

# 2015

## ACHIEVEMENTS



### BUILDING A STRONGER JAMAICA: Improving People's Lives

INSIDE

- Prime Minister Continues to Drive Growth Agenda - 2
- Making Jamaica a Safer Country... One Nation, One Mission - 7
- Major Investments in Tourism - 11

- Protecting the Most Vulnerable - 14
- World Leaders Visit - 24
- More Persons Accessing ICT - 27



# Prime Minister Continues to Drive Growth Agenda

The Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, continued to implement socio-economic programmes and initiatives in 2015 to grow the economy and raise the living standard of all Jamaicans.

Jamaica also solidified ties with important bilateral partners.

## Strengthening Ties

- The country hosted several leaders, including United States (US) President, Barack Obama; Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK), the Rt. Hon. David Cameron; President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Nicolás Maduro, and Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Shinzo Abe.
- President Obama and Prime Minister Simpson Miller, signed a Statement of Intent to pursue energy-related initiatives including the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project. This will increase bilateral trade, boost the development of emerging technologies and industries, and pave the way for more innovation.
- Prime Minister Cameron announced that Jamaica and other Caribbean islands are to benefit from a £300 million grant from the United Kingdom (UK). The funds will support infrastructural projects across the region in order to enhance trade.
- Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan would grant \$57 million for improvements to the Institute of Jamaica (IOJ), including the procurement of audiovisual equipment and upgrading of exhibitions.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed to promote educational cooperation between the University of



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (right) addressing journalists following the bilateral meeting with United States President, Barack Obama, at Jamaica House in April. Both leaders had wide ranging discussions on key issues of mutual interest, including national security, climate change, and energy. The meeting formed part of activities for the two-day visit to Jamaica by President Obama, from April 8 to 9, which included Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of State and Government.**

the West Indies (UWI) and Japan's Sophia University.

- The renovated Simón Bolívar Cultural Centre, named in honour of the Venezuelan Liberator, was officially opened on September 6 by Mrs. Simpson Miller, and President Maduro. President Maduro was in the island for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Summit of the PetroCaribe Agreement. The centre was a gift to Jamaica from the Government and people of Venezuela.
- The Prime Minister also held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister of Spain, Mariano Rajoy Brey; and Prime Minister

## Advocating for Jamaica on the International Stage

of Sweden, Stefan Lofven, during a two-day Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the European Union (EU) and the 33 countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Brussels, Belgium. The meetings reviewed several areas of cooperation between Jamaica and the two EU countries and identified additional areas of cooperation to be pursued.

- It was announced at the Summit that Jamaica will benefit substantially from development assistance through the European Commission over the next five years. The Commission announced € 346 million Euros in funding for programmes in the Caribbean up to 2020.

## Improving Water Supply

- The Prime Minister, in July, signed a contract to undertake a \$4.9 billion, five-year, Non-Revenue Water Reduction Co-Management Project in Kingston and St. Andrew, aimed at reducing water loss in the Corporate Area due to leaks and theft. This will save the National Water Commission billions of dollars in lost revenue as well as improve water supply to residents.
- Also in July, the Prime Minister broke ground for the start of the rehabilitation of the \$75 million Goldmine Water Supply System, in St. Catherine. This will benefit more than 5,000 residents of Bellas Gate and surrounding communities.

## Improving Health Facility

- In February, Mrs. Simpson Miller broke ground for the \$42 million renovation of the Hagley Park Health Centre.

## Upgrading Island's Road Infrastructure

- In July, the Prime Minister signed a \$15.2 million contract for the construction of a box culvert bridge in the West Central St. Catherine farming community of Wood Hall. The construction of the box culvert was the fulfillment of a promise to replace the existing structure, which was severely damaged.

## Providing Clean, Affordable, Renewable Energy

- More than 20,000 Jamaican homes are expected to be powered by clean, affordable, renewable energy to be generated from the US\$61 million solar electricity plant being built in Content District, Clarendon. In July the Prime Minister broke ground for the 20-megawatt plant, the largest of its kind in the Caribbean. It will replace approximately three million gallons of fossil fuel per year.

## Enhancing Education

- In November, the Prime Minister signed contracts valued at \$64 million for expansion and rehabilitation of the Mandeville Primary and Junior High School in Central Manchester.
- The educational status of 77 persons from the community of Majesty Gardens, in South West St. Andrew, has been improved. They successfully completed various levels of the Jamaican Foundation for Life long Learning (JFLL) High School Diploma Equivalency (HSDE) programme.

*Cont'd on page 3*



## PM Continues to Drive Growth... cont'd from page 2

This was delivered through the \$15 million Majesty Gardens Community Development Education Programme, which is an initiative of the Prime Minister, who is the Member of Parliament.

- In September, the Prime Minister officially opened the Fidel Castro Campus of the Anchovy High School located in Montpelier, St. James. The facility will serve as the second campus of the Anchovy High School, and will accommodate approximately 900 students from grades seven to eight.
- Mrs. Simpson Miller also broke ground for the construction of eight new classrooms at the Balacava High School in St. Elizabeth. On completion, the school will be renamed the Roger Clarke High School, in honour of the late Minister of Agriculture and former Member of Parliament for North East St. Elizabeth.
- In November, the Prime Minister launched the HEART Trust/National Training Agency (HEART/NTA) mobile services pro-

gramme in St. Thomas. It is designed to bring technical and vocational training for residents in rural communities.

- The Prime Minister officially opened a new, \$25 million classroom block, at the McIntosh Memorial Primary School in Manchester in on November. The new block will provide eight extra classrooms. The new classrooms are now added to the 700 classroom spaces provided at the primary level in that region during the course of the year. Since January, more than 2,000 additional classroom spaces have been provided at high schools in Manchester and St Elizabeth at a cost of \$347 million.
- Four upgraded basic schools in South Trelawny were handed over to the Ministry of Education. The projects represent a total investment of \$102 million and have resulted in expansion of early childhood spaces in South Trelawny, as well as improvements in amenities and facilities to



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (3<sup>rd</sup> left), along with the Cuban Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Bernardo Guanche Hernandez (right), unveils a plaque in honour of the former Cuban President, Fidel Castro, after whom the Anchovy High School second campus at Montpelier is named. The facility was built by the Cuban Government as a gift to Jamaica. Looking on from left are: Member of Parliament for South St. James and Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Hon. Derrick Kellier, and Education Minister, Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites. The institution was officially opened on Friday, September 11.**

aid the teaching and learning processes.

### JSIF Continues to Enhance Lives

- The Government invested \$29.7 million in a series of summer camps organised by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), targeted at low income youth in 18 communities across seven parishes. Mrs. Simpson Miller signed contracts for the 24 camps in July. Some of the areas covered included vocational skills training; youth in agriculture; math, science, technology and engineering; remedial education; environmental management; and sexual reproductive health and family life education.
- JSIF signed contracts with two international agencies for the development of marketing and communication strategies for eight community-based tourism projects, under the Rural Economic Development

Initiative (REDI). JSIF has invested over \$150 million in the development of these projects.

### Sewerage Conveyance System

- The Urban Development Corporation signed a contract for the development of a \$624 million sewerage conveyance system for the Caymanas Estate property in St. Catherine. The system comprises 7.4 kilometres of force main and two lift stations to convey sewage to the Soapberry Waste water Treatment Plant.

### Local Economic Development Support Programme Launched

- The Prime Minister launched the Local Economic Development Support Programme (LEDSP) of the Social Development Commission (SDC) during the year. Under the LEDSP, the promotion of the micro, small and medium-size enterprise (MSME) sector will be given priority.

### Launch of National Export Strategy, Phase II

- Mrs. Simpson Miller, in August, launched Phase Two of the National Export Strategy (NES II), which is aimed at increasing Jamaican exports in the global marketplace. The NES II covers 2015 to 2019 and is intended to spur export-led growth by implementing targeted initiatives with measurable outcomes. This is to be achieved by advancing the competitiveness of firms and sectors, while enhancing the environment for business and trade.

### Wage Agreements Signed

- Over 97 per cent of public servants agreed to a seven per cent increase in salaries for the contract period 2015/17 with a four per cent increase in the first year and the remaining three per cent in year two. The Prime Minister signed several Heads of Agreement with public sector workers.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (standing) looks on as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK), the Rt. Hon. David Cameron, signs the guestbook at Office of the Prime Minister in Kingston prior to the holding of bilateral discussions. Mr. Cameron visited Jamaica in September for a two-day official visit.**



# Lowest Inflation, More Employment, and Economic Success

Jamaica continues to benefit significantly from the steady implementation of the Economic Reform Programme (ERP). The four-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forms part of the Government's ERP. Since its start in 2013, Jamaica has successfully completed 10 quarterly reviews and accessed 11 drawdowns totalling US\$704.5 million.

Notable gains throughout the year included:

## Growth

- Average growth ranged between 0.3 and 1.5 per cent for the first three quarters of the year 2015/16. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) forecasts further growth ranging between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent for the October to December quarter, based on positive results in tourism, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), agriculture, and manufacturing. The World Bank recently projected growth of 2.1 per cent for 2016.

## Employment Up

- The number of persons employed increased to a seven-year high of one million, one hundred and forty-seven thousand, five hundred (1,147,500) at the end of July. This is an increase of twenty-three thousand, two hundred (23,200) persons over the same period in 2014. The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) reported that the unemployment rate for July 2015 was 13.1 per cent, down from 15.54 per cent in July 2013.

## Low Inflation

- Up to October 2015, the inflation rate was 2.9 per cent – the lowest in almost 50 years.

## Net International Reserves (NIR)

- The Net International Reserves stood at US\$2.91 billion at the end 2015. This can purchase six months (23 weeks) of imported goods and



Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips (left), signs a copy of the grant agreement for the provision of £1.9 million (\$350 million) for the implementation of the Government's Strategic Public Transformation Project. Looking on are: then Acting Country Representative, World Bank, Kathy Lalazarian; and British High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency David Fitton.

services in the event of a major drought, hurricane, or any other emergency affecting the island.

## Debt to GDP Moving in the Right Direction

- The debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio has been reduced by 20 per cent since the start of the Economic Reform Programme (ERP). It is currently at 126 per cent of GDP, with a projection for further lowering to 120 per cent by the end of the 2015/16 fiscal year.
- During 2015, the Government successfully raised US\$2 billion through the issue of two bonds on the international capital markets. This is the highest ever raised by Jamaica and, importantly at the lowest interest rate. This has also been declared the Bond Issue of the Year (Latin America) by the renowned International Financial Review (IFR).

Part of the proceeds from the bond issue facilitated the PetroCaribe debt buy-back, which immediately reduced the debt to GDP ratio by 10 per cent.

## Investor Confidence Has Returned

- The Jamaican Stock Exchange (JSE) was lauded by Bloomberg for being

one of the best performing stock markets for 2015. Stronger investor safeguards and a rebounding economy helped the JSE surge more than 80 per cent in 2015.

