaches; reform of the justice system; and targeted communication plan.

This is contained in the Five Pillar Strategy document which was tabled by Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague, during the sitting of the House of Representatives on April 26.

The Security Ministry is also developing a comprehensive National Anti-

Drug Plan which is expected to be finalised during the current financial year.

The Plan will serve as the framework for all counter-drug activities including institutional strengthening; demand reduction; supply reduction; international cooperation; and overall control measures.

"The plan provides the basic foundation for the development of a time-specific action plan (five years) for addressing the issues related to the illicit drug trade; drug trafficking; international criminal networks and the international drug trade; domestic drug-related criminal activities (crime and violence); and targeted communication plan.

Additionally, the plan represents a comprehensive, balanced, multidisciplinary and "joined-up government" approach that requires common and shared responsibilities among all stakeholders and partners.



Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague

effective law enforcement," the document stated.

It also seeks to ensure the balance between actions resulting in reduced supply/availability of drugs and the demand for drugs (prevention, treatment and rehabilitation).

Government Meets EGC Targets

THE ECONOMIC Growth Council (EGC) is reporting that the Government has met or is on track with 13 of the 18 targets for March.

Notable among these, EGC Chairman, Michael Lee-Chin, says is the tabling of legislation to establish the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) as an independent national law enforcement body, and also the Bill to merge the Corruption Pre-

vention Commission and the Integrity Commission of the Office of the Contractor General.

These, he pointed out, are "bold structural reforms which are designed to tackle corruption, reduce crime and tackle both the economic and broader social ramifications."

He was speaking at the EGC's second quarterly National Report at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Regional Headquarters, Mona, St. Andrew, on April 27.

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While the MOCA Bill's tabling was welcomed, Mr. Lee-Chin urged the Gov-

ernment to move speedily to have it enacted into law.

He said the Administration also met some March target deliverables related to improving the business climate and reducing bureaucracy.

These include: expanding the size of the partial credit guarantee programme at the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ); and commencement of phased reviews of banking, insurance and pensions regulations that impact access to finance.

Increased Allocation to PATH



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson

COME JUNE 1, the Government will increase its budgetary allocation to the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) by 30 per cent.

This will benefit some 360,000 persons who are on the programme, says Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson.

Making her contribution to the 2017/2018 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives, on April 26, she urged parents to ensure full attendance of their children at school.

The Minister said schools have been reporting irregular attendance of children, and that last year only 79 per cent of students at the secondary level, who are on PATH, achieved the 85 per cent attendance requirement.

She said that with support from the Inter-

American Development Bank (IDB), through the school-feeding programme, the Government is ensuring that children are better served.

"In the area of transportation, \$21 million was spent last year as allowances for PATH students. This year, the amount has been increased to \$115 million," the Minister said.

She added that a further \$120 million in bursaries and grants will be available for those students who move from secondary to post-secondary institutions, while an additional \$100 million will be provided to students at the tertiary level.

In addition, some \$15 million has been earmarked for scholarships for students under the Programme.

Summerfield Child Facility Refurbished



State Minister in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Floyd Green (left), cuts the ribbon to officially reopen the refurbished Summerfield Child Care Facility in Clarendon, recently.