- Local and foreign investors poured substantial sums of money into local stocks last year.
- Foreign Direct Investment has doubled in the last three fiscal years (2011/12 – 2014/15), from US\$303.4 million to US\$628 million.

- Local consumer and business confidence has improved since the start of the ERP. In addition, the rate of credit expansion to the private sector over 12 months, ending September 2015, increased by 7.8 per cent. The productive sector accounted for most of the credit expansion.

## Multilateral Support

- Confidence in the Economic Reform Programme remains strong among

multilateral institutions, which provided significant loan and grant funding support during 2015.

- Based on the Government's performance, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to lower the Primary Surplus target by 0.5 per cent of GDP. This means that the Administration has an additional \$4 billion for 2015/16 and a further \$8 billion in 2016/17, to spend on capital development projects which facilitate growth in the economy.

## The Government Supports MSMEs

- Through the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), the Government provided \$4 billion in loan financing to Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprises (MSMEs) (2014/15 – J\$4 billion). In addition, technical assistance was provided to strengthen these entities, as well as enhance their access to financing through the following:
  - Voucher for Technical Assistance
  - Credit Enhancement Facility

Cont'd on page 5



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (2<sup>nd</sup> right) looks on as Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips, exchanges signed copies of agreements formalising the European Union's (EU) provision of €17.7 million (\$2.3 billion) budgetary funding support for the Government, with the EU's Director for Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, Jolita Butkeviciene. At left is Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Hon Derrick Kellier.



## Lowest Inflation... cont'd from page 4

- Innovation Grant from New Ideas to Entrepreneurship (IGNITE)
- Venture Capital Programme

### Enhancing the Budget Process

- For the first time in Jamaica's history, the Estimates of Expenditure and the Revenue Estimates were tabled at the same time in the House of Representatives. This will allow for better planning, project execution, and management of the country's resources.

### Improved Procurement Process

- During 2015, new legislation was passed to improve the procurement process for Government goods and services. Jamaica's first Electronic Procurement Platform was introduced and will reduce administrative costs, processing time, and increase efficiency and transparency.

### Revenue Administration Information System (RAiS)

- Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) is making it easier for taxpayers to file returns with the intro-

duction of the Revenue Administration Information System (RAiS). The system facilitates online Taxpayer Registration Number (TRN) and Tax Compliance Certificate (TCC) registration.

### ASYCUDA

- The Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) has expanded its use of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), a web-based application for processing imports and exports. ASYCUDA facilitates electronic processing of transit, transshipment, private and public bonded warehousing declarations for commercial and non-commercial imports at select facilities, including the Port of Kingston. This will yield significant savings and improve service delivery.

### Revenue Appeals Division

- Aggrieved taxpayers can now avoid lengthy court sessions by having their disputes over tax assessments quickly resolved at the newly established Revenue Appeals Division (RAD).



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (left) and Japan Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, sign an agreement at the Office of the Prime Minister in St. Andrew in September. Prime Minister Abe was on a two-day visit to the island.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller attends the Seventh Summit of the Americas held in Panama City, Panama, in April.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller presents a certificate of title to Cleveland Williams at the launch of the National Land Titling Programme and Certificates of Title at Christ the Redeemer Church in Seaview Gardens on August 12.



Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips (left), and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Country Representative for Jamaica, Therese Turner-Jones, sign copies of the \$1.97 billion (US\$17 million) IDB Adaptation Programme and Financing Mechanism for the Pilot Programme for Climate Change agreement, at the Ministry in Kingston.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (2<sup>nd</sup> left) participates in breaking ground to symbolise the start of a \$75 million rehabilitation project for the Goldmine Water Supply System in St. Catherine. Also participating (from left) are: Member of Parliament for West Central St. Catherine, Dr. Kenneth Baugh; Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Robert Pickersgill; and Mayor of Spanish Town, Councillor Norman Scott. Also pictured in the background (3<sup>rd</sup> left) is Chairman of the National Water Commission, Prakash Vaswani. The event took place at the Bellas Gate Primary School.



# Government Communication Policy and Sexual Harassment Law

The Government last year, 2015, saw major developments in the information and gender portfolio with the launch of the first ever Government Communication Policy; implementation of a digitisation project to preserve the country's important audiovisual history, the Sexual Harassment Bill tabled in Parliament in December and several initiatives to promote gender equality, gender mainstreaming and combat gender-based violence.

## GoJ Communication Policy

The first ever Government Communication Policy which provides a comprehensive framework for developing a well-managed and coordinated Government communication machinery is now being implemented across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

The Policy details specific strategies to be pursued by MDAs in creating a modern, responsive system, including increased citizen engagement, wider accessibility of Government information, greater use of social media, and better coordination in communication within and between MDAs.

It provides the bases for:-

- Effective dissemination of official information and meaningful engagement with the people of Jamaica;
- Encouraging continuous improvement in relations with the media, and the establishment of ongoing consultation mechanisms with citizens.

## Sexual Harassment Bill/ Gender based Violence

In December, the Prime Minister tabled the Sexual Harassment Bill in the Lower House of Parliament. When passed into law it will provide a framework for clearly identifying what constitutes sexual harassment, the persons by and against whom it may be committed, and the actions that may be taken against the offenders.

A Revised National Strategic Action Plan on Eliminating Gender-based Violence (GBV) was completed. The revised plan includes a monitoring and



**Minister with responsibility for Information, Senator the Hon. Sandrea Falconer, accepts a cheque for US\$200,000 (J\$23 million) from the South Korean Ambassador to Jamaica, Jong Seon Lim, at Jamaica House on November 10. The money will be used to purchase a state-of-the-art Digital Archival System, which will be used to preserve audiovisual data from various public agencies.**

evaluation framework to ensure that the various aspects of the plan are implemented and achieving the targets set.

- 222 civil servants were sensitised on Sexual Harassment and trained on how to develop a Sexual Harassment workplace policy
- 2,290 members of various communities across the island were sensitized on gender-based violence with special emphasis on Trafficking in Persons
- 173 professionals in the Justice System were sensitised on gender-based violence
- A three-month social media campaign providing a platform for awareness, advocacy and collaboration on gender-based violence was conducted by the Bureau of Womens Affairs and other partners. It also provided guidance on developing and implementing programmes and strategies to address the incidence of violence, especially against women and girls.

## The Shelter Strategy

- The first ever shelter strategy for battered women is being developed. It contemplates the construction or acquisition of four shelters across the island in the first instance. The shelters will provide temporary and safe accommodation for

victims of domestic violence. One (1) site visit was conducted by OPM and Woman Inc. during the third quarter.

## Gender Mainstreaming & Empowerment

- To better serve the educational needs of adolescent mothers, the Women Centre of Jamaica Foundation launched the virtual Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Programme, allowing adolescent mothers in rural communities the opportunity to attend CSEC classes by distant learning. The CSEC classes are delivered from the Kingston Centre to the rural sites each day.
- A new facility for adolescent mothers – the Denbigh



**Minister with responsibility for Information, Senator the Hon. Sandrea Falconer (right), and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Jamaica Information Service (JIS), Donna-Marie Rowe, peruse the Government of Jamaica Communication Policy, which was launched in December.**

Outreach, was completed and opened to serve youth mothers in Clarendon. Property was acquired for building a similar facility in Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth

## Digital Archival System

- A \$23 million (US\$200,000) state-of-the-art Digital Archival System has been acquired to convert current analogue images, sound and video recordings to a digital format. This will allow for greater preservation, easier access and retrieval of use of images and audiovisual works owned by the Public Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (PBCJ), the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) the CPTC, the Jamaica Archives and Records Department (JARD) and the Institute of Jamaica. The system is a gift from the Government of the Republic of South Korea which honoured a request from Minister Sandrea Falconer during a visit in 2012. It is the first of its kind in the English-speaking-Caribbean.

## YIR – Broadcasting Commission

The Broadcasting Commission carried out an extensive media literacy exercise. This included multimedia campaigns to promote responsible and supervised use of media by children and the provision of information to television audiences on the process of copyright clearance for programmes on cable channels and local television.

The campaigns complemented presentations at schools across the country on the opportunities and challenges in the digital age.

The Commission also embarked on a programme to promote copyright compliance by cable, television and radio station operators. This includes the phased removal of unauthorised channels.

Steps have also been taken to improve the Commission's capacity with the acquisition of a building at 9 Central Avenue to house its permanent headquarters.

The new facility will allow the BCJ to better serve its stakeholders and fulfil its mandate of monitoring an increasingly dynamic and expanded broadcasting and digital landscape.

## Jamaica Information Service

Work on the relocation of the JIS Television Department to premises at 5-9 South Odeon Avenue has started. This is the first step towards creating a National Media Centre at the premises now occupied by the Public Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ).

## Jamaica House Press Briefings in Montego Bay

Information Minister, Senator the Hon. Sandrea Falconer took the weekly Jamaica House Media Briefing to western Jamaica, hosting three briefings in Montego Bay and providing members of the media the opportunity to directly question Ministers. Press briefings are normally held at Jamaica House.

## Jamaica in Press Freedom

Top 10 Ranking Jamaica moved up eight places ninth out of 180 countries in the 2015 World Press Freedom Index. It was the first time that Jamaica achieved a top 10 ranking in Press Freedom. The world press freedom survey is compiled by the global media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders.



# Making Jamaica a Safer Country... One Nation, One Mission

The Ministry of National Security is fulfilling its mandate for citizen security and public safety through the work of its 13 Departments and Agencies. As it engages the trust and partnership of the public, the Ministry has achieved success over the past four years in passing groundbreaking security legislation and progressively modernising the national security forces in a proactive fight against crime and lawlessness in Jamaica.

The key success drivers have been:

- The introduction of new crime-fighting strategies;
- The employing of cutting edge forensic and investigative/detection technologies;
- Greater mobility for national security through the acquisition of motor vehicles, maritime vessels, equipment and machinery;
- Engagement of the citizenry through imaginative behavioural change communications to create partnership with national security institutions.

## Reinforcing a Culture of Lawfulness

- In 2015, the police arrested 700 persons for murder, and the Criminal Investigation Branch achieved a 55% clear-up rate in murders.
- There was positive public response to the Get the Guns campaign, which retrieved more than 180 illegal firearms and over 2,000 rounds of ammunition from the streets, while stemming the entry of weapons through our borders via the guns-for-drugs trade. The JCF's partnership with the Haitian authorities resulted in the interception of 13 illegal firearms that were destined for Jamaica, and seized 2,500 pounds of marijuana in 2015.
- The response by the police to rampant praedial larceny resulted in the recovery of more than 205 stolen



**Minister of National Security, Hon. Peter Bunting (left), hands over a pair of keys to Commissioner of Police, Dr. Carl Williams, during a ceremony at the Commissioner's Office in Kingston. A total of 60 motorcycles were handed over. Of the total, 10 will be assigned to the Traffic Division while the others will be deployed for operational purposes across the island.**

animals and an overall 14% reduction in praedial larceny.

## Parenting

- The Ministry continued its focus on parenting through its Unite for Change initiative. Parents were encouraged to take ownership of their situation, find solutions and work together to stop violence.

## The Fight Against Organised Crime and Lottery Scamming

- a. Under the One Nation, One Mission banner, the Anti-Lottery Scamming public education programme was staged in St. James, Trelawny, Hanover and Westmoreland to sensitise young people about the dangers of scamming. The Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency, MOCA, also continued its public education campaign, sensitising students in Western Jamaica. More than 250 persons have been arrested, there were convictions locally and overseas and billions of dollars in assets seized.
- b. The merger of the Organised Crime Investigation Division (OCID) and Flying Squad created the Counter-Terrorism and Organised Crime Inves-

tigation Branch (C-TOC), as the Government increased its focus on terrorist organisations by targeting their networks and ill-gotten gains.

## Fighting Human Trafficking

- Jamaica recorded its first conviction for human trafficking under the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Act 2013. The legislation provides harsher penalties and expands the list of offences.
- Children's Advocate, Diahann Gordon Harrison, was appointed as the island's first National Rap-

porteur on Trafficking in Persons.

- A Trafficking in Persons (TIP) curriculum was implemented in schools in September to build knowledge and awareness among students from grades six to nine. The curriculum module seeks to create increased sensitivity among students and teachers about TIP as a transnational crime.
- Representatives from the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Coast Guard; Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit, C-TOC Branch; Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA); and Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) were among the 90% of all frontline personnel trained in Upholding Human Rights and Use of Force policies.

## Modernisation and Technology

In keeping with the Ministry's vision to be the model of National Security excellence through the employment of modern technology, the MNS has embarked on the following:

- The upgrading of the Automated Palm and Fingerprint Identification System which has expanded database capacity to facilitate more timely provision of police records.



**Minister of National Security, Hon. Peter Bunting (left), helps to cut the ribbon to officially open the new Fellowship Hall Police Post in Hill Run, St. Catherine. Also taking part are Director of Caribbean Broilers Group (CB), Lori-Ann Lyn (centre), and Head of the Police Area Five, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Derrick Knight. The facility was constructed at a cost of \$10 million.**

- Improvements to the 119 emergency system, including digital upgrading of the analogue radio platform.
- Installation of CCTV cameras at strategic locations islandwide.
- Implementation of the 'Stay Alert' App which enables persons to report criminal activities to the police. To date, more than 5,000 persons have downloaded the software application to their phones.
- Implementation of the e-station diary pilot project which will enable electronic recording of reports, complaints, and administrative entries at police stations, eventually replacing manual entries.
- The JCF developed a traffic ticketing mobile application, which allows traffic officers to access the traffic database wirelessly, giving them immediate access to drivers' information.
- Improved immigration process through the implementation of Automated Kiosks and more efficient systems.
- Launch a new Immigration/ Customs Landing Card; reducing fields from 27 to 15, making the form more user-friendly.
- Deployed four self-sufficient Portable Police Posts in at-risk communities during periods of unrest.
- The Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) introduced a US\$1.38 million facial recognition system (FRS), to better protect the identities of persons applying for passports. Delivery of same day passport service has commenced and 39 immigration officers were trained and deployed to take up duties at the two major airports.

## Legislative Achievements

- The Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) 2014 Act (Anti-Gang)



## Making Jamaica a Safer Country... cont'd from page 7

- Law Reform (Fraudulent Transactions) (Special Provisions) Act 2013 (Anti-Lottery Scam)
- Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Evidence Act, 2015 (Tabled). The DNA Evidence Bill was drafted, tabled in Parliament and passed by the Lower House paving the way for Jamaica to set up its National DNA database.
- Amendment to (POCA) (Asset Forfeiture & Cash transaction limit)
- Maritime Drug Trafficking (Suppression) Act 2015
- Evidence Special Measures Act
- Amendment to Trafficking in Persons Act
- Amendment to Expungement Act
- Amendment to Dangerous Drugs Act – Decriminalised the possession of small quantities of marijuana, making it a non-arrestable offence; saving time, reducing overcrowding in lock-ups and reducing caseloads in RM courts.
- Jamaica and United Kingdom (UK) strengthened co-operation against the illicit drug trade through a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will allow for the sharing of information and the provision of human resources and equipment by the UK to Jamaica. It is an update of an agreement signed some two years ago.
- The merger of the Forensic Lab and the Legal Medicine Unit to become the Forensic Institute was approved by Cabinet in September 2014. Subsequently, the Lab underwent an organisational review and was given a new organisational structure, to include new management systems that will reflect its vision, mission and mandate.

### Partnerships For Citizen Security

In the move to reduce crime and violence and engender a

culture of lawfulness in Jamaica, a 'Rule of Law Working Group' was appointed, comprising members drawn from the Partnership for Jamaica. The group will assist in improving participation and accountability as well as provide a more objective and authoritative assessment of developments in the area of crime and violence.

### Unite For Change (UFC)

- Launched Unite For Change: A programme to improve parenting, lawfulness, volunteerism & collective efficacy
- The Ministry has taken a policy approach to tackle the causal effects of crime as a public health issue premised on interrupting, preventing and changing social norms through (i) crime prevention through social development, (ii) situational prevention, (iii) effective policing and justice processes; and



**Boats donated by the United States Government to the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), to assist in the country's crime-fighting effort. The handover ceremony was held at the Commissioner's Old Hope Road offices in St. Andrew.**



**Chief of Defence Staff, Major General Antony Anderson (left), who is clad in the Jamaica Defence Force's (JDF) new Digital Combat Uniform (DCU), symbolically hands over a uniform to Warrant Officer Class 1, Anthony Lysight. Occasion was the official unveiling of the uniform at the JDF Headquarters, Up Park Camp. The uniform, which replaces the Disrupted Pattern Material (DPM) camouflage, became a standard issue since January.**

- (iv) reducing reoffending.
- This initiative of the Ministry has implemented a series of interventions in violence-prone communities. One such intervention was a public education and behaviour change programme which has built a number of important stakeholder relationships with churches, communities, parents and schools.
- Trained and deployed fifty (50) Violence Interrupters in violence-prone communities in St. James and Clarendon

### Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP)

- Now in its third component, the multifaceted crime and violence prevention initiative focuses on building community safety and security, poverty reduction and crime prevention in 50 volatile and

vulnerable communities across eight parishes. One noteworthy achievement in 2015 was the training of 30 youth residing in the Corporate Area youth as stevedores under a \$10 million partnership with the Shipping Association of Jamaica.

- 100 children from the community of Tredegar Park in St. Catherine were engaged in a three-week vocational summer camp.

### Strategic Policy and Capacity Building

Significant investments have been made in the technical capabilities of the police. In 2015, the over 240 new recruits added to the JCF were subjected to stricter screening measures that included 100% polygraphing technology. Among the achievements were:

- The merger of the JCF and ISCF, thereby reducing operational and administrative costs and increasing efficiency
- Creation of the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) to target both criminals and their facilitators
- Lowered crime statistics: 2014 recorded lowest crime figure in 11 years
- Renovation and construction of buildings
- A new police post valued at over \$10 million was opened in Hill Run, St. Catherine. The Negril Police Station is being upgraded at a cost of \$25 million and several police posts and stations were renovated on Labour Day in 2015.
- Work is in progress for the construction of 14,000 square feet of new office space for JCF's headquarters. The new administrative building will consist of four floors and will accommodate up to 70 members of staff. It will house the Records Registry, and a number of other functional units.

### Strengthening Police Mobility & Maritime Capabilities

- The JCF's mobility was significantly boosted with the acquisition of 140 new motor vehicles, at a cost of approximately \$350 million. Sixty-three motorcycles, valued over \$58 million, were also added to the JCF's fleet. These have been deployed to the Traffic Division and resort areas islandwide.
- Ten 37-foot Boston Whaler boats, valued at US\$1.5 million, were received from the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement. The vessels will strengthen the JCF's border security capability, and regional partnerships forged by Jamaica to curtail the guns-for-drugs trade.

### Firearm Licensing Authority (FLA)

- The FLA implemented a 'Safe Use and Handling Assessment' for firearm holders. Approximately 625 firearms were destroyed during 2015.
- A Regional Office will be opened in Mandeville and the Montego Bay Regional Office now offers the full range of FLA services.

### Prison Modernisation and Rehabilitation of Inmates

- Work has commenced on a \$164 million 304-bed, 2-storey Medium Risk block at the Tamarind Farm Adult Correctional Facility, to ease the overcrowding in the correctional system.
- The Department of Correctional Services has overseen the removal of all children from adult correctional facilities with all female wards now housed in one location at the South Camp Juvenile Correctional/ Remand Centre.



# Education Ministry Continues to Provide More Spaces

The Ministry of Education made significant progress in several areas including: construction/expansion of school plants, increased skills training opportunities, ending the shift system in several schools, nutritional support for early childhood students and the implementation of professional development initiatives, among others.

## Infrastructure Development

- A new \$70 million state-of-the-art infant school was built in the South West St. Andrew community of Union Gardens.
- Six new classrooms were constructed at the Aabuthnott Gallimore High School in St. Ann at a cost of \$24 million.
- Approximately \$150 million was spent to construct 22 additional classrooms at Hampton High School, in St. Elizabeth; Mount St. Joseph High and Belair High Schools in Manchester.
- New classrooms were provided at Balaclava High and BB Coke High Schools in Elizabeth, at a cost of \$156 million.
- Three new classrooms were opened at the Donald Quarrie High School in East Rural St. Andrew at a cost of \$12 million.
- Vauxhall High School in Kingston received four additional classrooms.
- A new block with eight classrooms was built at a cost of \$25 million at the McIntosh Memorial Primary School in Manchester.
- A new \$20 million building was opened at the Zion Hill Primary School in Manchester.
- Ground was broken for construction of a new 12-classroom block at Mandeville Primary and Junior High School at a cost of \$64 million.
- The new Trench Town Polytechnic College was opened to offer skills and career training for young people.



**Education Minister, Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites (left), is assisted by a student of Bois Content Primary School in South West St. Catherine, in cutting the ribbon to formally open the newly built flush toilet facility at the school, under the Ministry's \$100 million Primary School Sanitation Project. The initiative is being jointly implemented with charity organisation, Food for the Poor, and the Jamaica National (JN) Foundation. Sharing in the occasion are (from 2<sup>nd</sup> left): General Manager, JN Foundation, Saffrey Brown; and Chairman, Food for the Poor, Andrew Mahfood; along with students of Bois Content Primary School.**

- The Trench Town and Charlie Smith High schools were merged.
- The former Jamaica Defence Force facility at Montpelier, St. James, is now the Fidel Castro Campus of the Anchovy High School. It now accommodates approximately 900 students in grades seven and eight.
- Bull Bay All-Age School in St. Andrew received a new infant department.
- Ground was broken for the construction of the \$40 million James Patterson Infant School in Dias, Hanover.

## Shift System

- Twenty primary and high schools, including Vauxhall High, were taken off the shift system in 2015. When schools are removed from the shift system, the children receive increased teaching hours.

## Student Achievement

- The Millennium Development Goal of literacy was surpassed by the grade four age group. Eighty-seven percent of that age cohort recorded mastery of literacy at grade four.

- The country also achieved significant advancement in numeracy at the grade four level, moving from 49 per cent in 2011 to 67 per cent in 2015.
- Mathematics passes in the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate examination increased by seven percentage points to 62 per cent. This was the third consecutive year of improvement.

## Skills Training and Employment

- In order to prepare young people for employment, the HEART Trust/NTA stepped up its efforts to provide Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at the

secondary and post-secondary levels.

- Thirteen new technical and vocational subject areas were introduced at the secondary level with all 167 high schools across Jamaica offering at least one TVET subject in an external examination at grade 11. The MoE spent over \$100 million for exam fees last year.
- Over 150 million was spent on the purchase of materials and equipment for schools offering technical and vocational subjects.
- The HEART Trust/NTA coached and secured employment for 3,548 certified jobseekers since April 2015.
- The National Unattached Youth Programme was launched to increase community-based training opportunities to underserved and unemployed Jamaicans. Over a four-month period, the programme doubled enrolment with over 1,155 persons trained.
- HEART Trust/NTA, with assistance from the Government of Japan and other partners, refurbished the Crooked River/Brae Head Skills Training Centre in Clarendon to accommodate 80 trainees.
- The former Armadale Juvenile Correctional Centre in Alexandria, St. Ann, was transformed into a multifaceted skills training centre to accommodate 125 trainees.
- 622 male and female apprentices were engaged

in training in various disciplines under the Registered Apprenticeship Programme (RAP). Among the sectors are services, hospitality & tourism, ICT, and construction.

- More than 5,000 students were enrolled in the Career Advancement Programme, putting them on a path towards achieving tertiary level education. The programme was expanded to more than 53 institutions including private and public tertiary institutions. The certification rate increased from less than 10 per cent in 2012 to over 50 per cent in the NVQJ examinations.

## Ministry Modernisation

- The Department of School Services (DSS) was created to separate the Ministry's policy functions from its operational mandate. This facilitates greater levels of efficiency and emphasis on school improvement, which is in keeping with the ongoing Public Sector Modernisation Programme.

## Curriculum Development

- The National Standard Curriculum was piloted in 49 schools. This has laid the groundwork for the roll-out of the curriculum to commence in September 2016. The new curriculum places greater emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving and independent learning and provides clear statements of standards or grade expectations for each subject.

## Early Childhood Sector

- 300 basic schools were merged to create over 100 infant schools of much higher quality. 125,000 children were provided with free breakfast and lunch to ensure that they are able to learn in school.
- Major strides were made under the Early Childhood Rationalisation Programme, which converts basic schools into infant departments. Some \$477 million was set aside to carry out the programme.



**The newly constructed Zion Hill Primary School, in Bombay, Manchester, which was built at a cost of over \$20 million.**



# Jamaica Attracted Billions in Investments

**B**usiness reforms being undertaken by the Government have facilitated an investment boom, with the country attracting billions from the establishment and expansion of operations in logistics, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), and manufacturing, among others. These investments are generating jobs for thousands of Jamaicans.

## Logistics Projects

- More than US\$350 million has been invested in the development of the Spanish Town Free Zone in St. Catherine, which will generate 2,500 jobs. The property has been expanded from eight acres to 42 acres, and will accommodate refining and regeneration of petroleum products; manufacturing of composites and insulation material; vehicle assembly and auto parts re-manufacturing; distribution and manufacturing of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products; as well as research and manufacturing of tobacco products.
- US\$600 million will be spent to facilitate the development of port facilities at the Kingston Container Terminal (KCT). The work will be carried out by the world's third largest shipping line – CMA/CGM.
- Kingston Wharves Limited has invested \$990 million in the construction of the total logistics facility. The project will cost \$1.8 billion and employ 300 persons.
- Courts/UNICOMER has invested US \$8 million in the development of a distribution centre in Kingston.
- West Indies Petroleum (WIP) has invested over US\$10 million in the expansion of its bunkering services in Kingston.

## BPO Investment Projects

- The multibillion-dollar BPO entity, Sutherland



**Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Hon. Anthony Hylton (3<sup>rd</sup> right), breaks ground at the site of Toyota Jamaica Limited's new branch at 91a Old Hope Road in St. Andrew. Also participating (from 2<sup>nd</sup> left) are: General Manager, Toyota Tsusho America, Inc., Hiroshi Kitahara; Japan's Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Yasuo Takase; Managing Director of Toyota Jamaica, Tom Connor; and Managing Director of Matalon Homes, Peter Matalon. Looking on (at left) is Member of Parliament for Eastern St. Andrew, Andre Hylton. The facility which represents a \$400 million investment was constructed by Matalon Homes.**

Global Services, expanded operations to Mandeville. With the expansion, the company, which already has offices in Kingston, has increased employment to 3,000.

- Sutherland signed an agreement with the University of Technology (UTech) for the establishment of a BPO facility at UTech's Papine campus. The arrangement provides opportunities for students to work with the company under the 'Earn as You Learn' model, which already exists at the University of the West Indies (UWI).
- Advanced Call Centre Technologies (ACCT) and Xerox Corporation opened facilities at the Barnett Tech Park in Montego Bay, adding 1,000 jobs.
- A \$57 million (US\$500,000) BPO Cluster Initiative Incubator came on stream, through grant financing under the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Compete Caribbean Programme. It will support

the establishment of a call centre incubator in the Montego Bay Free Zone, which can accommodate activities for some 200 entities.

- 63,000 square feet of space was constructed in the Montego Bay Free Zone, which will provide additional facility for the expansion of the BPO sector.
- A five-year National Outsourcing Strategy was launched, which is aimed at growing the BPO sector by some 18,000 jobs by 2020.
- 1.2 million square feet of BPO space is to be provided at the Naggo Head Tech Park, the Caymanas ICT Park, and the Barnett Tech Park.

## Manufacturing Investments

- Seprod Limited will invest \$5 billion over two years, starting with a US\$3.5 million investment in equipment to increase the manufacturing capacity of Serge Island Dairy Farm by 45 per cent.

- LASCO Manufacturing Limited has invested over \$2 billion to upgrade and expand its White Marl plant. The completion of the manufacturing facility has seen the employment of some 300 Jamaicans.
- Red Stripe has invested US\$7.7 million in plant

operational efficiency through the installation of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant to achieve greater energy efficiency and make the plant more competitive. The company also committed to invest US\$10 million in its Project Grow initiative over five years. It will set up a cassava supply chain, as it moves to replace barley imports in beer production.

- Industrial Chemical Company Limited (ICC) upgraded their salt refinery in Spanish Town, St. Catherine, through a US\$2-million loan from the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ).

## Improved Business Rankings

- Jamaica jumped seven spots to 64th in the World Bank's 2016 Doing Business Report. The country was rated among the top 10 most improved countries worldwide in terms of executing business reform. Jamaica also excelled in the areas of getting credit and starting a business. It now takes only three days to establish a company in

*Cont'd on page 13*



**Industry, Investment and Commerce State Minister, Hon. Sharon Ffolkes-Abrahams (right), is shown a bag of organic charcoal by Bamboo Industry Association (BIA) President, Robert Rainford. The occasion was the launch of the BIA at the Knutsford Court Hotel in New Kingston. Looking on (from 2<sup>nd</sup> left) are: Director, Special Projects, Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ), Gladstone Rose; President, Small Business Association of Jamaica (SBAJ), Hugh Johnson; and BSJ Chairman, Professor Winston Davidson.**



## Major Investments in Tourism

Jamaica's tourism sector continued to shine in 2015. Arrivals were up, airlift to the island was the best it has ever been, and the industry attracted significant local and foreign investments.

In addition, the tourism industry played a major role in deepening linkages with other sectors of the economy, earning much-needed foreign exchange and generating jobs that benefit people and communities across the nation.

Tourism generates some US\$2 billion in earnings annually, and roughly 180,000 people are directly or indirectly employed to the industry.

### Visitor Arrivals

Jamaica recorded a significant increase in visitor arrivals, which totalled 3.6 million cruise and stop-overs up to the end of November. This was 177,000 more visitors than for the similar period in 2014 – a five per cent increase.

On December 22, Sangster International Airport saw the highest number of passengers for one day ever. 17,500 arriving and departing passengers including 6,000 cruise ship transfers passed through that airport. Among the passengers were 6,000 were cruise ship transfers. Ninety-eight flights were processed, 20 of which were long-haul 300-seaters from Germany and the United Kingdom.

### Airlift

An additional 60,000 international airlift seats have been secured for the 2015/16 Winter Tourist Season, which runs from December to April. Of this number, 50,000 originate in the United States, with some of the notable carriers including – Frontier Airways, American Airlines, and Southwest.

### Investments

A renewed confidence in Brand Jamaica together with the Government's efforts to create

a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for investments to succeed resulted in an unprecedented wave of investments both by local and foreign investors. Since 2012, some J\$64 billion has been invested in new and refurbished properties. 2,500 hotel rooms are under construction or have just opened. In addition, over the next decade, some 7,000 new rooms are projected to come on stream.

- In December, Caribe Hospitality (Jamaica) Limited opened the \$2.2 billion (US\$25 million) 129-room Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in New Kingston.
- The 730-room Moon Palace Jamaica Grande Resort and Spa, in Ocho Rios, St. Ann, was officially opened



The Courtyard Marriott in New Kingston, which was officially opened in December.



Tourism and Entertainment Minister, Hon. Dr. Wykeham McNeill (2<sup>nd</sup> right), and State Minister, Hon. Damion Crawford (2<sup>nd</sup> left), greet patrons attending last year's 'Arts in the Park' entertainment event at Hope Gardens in Kingston.



Tourism and Entertainment Minister, Hon. Dr. Wykeham McNeill (3<sup>rd</sup> right) is assisted by Managing Director, Kevin Hendrickson (5<sup>th</sup> left), in cutting the ribbon to mark the official reopening of the rebranded Holiday Inn Resort in Rose Hall, Montego Bay, in April. The hotel was refurbished at a cost of US\$15 million. Others participating (from left) are: Director, Brand Experience, Holiday Inn Americas, Justin Alexander; Holiday Inn Resort's General Manager, Clark Lobban; wife of the Managing Director, Jackie Hendrickson; Group Director of Marketing and Sales, Holiday Inn Resort, Nicola Madden-Greig; Montego Bay Mayor, Councillor Glendon Harris; and Tourism Director, Paul Pennicook.

in November. It was refurbished at a cost of \$23.9 billion (US\$200 million) by the Palace Resorts.

- The 518-room Holiday Inn Resort, formerly Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, in Rose Hall, St. James, was refurbished at a cost of \$1.79 billion (US\$15 million) by the InterContinental Hotels Group.
- The 9,000-square-foot Jewel Lagoon Water Park officially opened in July at the Sagikor-owned Jewel Run-away Bay Beach and Golf Resort. This \$550 million attraction is one of the largest in the Caribbean and adds another dynamic dimension to the country's tourism product.
- Spanish chain, Meliá Hotels International, partnered with the National Insurance Fund (NIF) to operate the former Braco Village Resort in Trelawny, under a 15-year lease. The 225-room hotel, which has been rebranded the Meliá Braco Village, was refurbished at a cost of \$1 billion, and reopened in early January.
- Spanish/Canadian joint venture group, Ocean by H10 Hotels, unveiled plans

for the construction of two five-star hotels in Trelwany, at a cost of \$39.9 billion (US\$200 million). The project, which will provide 800 rooms, should be opened by 2018.

- Mexico-based Karisma Hotels and Resorts will build nine hotels over 10 years, at a cost of \$109.9 billion. This will add 4,000 rooms to the country's stock.

### Infrastructure

- \$272.1 million was spent to install lights along Montego Bay's 27-kilometre 'Elegant Corridor', which runs between the Sangster International Airport roundabout and the Iberostar Hotel in St. James. The project was undertaken by the Ministries of Tourism and Entertainment, and Local Government and Community Development, with financing from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF).
- The TEF has committed \$250 million to develop and equip some 16 public beaches and to make them more accessible.
- TPDCo officially opened the Maidstone Museum in Nazareth, Manchester in

Cont'd on page 13



# Billions Spent on Road Construction and Rehabilitation

The Government continued its push towards the development of the country's road network, spending billions on construction and rehabilitation projects.

## Road Projects

- Cabinet has approved a contract to China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC) for the design, improvement and construction of Sections 1A and 1B of the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project. The works will involve the 43-kilometre stretch from Harbour View to Morant Bay at an estimated cost of US\$385 million.



**Transport, Works and Housing Minister, Dr. the Hon. Omar Davies (left), cuts the ribbon to launch the Jamaica Urban Transit Company's (JUTC) Kingston City Tours, at the Half-Way Tree Transport Centre. Looking on (from 2<sup>nd</sup> left) are: Tourism and Entertainment Minister, Hon. Dr. Wykeham McNeill; Youth and Culture Minister, Hon. Lisa Hanna; Managing Director of the JUTC, Colin Campbell, and Mayor of Kingston, Senator Councillor, Dr. Angela Brown Burke.**

This is part of the overall segment from Harbour View to Port Antonio covering approximately 65 kilometres of roadway.

- Contracts valued at more than \$1.5 billion were signed for improvement works on roads and bridges, under the US\$352 million Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP).
- The road projects include Mineral Heights to Dawkins Pen (through Hayes), Clarendon for \$238.4; Riley (Dias) to Glasgow in Hanover to be carried out at a cost of \$360.7 million; Silver Spring to Santoy, to Green Island, Westmoreland, \$165.5 million; Santoy to Orange Bay for \$40.9 million; Fellowship through Windsor and Seaman's Valley, to Mooretown in Portland for \$143.3 million; and Sheffield to Silver Spring for \$41.2 million.

## National Works Agency

- Contracts valued at \$665.4 million (US\$5.53 million) have been signed for rebuilding of the Kupius Bridge in Penants, Clarendon. The project will benefit residents of several communities in North and North Central Clarendon, including Chapelton, Frankfield, Kellits, and Pennants.
- The main road between Sour Sop Turn and Chapelton in Clarendon was improved at a cost of \$1.2 billion. The project, completed in March, included alignment, realignment, widening, and paving of the roadway; construction of drains; placement of road markings; and installation of traffic control devices and signals.
- Phase two of the eight-kilometre stretch of shared pathway for bicycle and pedestrian traffic along the Norman Manley Boulevard in Negril was completed. The \$145 million project, funded by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), included drainage work and the repair of bridges.
- Work has started on the \$69 million rehabilitation of the Hellshire bridge in Portmore.
- \$27 million was allocated for the rehabilitation of the Forum Bridge on Port Henderson Road in Portmore.
- Work was completed on the Barbican Way bridge at a cost of \$12 million.

mented along roadways in Westmoreland, Trelawny, St. James and Hanover.

- Approximately 40,000 square metres of patching was completed along 40 road corridors in Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine. The areas include Hagley Park Road, Constant Spring Road, Spanish Town Road, Molynes Road, Hope Road, Old Hope Road, and roads in New Kingston.
- Significant improvement work, valued \$14 million, was carried out on the Howard Cooke Boulevard in Montego Bay, while the Old Porus Road in Manchester was upgraded at a cost of \$24 million.
- A \$14 million project was undertaken to increase the capacity of the section of the North Gully, which runs through the Capital Heights community in Central St. James.
- In partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI), an \$8 million mangrove replanting project was undertaken along the Palisadoes shoreline in Kingston.
- Cable crash barriers were installed along the Palisadoes Road in Kingston under a \$10 million pilot project to enhance the safety of users of that corridor.

## JEEP

- Nearly 1,400 projects were completed under JEEP at a cost of just over \$2.1 billion. They include: parish council roads; major infrastructure development; tourism; renovation of community facilities; and the construction of housing units.
  - 360 projects in Kingston and St. Andrew
  - 184 in St. Catherine
  - 151 in Clarendon
  - 18 in Trelawny
  - 52 in St. Thomas
  - 121 in St. Ann
  - 82 in St. Mary
  - 57 in Portland
  - 67 in Manchester
  - 126 in St. Elizabeth
  - 62 in Westmoreland
  - 49 in Hanover, and
  - 68 in St. James
- The Government allocated \$159.8 million to parish councils and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) for road repairs under phase four of JEEP.
- \$23 million was spent to complete projects in three Clarendon communities. The projects are the Kellits Skills Training Centre; Penants Community Centre, post office, and clinic; and the Lionel Town post office.
- Residents of Gravel Lane and Wisbeach in Clarendon

*Cont'd on page 13*



**A section of the newly constructed North-South Highway**



## Billions Spent on Road... cont'd from page 12



State Minister for Transport, Works and Housing, Hon. Richard Azan (right), is shown repairs being carried out on the Brandon Hill main road in West Rural St. Andrew under the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP) by Director of Major Projects at the National Works Agency (NWA), O'Reilly Henry. The road was one of several in the constituency which was repaired at a cost of \$280 million.

now have access to improved roadways at a cost of \$13.5 million. A \$10.1 million box culvert bridge was also constructed in Bigwoods, St. Elizabeth, while West Road in Manchester, which serves residents of Cobbla and adjacent communities, has been rehabilitated at a cost of \$6.5 million.

- Repairs were carried out along Golding Avenue in Papine, St. Andrew, under the Government's \$10.4

million sidewalk rehabilitation project, to facilitate wheelchair users and pedestrians.

- Four roadways in East Central St. James – Lover's Lane, Dollar Mango, Timber Close and Green Park— were repaired at a cost of \$12 million.

### JUTC

- 27 new buses were added to the Jamaica Urban Transit Company's (JUTC) fleet, bringing the number to 569.
- The JUTC also launched its

Customer Care Centre to improve service delivery to its approximately 240,000 clients.

- The Google Transit Technology Application (app), to provide commuters with easily accessible information on bus routes, schedules, and fares, was launched.
- The 'Prepaid Smarter Card', which provides commuters with another cashless and convenient option to pay their fares, was launched.

## Major Investments... cont'd from page 11

November. The building housing the museum, which is situated on the premises of the Nazareth All-Age School, was renovated by TEF at a cost of J\$9.73 million. The museum exhibits artefacts to preserve Maidstone's history, and promoting the community's heritage, while diversifying its tourism product, as well as enhancing its economic development.

- The TEF and the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)

partnered on a public education campaign – 'Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica' - to improve knowledge and attitudes towards waste and its impact on public health and the environment. The campaign was funded under the \$34.5 million 'Clean Coasts Project'.

### Entertainment

- 351 entertainment practitioners and 45 companies have registered with the National Entertainment Registry. The registry is a

central unit for listing local entertainment services and companies.

- Kingston was designated a Creative City of Music by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO's Creative Cities programme has a network of 69 members from 32 countries covering craft and folk art; design; film; gastronomy; literature; music and media arts.

- Kingston City Tour Service which allows Jamaicans and visitors to see and learn more about Kingston was launched. There are four tours – Reggae, Heritage, Port Royal, and Scenic.

### Air Transport

- State-of-the-art air traffic control towers, constructed at a cost of \$2.57 billion, were commissioned into service at the island's two major international airports.

## Jamaica Attracted Billions... cont'd from page 10

Jamaica, and two interactions with Government agencies.

- Jamaica is also highlighted as one of two Caribbean countries that have made tax compliance easier for businesses.
- The 2015-2016 Global Competitiveness Report credited Jamaica for improving its procedures to start a business, ranking the country third globally, and eighth in the legal rights index.
- Jamaica is also ranked as having the best Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) strategy in the Caribbean and Central America by the prestigious Financial Times' FDI Magazine. Jamaica received over US\$628 million in FDIs in the 2014/15 financial year.

### Support for MSMEs

- The Mobile Business Clinic continues to make its way across the island, and has provided services to almost 2000 entrepreneurs.
- A Micro, Small and Medium-size Enterprise (MSME) Financing Taskforce, with representatives from academia and the private and public sectors, was developed to explore viable options for MSME financing.
- The Boards of the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC), Micro-Investment Development

Agency (MIDA), and Self-Start Fund (SSF) have been merged to increase efficiency and better serve MSMEs.

### Bamboo Industry

- \$15 million grant agreement was signed with the Organization of American States (OAS) for the development of the bamboo processing industry in Jamaica.
- A 12-month bamboo project was launched in Peckham, North West Clarendon. It includes the cultivation of 40 hectares of bamboo; the construction of a factory with equipment and technology to produce a range of by-products; training of residents in bamboo cultivation techniques and production. The project has created employment for over 80 persons.

- The first major supply of internationally certified organic bamboo charcoal, totalling 9,600 lb, was shipped to the United States.

- The first locally manufactured organic bamboo charcoal kiln was developed.

### Trade and Export Facilitation

- The second phase of the National Export Strategy (NES) was launched to increase Jamaica's exports and improve the country's overall economic performance.



# Protecting the Most Vulnerable

## Social Security

The Ministry continues to provide assistance for the most vulnerable in society including grants to start small businesses to move more persons from welfare to wealth creation.

- The Government provided \$4.7 billion to families under the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH), and \$72 million to provide transportation allowances for 2,500 PATH students.
- Another \$100 million was spent to provide assistance to needy students attending tertiary institutions.
- More than 200 young PATH beneficiaries participated in an annual Summer Camp organised under the Steps-to-Work programme held in Kingston and St James. They benefitted from training in entrepreneurship, job readiness, and other interventions.
- The Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD) conducted the country's first ever socio-economic survey on persons with disabilities. The survey cost \$2.8 million and was sponsored by the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
- The Government of Japan provided over \$10 million through its Human Resources Development Grant programme to boost education and skills training for persons with disabilities. The training programme is being carried out under the Government of Jamaica's Social and Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Project.
- Twenty-seven persons received permanent employment through a



Former Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Derrick Kellier, presents a certificate to Nicola Williams, a student at the Early Stimulation Programme (ESP), during a graduation exercise last year.

Social and Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Project, funded by the World Bank at a cost of just under US\$3 million.

- \$4 million in empowerment grants were given to 30 persons with disabilities from the JCPD. The funds were provided to assist those who have either started a business or are in the process of doing so.
- \$86 million has been approved for the construction of an additional facility for the Early Stimulation Programme (ESP). The new facility, which will be built at the ESP's Hanover Street location, in downtown Kingston, will include an assessment centre as well as rooms for physical and speech therapy, and other types of treatment.
- In August, a new \$30 million ESP facility, known as Stimulation-Plus (STIM-PLUS), was opened in

Portland, with the support of the Digicel Foundation. The ESP caters to the education and development needs of children with special needs. Since its inception in 1975, the programme has benefitted approximately 20,000 children across the island. Currently, the programme offers services to over 1,200 children.

- \$75 million was spent under the Short Term Poverty Intervention Project, as the Government continued its work to protect the nation's most vulnerable. The money was spent mainly on entrepreneurial ventures, and the provision of compassionate grants.

## Labour

Productivity, workplace safety, and advancing labour market reform were priorities.

- The Ministry commenced its Workers Safety Passport Programme for persons in the construction

industry. The passport, which will be issued to each worker, indicates their training level and certification.

- Jobseekers residing in Manchester now have easier access to the services of the Labour Market Information System (LMIS), under an agreement with the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, to establish of a satellite station at its offices.
- 8,022 workers went to Canada and 6,434 to the United States, to participate in the Overseas Employment Programme.
- 245 companies have registered with the Voluntary Compliance Programme designed to prepare stakeholder entities for the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller hugs a young resident of Balaclava, in St. Elizabeth.



# Major Upgrading of Public Health Institutions

To demonstrate the Government's commitment to the health and well-being of the nation, the health sector budget was increased by \$7.2 billion to \$50.9 billion. This 17 per cent increase was the largest non-debt expenditure in the 2015/16 budget.

In 2015, the Ministry continued to upgrade the sector's infrastructure and improve service delivery at public health institutions across the island.

## Primary Care

- Renovations were completed on several health centres: the Claremont Centre of Excellence – \$64.3 million; Exchange Health Centre – \$57 million (with funding support from the CHASE Fund); Santa Cruz Centre of Excellence - Phase 2 - \$113 million; Junction Health Centre – \$10.1 million; Golden Spring Health Centre – \$41.4 million (with input from the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and CHASE); James Hill Health Centre – \$46.8 million; and Nannyville Health Centre – \$51.5 million.

## Secondary Care

- Over \$1.28 billion has been spent to upgrade 15 hospitals: St. Ann's Bay Regional – \$170 million; Port Antonio – \$58.9 million; Mandeville Regional – \$166.6 million; Percy Junor – \$18.4 million; May Pen – \$67.7 million; Black River – \$13.4 million; Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee – \$221.2 million; Bustamante – \$195.8 million; Bellevue – \$53 million; Princess Margaret – \$60 million; Linstead – \$55.7 million; Cornwall Regional – \$51.5 million; Falmouth – \$75 million; and Noel Holmes – \$45.6 million

## Cancer Care

- A US\$14.4 million contract was signed with the US-based Varian Medical Systems to establish two cancer treatment centres, at the Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay



Minister of Health, Hon. Horace Dalley (3<sup>rd</sup> left), examines one of several medical equipment donated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/Who Health Organization (WHO) to the Ministry of Health during the handover ceremony held in December at the PAHO Jamaica Office located on the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus. Looking on (from left) are PAHO/WHO Representative in Jamaica, Dr. Noreen Jack; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Kevin Harvey; and Disease Prevention and Control Advisor to Jamaica, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, PAHO/WHO, Dr. Kam Mung.

and the St. Joseph's Hospital in Kingston. Each centre will be equipped with: one linear accelerator; one computerised tomography (CT) simulator; one C-arm mobile X-ray unit; and one brachytherapy machine with Treatment Planning System and related Quality Assurance equipment. Training is also included in the contract.

## ICT Support

- The Universal Service Fund (USF) provided connectivity to 60 health facilities.

## Maternal and New Born

Six contracts were signed as part of the PROMAC:

- 1) Design services for the maternal and neonatal high dependency units – \$61.9 million
- 2) Design services for four



Mobile Blood Collection Unit

- 3) Purchase of six ambulances – \$85.5 million
- 4) HDU Equipment - \$95.5 million
- 5) Support for improvement of health seeking behaviour (two contracts) – \$39.4 million

## Ambulances

- Eighteen new ambulances have been acquired – 10 through a contract with Toyota Jamaica; six through the Programme for the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC); and two with the assistance of the CHASE Fund.

## Drug Treatment Court and Rehabilitation Programme

- The National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) will

now recruit, train, and employ substance abuse counsellors for the Drug Treatment Court and Rehabilitation Programme. The programme aims to improve the country's efforts in combating the use, production, and trafficking of illegal drugs by providing an alternative to incarceration for drug abusers through the justice system.

## 10-Year Development Plan

- A 10-year strategic plan to advance health care service delivery is being developed with \$29.94 million (US\$250,000) in grant support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).



Former Health Minister, Hon. Dr. Fenton Ferguson (3<sup>rd</sup> right), breaks ground for the cancer treatment centre at the Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay, St. James. Others participating in the exercise are (from left) Industry, Investment and Commerce State Minister and Member of Parliament for West Central St. James, where the hospital is located, Hon. Sharon Ffolkes-Abrahams; Mayor of Montego Bay, Councillor Glendon Harris; Chief Executive Officer, Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund Wilford "Billy" Heaven; and Chief Executive Officer, National Health Fund (NHF), Everton Anderson.



# Thousands Benefit From Improved Access to Potable Water

Billions of dollars were spent last year to implement projects aimed at improving access to potable water.

## Water Projects

- Approximately 200,000 residents of Trelawny and neighbouring parishes are benefitting from improved water supply through the completion of \$1.6 billion in upgrading works at the Martha Brae treatment plant.
- Over 6,000 residents in the communities of Ewarton, Mount Rosser and their environs in St. Catherine now have a reliable supply of potable water from a \$460 million system developed by the National Water Commission (NWC).
- Approximately 7,000 persons in the communities of Clark's Town, Georgia, Spicy Hill and Silver Sands will see improved water supply under the \$91 million Clark's Town Water Supply Pipeline Replacement Project in Trelawny. Eight kilometres of pipeline were commissioned into service.
- The \$467 million refurbished Bogue water treatment plant in North East St. Ann was officially commissioned into service. The work was carried out under the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Project (JWSIP). The rehabilitated plant, which has a production capacity of six million gallons of water per day, is the main source of potable water for thousands of persons in Ocho Rios, as well as the entire Northern Coastal belt from North East St. Ann to Western and Central St. Mary.
- The Government launched a US\$3.9 million project to protect the Yallahs and Hope River areas from degradation, and to improve water resource management.

- Residents of Gutters, Retirement and adjoining communities in West Central St. James now have access to a more reliable water supply following the completion of work on the Gutters/Retirement Water Supply System at a cost of \$26.3 million.
- The NWC signed a US\$7.23 million contract for the procurement of 50,000 electronic water meters for the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA).
- The NWC and the National Commercial Bank signed a US\$12 million loan agreement to finance the rehabilitation or replacement of several waste water treatment facilities across the island.
- Ground was broken for the construction of a concrete tank at Mason River, Clarendon, with capacity for 100,000 gallons of water. The storage facility is to be built at a cost of \$35.7 million. It is part of a \$202.2 million project for the upgrading of the Mason River Water Supply System.
- Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL) has repaired the 35,000-gallon Ballynure rainwater catchment tank in North West Manchester at a cost of \$9.5 million.
- The Cassava Pond water supply system in North West St. Catherine was established at a cost of \$9 million.
- Contracts totalling US\$8.73 million have been signed for upgrading and improvement works to six wastewater treatment facilities in the parishes of Kingston, St. Catherine, and Clarendon.
- The Mahoe Ridge to Horse Guard Water Supply System was officially commissioned into service. Work on the facility was done at a cost of \$9 million. The system will

provide improved access for hundreds of residents of five farming communities in South St. James.

## Climate Change and the Environment

- Jamaica will benefit from a US\$6 million regional climate change resilience

project – 'Building climate resilience of urban systems through Ecosystem-based Adaptation', which will be piloted in the Kingston Metropolitan Area. The 24-month project will be executed through financing from the



**Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Robert Pickersgill (left), and Member of Parliament for North Clarendon, Hon. Horace Dalley, break ground for the construction of a \$35.7 million water storage facility at Mason River.**



**State Minister for Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Ian Hayles (left), observes as Marketing Director, Instant Save Limited, Leanne Spence (right), demonstrates the water saving faucet distributed by the company. Also observing (from 2<sup>nd</sup> left) are: former Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Jamaica, His Excellency Dong Xiaojun; Director, Meteorological Services, Jeffery Spooner; and British High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency David Fitton. The occasion was a World Meteorological Day Symposium at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in March.**

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Special Climate Change Fund.

- Three locations have been established as points of collection for electronic waste (e-waste). These are the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) offices in Kingston (Half-Way Tree Road) and Spanish Town (King Street); and Derrason Plaza, Independence City, in Portmore. The e-waste project encourages Jamaicans to properly dispose of electronic items such as computers, mobile phones, printers, monitors, laptops, keyboards, mouse, chargers, and cables.
- To protect the country's natural resources, the Government has committed US\$16 million to the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) over a 19-year period.
- The Scientific Research Council and the National Environment and Planning Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to protect the country's plant and wildlife, especially those endemic to Jamaica.
- Thirty-eight teachers benefited from climate change awareness training as we prepare to incorporate the subject in the school curriculum.
- Government signed a \$278.8 million (US\$2.37 million) deal with American technology firm, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to provide Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) with unlimited access to the entity's suite of technology software. This will enhance land administration and management; planning, hazard mitigation, and emergency management; environmental science, national security, and utilities and infrastructure.

*Cont'd on page 17*



# Empowering Jamaicans Through Home and Land Ownership

Jamaicans continued to benefit significantly from the Government's programme of land and housing delivery in 2015.

## HOUSING

### National Housing Trust

- The National Housing Trust spent approximately \$18 billion on housing developments in 2015. Mortgages accounted for 94 per cent of the total spend.
- 5,800 new mortgages were created, not including loans under the joint financing programme.
- NHT had 1,321 housing starts, and 1,458 housing completions.
- The agency collected over \$24 billion in contributions.
- The NHT began a programme to develop 9,000 housing solutions which it will fund over 27 months.
- The NHT has increased its individual loan limit for some new applicants from \$4.5 million, to \$5.5 million as at November. The new loan limit will apply to applicants who are buying properties in new housing development, and those constructing new housing units.
- The policy change is aimed at stimulating the construction of new housing developments and boosting the purchasing power of persons.
- The Trust reduced interest rates for all new loan applicants. Beneficiaries earning up to \$7,500 per week will pay no interest on their loans.

### Developments

- In February, Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, presented 60 homeowners with keys and possession letters to their brand new homes in the Sandhills Vista Housing Development in Hellshire, St. Catherine. They represented the first of 226 families, which will benefit from new housing



**Minister with responsibility for Housing in the Ministry of Transport, Works, and Housing, Hon. Dr. Morais Guy (right), presents resident of Bedward Gardens, St. Andrew, Jasmine Blagrove (left), with her certificate of title during a presentation ceremony at Bedward Gardens Seventh Day Adventist Church. Sharing the moment are Mrs. Blagrove's daughter, Beverley Blagrove, and granddaughter, Anastasia Scarlett.**

solutions constructed at a cost of \$1.8 billion.

- 1,200 two-bedroom housing units were built for indigent persons across the island through a partnership with Food for the Poor. A total of 2,480 units have been built to date, providing employment for 6,700 persons.
- Ground was broken for the Green Pond Housing Development in St. James, which will further the Government's mandate of making some 2,760 residential serviced lots available by March 2016. The Green Pond Housing Development is made possible through the use of approximately 71 acres of land owned by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing.
- The Government implemented Phase Two of the United Nations Habitat Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP 2) in Old Harbour Bay, May Pen and Montego Bay. The project aims to improve the living conditions of the urban poor.

### Land Titling

- Prime Minister Simpson Miller launched the National Land Titling Programme, which will provide over 40,000 Jamaicans with titles.
- 7,139 new titles were issued by the National Land Agency (NLA) from January to October.
- 404 property holders islandwide have already received titles under the initiative. They include residents of: Whitehouse and Whithorn in Westmoreland; and Bedward Gardens, Seaward Pen, Seaview Gardens, and Tower Hill in St. Andrew. The programme is being led by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing and involves collaboration among several agencies to improve the efficiency in the delivery of titles.
- In May, the Prime Minister presented 70 residents in the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James, and Trelawny with land titles and certificates of allotment.
- She also presented more than 100 residents of

Clifton in St. Catherine with certificates of possession for land which they have occupied for many years. Clifton is one of 30 communities across five parishes where tenure is being regularised under the Sugar Company of Jamaica Holdings' (SCJH) Community Regularization and Development Programme.

- 101 Jamaicans in Bog Walk, St. Catherine,

became landowners when the Prime Minister issued certificates of title to them through the Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP).

- The NLA received an \$8.3 million printing system. Since its installation, the system has been used to print maps, plans, and other large format documents for the Agency's clients.

## Thousands Benefit...cont'd from page 16

- Jamaica has successfully phased out the use of a key ozone-depleting substance, Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC), used in the foam manufacturing industry.
- A number of key sectors will benefit from technical support to boost climate change resilience under the US\$19.8 million Adaptation Programme implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It will provide strategies and action plans for the water, health, and tourism sectors, as well as coastal resources and human settlements.
- The Jamaica Invasive Species Database (JISD), the first comprehensive portal of its kind in Jamaica, was launched and can be found at: <http://apps.licj.org.jm/jamaica/invasives/>.
- Government allocated \$5 million for initial clean-up and disposal of the sargassum (a brown seaweed with berry-like air bladders) currently affecting beaches and coastlines across the island and the wider Caribbean.



**Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change Minister, Hon. Robert Pickersgill (3<sup>rd</sup> left), officially commissions into service rehabilitated and new treatment plants at the National Water Commission (NWC) facility at Martha Brae, Trelawny. Those sharing in the occasion include: Acting NWC President, Mark Barnett (2<sup>nd</sup> left); Falmouth's Mayor, Councillor Garth Wilkinson (2<sup>nd</sup> right); and Attorney General and Member of Parliament for North Trelawny, Hon. Patrick Atkinson (right).**



## Thousands of Young People Trained and Employed

The Ministry of Youth and Culture made significant strides in empowering young people through training and employment, safeguarding the welfare of the nation's children while ensuring that the country continues to make its mark in world culture and heritage.

### Youth Development

- Thirty two thousand three hundred and fifty-five (32,355) young people were trained and placed in permanent and temporary employment in the public and private sectors.
- 855 young people have benefited from valuable work experience under the National Youth Service's (NYS) Graduate Work Experience Programme (GWEP). They were placed for up to six months and were provided with a stipend.
- 115 young people have been trained to form their own businesses through the NYS Entrepreneurship Programme.
- 13 young people graduated from a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) training course and were subsequently placed in jobs.
- The Green Paper of the National Youth Policy was tabled in Parliament in May.
- Through collaboration with CARICOM, 30 young people benefited from entrepreneurial training.
- Six new Youth Ambassadors were appointed.
- The Spanish Town and Hanover Youth Information Centres were opened.
- 27 Youth Empowerment Officers were trained in climate change awareness.

### Child Development Agency

- The Child Development Agency (CDA) initiated community walks, with the field services team



**Minister of Youth and Culture, Hon. Lisa Hanna (3<sup>rd</sup> left), affixes her signature to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which establishes a partnership between the National Youth Service (NYS) and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), to strengthen the NYS Summer Programme for young people. The signing took place in April 23 at the PSOJ offices on Hope Road, St. Andrew. Others (from left) are: Vice President of the PSOJ, Gary "Butch" Hendrickson; President, William Mahfood; and Chairman of the NYS, Maureen Webber. Standing (from left) are: Executive Director of the PSOJ, Dennis Chung and Director at the NYS, Omar Newell.**

visiting over 15 communities islandwide, distributing materials on child abuse and childcare and impacting close to 1,000 families.

- 1,500 parents benefitted from parenting workshops in communities across the island.
- A rapid response system was established to provide support for children who were traumatised.
- Holding areas for children were completed at the Bridgeport Police Station in St. Catherine, Barrett Town Police Station in St. James, and Moneague Police Station in St. Ann.
- Work was advanced to transform the Maxfield Park Children's Home into a model childcare centre. A best practices programme was instituted, which involves extra-curricular activities, mentorship, field trips, and training.
- Musical instruments and equipment valued at \$250,000 were handed over to the Home for the Art of Life Programme,

which engages children in creative activities.

- Professional counselling was provided for over 1,442 children in State care and 3,687 out of State care. 1,072 group counselling sessions were conducted. One thousand children were also referred to clinical psychologists and psychiatrists for ongoing treatment.
- 55 students in State care were recognised for outstanding results in the 2014/15 secondary school external examinations. The number of children qualifying for tertiary education increased to 46 from 2 in 2012.
- Research was conducted to determine the prevalence of bullying in the Jamaican society and its impact on the development of children.
- Over 1,298 children were served under the multi-agency approach to child protection. Fewer than 20 were remanded to a place of safety. The chil-

dren are from areas in Kingston and St. Andrew, Clarendon, St. James, Manchester and Westmoreland, and Hanover.

### Office of the Children's Registry

- The Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) opened its St. Mary office to receive reports of child abuse and missing children.
- Ananda Alert computer units were installed at six parish libraries in St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James, and Westmoreland.
- The number of missing children was reduced by 10 per cent, while nine out of 10 children reported missing were returned through the Ananda Alert system.
- The platform for the broadcast of missing and recovered children was expanded using digital screens at select Western Union locations and pharmacies via Global Media Ltd. Information is also disseminated by the Jamaica Observer on a weekly basis, and the National Commercial Bank through its company intranet.

- 23 volunteers were trained in search and rescue, including basic first aid, in support of Ananda Alert.

### Culture and Heritage

- The Blue and John Crow Mountains were inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) prestigious World Heritage List. They represent the first World Heritage site for Jamaica and the first mixed (cultural and natural) site for the Caribbean. They are one of only 32 mixed sites in the world.
- Four places of historical significance – Dryland/One Bubby Susan, St. Gabriel's Anglican Church, Arawak/Tainos Steps, and Daddy Rock in St. Mary, were declared national monuments.
- Charles Town, Portland, and Scott's Hall, St. Mary were designated national heritage sites.
- The Simón Bolívar Cultural Centre located downtown Kingston, a gift from the Government of Venezuela, was officially opened.
- The Culture Passport Programme, which was

*Cont'd on page 19*



**Youth and Culture Minister, Hon. Lisa Hanna, converses with Calabar High School students, Stephen Brufford (left), and Barry Rhoden, during one of the Ministry's Youth Consultations in Half Way Tree, St. Andrew.**



# Public Sector Workers Accept Wage Agreement

The Government improved salaries and benefits for workers, while continuing the implementation of programmes aimed at enhancing public service delivery.

## Improved Salaries and Benefits

- A new two-year salary agreement, for a seven per cent increase for the 2015/17 period, was signed with unions representing public sector employees. The workers received salary adjustments of four per cent for 2015/16, and three per cent for 2016/17.
- There were also increases for specific allowances, for which retroactive payments are being made. The increase broke the seven-year wage freeze that was instituted in 2008.
- Approximately 96 per cent of the over 100,000 workers have signed Heads of Agreement for improved wage and benefits. Groups that have signed:
  - United District Constables Assn (UDC)
  - Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA)
  - Jamaica Federation of Corrections (JAFEDCO),
  - Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU),
  - Jamaica Enrolled Nurses Association (JENA)
  - Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA),
  - Jamaica Police Federation (POLFED)
  - Resident Magistrates Staff Association
  - Legal Officers' Staff Association (LOSA)
  - Jamaica Police Officers' Association (POA)
  - Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI)
  - Meteorologists and Met Technicians (UTASP)
  - Jamaica Midwives' Association (JMA)
  - Academic Staff Association
  - Nurses' Association of Jamaica (NAJ)



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller (seated, centre) signs a copy of the 2015/17 Heads of Agreement reached between the Government and representatives of the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU), during a ceremony at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Also signing, (from left) are: JCTU Vice President, Helene Davis Whyte; then Minister with responsibility for the Public Service, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Hon. Horace Dalley; Finance and Planning Minister, Dr. the Hon. Peter Phillips; and Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA) President, O'Neil Grant. Pictured in the background (from left) are: Manager, Public Relations, Special Projects and Community Outreach, OPM, Shelly-Ann Harris; and Finance and Planning Ministry officials – Director, Industrial Relations, Lorna A. Phillips; then Acting Financial Secretary, Everton McFarlane; Senior Industrial Relations Officer, Charmaine Hayman; and Deputy Financial Secretary, Wayne Jones.**

- Senior Uniform Officers' Association (SUOA)
- Jamaica Association of Education Officers
- Association of Librarians Jamaica Library Service (ALJALS)

Some of the benefits include:

- Taxi Allowance
- Meal/Supper Allowance/Refreshment
  - Subsistence
  - Travelling
  - Shift Premium
  - Uniform/Tailoring

## Education and Training Grants

- The wage agreement includes an increase in the tertiary education grants for children of public sector workers to \$45 million over the two years. It also includes the continuation of tertiary education loans for workers; refund of tuition; and skills training.

## Transportation

A subsidy will be underwritten by the Ministry of Finance and Planning for public sector workers who travel on the JUTC buses. These discussions are well on the way. However, the Government continues to

provide transportation services under its Government Employees Transportation Project (GETP).

## Land

- Lands across the island have been identified for housing development to benefit civil servants and there is agreement to the development of at least one (1) project for the contract period.

## One-off Payments to Workers

- In August, the final payment of \$25,000 to public sector workers was paid.

## Cash Rewards Programme

- Civil servants are now benefitting from a 'Team Jamaica Valucard' programme, which sees them receiving cash rebates at participating merchants. The initiative is a collaboration between the Government, private sector, and unions representing civil servants.

## Training

- 400 public sector procurement officers have been trained and certified, as part of the Government's thrust to streamline and

transform the public procurement system. This

coincided with passage of the Public Procurement Act in Parliament, and launch of Jamaica's first electronic procurement system.

## Public Financial Management

- The World Bank has provided an \$8.6 billion (US\$75 million) loan to bolster the ongoing programme of economic growth and development, under the First Competitiveness and Fiscal Management Policy Loan Project. This will support structural reforms designed to enhance Jamaica's competitiveness, thereby improving the investment climate.

The provision forms part of a larger programme of assistance entered into by the Government and Bank, valued at approximately \$58.9 billion (US\$10 billion).

## Thousands of Young People Trained... cont'd from page 18

- introduced in schools across the island, will allow the students to access notable cultural and heritage sites free of cost.
- The number of culture clubs doubled to 200 with membership of approximately 6,000. The first National Culture Club Conference was staged.
- The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) upgraded its events production capabilities through the acquisition of much-needed equipment, including a box truck, multimedia projectors, and screens.
- Signs and storyboards were placed at the Alexander Bedward Church Ruins in August Town, to highlight its historical significance.
- The National Gallery West was opened in partnership with the redeveloped Montego Bay Cultural Centre.
- Restoration of the Admiralty House and H Block in Port Royal was completed, with the facilities being used as classrooms spaces for the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI).
- The National Library of Jamaica's resources can now be accessed online through the Worldcat Local-Library Management System.
- A national bibliography of books about Jamaica and by Jamaicans, since Independence, was published.
- The Intangible Cultural Heritage website [www.memorybankia.org.jm](http://www.memorybankia.org.jm) was created.



## Stronger Justice System

Significant work was done to improve the physical infrastructure of courts across the island, while legislative measures were undertaken and systems implemented to strengthen the administration of justice.

### Physical Infrastructure Developments in 2015

- A High Density Filing System for the Supreme Court Registry was procured at a cost of \$48 million and installed in Public Building North, Kingston. The system reduces the time for retrieval and filing, enabling improvement in productivity while saving time and money. It also increases storage capacity, freeing up valuable floor space.
- Public Building North, a major expansion of the Supreme Court in Justice Square, Kingston, was officially opened. It comprises seven additional courtrooms, judges' and masters' chambers, meeting rooms, more spacious facilities for the operations of the various Registries of the Civil Division, and other court amenities.
- The Western Civil Registry of the Supreme Court was opened in Montego Bay, to allow court documents to be filed without litigants or counsel having to bring them to Kingston. The facility also provides a new home for the Montego Bay Legal Aid Clinic.
- A western Jamaica office of the Administrator-General's Department was opened to ensure more efficient delivery of services to persons in the western end of the island for the first time since the entity was established in the 1800s.
- Rehabilitative works were done to the court facility in Gordon Town, St. Andrew, and the court reopened (after being closed for several years) providing improved access for citizens in surrounding areas.
- The Santa Cruz Resident Magistrate's Court was reopened in November,

after rehabilitation work on the courtroom, balcony, office, and refinishing of the floors. A vertical wheelchair lift was also installed to ensure access to the two-storey building for persons with physical disabilities.

- Substantial rehabilitative works were done to the court facility in Black River, St. Elizabeth.
- Preliminary works commenced for the relocation of the Coroner's Court and Corporate Area Traffic Court to premises at 2A Hagley Park Road. Major components of the project include: refurbishing and improvement of existing buildings. It is anticipated that the Ministry of Justice will also be accommodated at the complex, which is owned by the Government of Jamaica.
- A video-link system was installed at the Corporate Area Resident Magistrate's Court in Half-Way Tree, St. Andrew. The technology will allow vulnerable witnesses and those unable to attend court to give evidence from a safe remote location.

### Legislation in 2015

- Administrator-General's (Amendment) Act 2015,



Justice Minister, Senator the Hon. Mark Golding examines the state-of-the-art High Density Filing System, at the official handing over of the Public Building North of the Supreme Court, Downtown Kingston. Looking on are Chief Justice, Hon. Zaila McCalla (left) and Attorney General Hon. Patrick Atkinson.



Minister of Justice, Senator the Hon. Mark Golding (right), with the assistance of (from left) President of the Senate, Senator Floyd Morris, and Chief Justice, Hon. Zaila McCalla, officially open the newly renovated Santa Cruz Resident Magistrate's Court-house. Looking on is special guest at the ceremony, Santa Cruz resident, Javani Parker (background, right).

which substantially reforms the laws relating to administration of the estates of deceased persons. This allows the Administrator-General to commence and complete the administration of estates of persons who die without making a will without needing to obtain a court order

- Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act 2015 and the Judicature

(Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Act 2015, providing for a shorter sentence for persons who plead guilty, the reduction being more substantial the earlier in the proceedings that the guilty plea is made.

- Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act 2015, decriminalising small quantities of ganja and providing a legislative platform for the development of a regulated industry in medicinal ganja.
- Evidence (Amendment) Act 2015, speeding up the trial process by allowing for the admission of facts and documents into evidence by agreement, providing a simpler system for admitting expert reports into evidence, and simplifying the procedure for admitting computer-generated evidence.
- Jury (Amendment) Act 2015, reforming several aspects of the jury system to reduce delays in criminal trials by juries.
- Judicature (Supreme Court) (Amendment) Bill 2015 passed in the Senate. This Bill establishes a new

administrative structure for the Supreme Court in keeping with modern best practices, and strengthens the administrative support for the Chief Justice.

- Judicature (Resident Magistrates) (Amendment) Bill 2015 passed in the Senate. This Bill modernises the governance arrangements for Resident Magistrates, and brings them under the Judiciary Act so that their salaries and benefits are reviewed periodically by the Independent Commission of the Judiciary rather than being dealt with as civil servants.
- Integrity Commission Bill, to establish a single Anti-corruption Agency, was reviewed by a Joint Select Committee, and is to be debated in 2016.
- Evidence (Special Measures) (Video Recorded Evidence) (Criminal Proceedings) Regulations 2015, providing the detailed parameters for the admission of evidence from vulnerable witnesses and witnesses unable to attend court via a live audiovisual link from a remote location.
- Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Regulations 2015, providing an administrative procedure for the automatic expungement of past convictions for minor ganja offences, upon a person applying for a police certificate of their criminal record.

### Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation Project

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment was acquired for the courts, including scanners, computers and digital recorders.
- The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Attorney General's Department have also benefitted from ICT equipment such as computers, video conferencing equip-

Cont'd on page 22



# Local Government Advances Reform Process

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development made strides in advancing the reform process through the passage of game-changing legislation; the expansion of Local Economic Development initiatives; a multi-stakeholder approach to municipal enforcement; and citizen participation.

## Legislation Passed

- The Bill entrenching Local Government in the Jamaican Constitution was passed, providing constitutional protection to Local Government in Jamaica.
- The three strategic Bills that undergird local governance were passed into law. These were the Local Governance Bill; Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Bill; and the Local Government (Financing and Financial Management) Bill.

They create the framework within which: local authorities will operate with greater scope and autonomy; be subject to new and clear standards of accountability; exercise prudent financial management; and oversee a workforce with increased competency and skills.

## Development Application Review Process – Application Management and Data Automation (AMANDA) System

- Hundreds of developers continue to use the AMANDA System to track the progress of their submissions. The AMANDA software allows for transparency through the facilitation of a paper trail; and reduced delays in the processes within the development sector.

## National Building Act

- The revised the Building Act, which will facilitate improved oversight and regulation of the built environment as well as the adoption and efficient application of the National Building Code, has been tabled in Parliament.

## Local Economic Development

- The Ministry continued the expansion of its Local Economic Development initiative. Through the Caribbean local Economic Development (CARILED) Project, 13 projects providing technical assistance to local authorities and other stakeholders were implemented at a cost of \$60 million.

## Training

- More than 50 technical officers of the Ministry and its agencies, involved in the building approval process, benefitted from a \$6 million training project. A total of 120 will be trained under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry and the University of Technology (UTech).
- 164 persons completed training as Environmental Wardens through the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP).
- 30 residents of Cambridge and surrounding areas in Southern St. James received training as fire wardens.
- The Board of Supervision partnered with the HEART Trust/NTA to provide training



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Noel Arscott, demonstrates the capacity of the water storage and pumping system installed at the Riverton City disposal site during a tour of the facility on Thursday, December 17.

for workers at a cost of \$3.5 million.

## Improved Infrastructure

- Phase one of the upgrading of the Spanish Town Infirmary was completed at a cost of \$20 million. The project included the renovation of three of the infirmary's seven wards (two female and one male), as well as the laundry, bathroom, kitchen, and designated staff areas.
- Engineering and construction works were carried out on a halfway house in Clarendon by crew mem-

bers of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA), Lyme Bay. The work included remodelling of the building to provide a doctor's office, medical cubicles, dormitories, and a dining area.

- The Santa Cruz Poor Relief Office was officially opened in August 2015. It was constructed at a cost of over \$3 million with funds provided by the St. Elizabeth Parish Council. The building has offices for the Poor Relief Officers and a representative of Food for the Poor; kitchen; and sanitary conveniences.

## Markets/Roads

- Renovation at the Queens Market in downtown Kingston was completed at a cost of \$39.6 million
- The rehabilitated Frazer to Donegal main road, near Newmarket, in St. Elizabeth, was officially opened. The road was repaired at a cost of \$8 million and is expected to serve over 8,000 citizens of the communities.
- Rehabilitation work valued at US\$1.8 million commenced on the access road to the Riverton City disposal site. The one-year road construction project, slated to be completed in September 2016, is being undertaken through grant funding from the Mexican government. It will involve

the building of a two-kilometre concrete roadway to improve the entrance to and exit from the disposal site, and enable the necessary agencies to respond more quickly to emergencies.

- A Parochial Road Spray Patching Programme started in five pilot areas (Portmore, Trelawny, Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Thomas). This was achieved through partnership with the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF) and the National Works Agency (NWA).

## Office Of Disaster Preparedness And Emergency Management (ODPEM)

- The ODPEM has crafted a national road map, aimed at strengthening the country's capacity and lessen the effects of earthquakes. Developed in conjunction with United Nations development partners, the earthquake road map addresses preparation, response, and recovery.
- ODPEM in collaboration with the National Spatial Data Management Division developed the Geo Spatial Damage Assessment Tool (Geo-DAT) designed to capture data from post disaster sites in real time. It is a locally developed Smartphone application (app) that has the capacity to assess multiple hazards, such as hurricanes, fires, chemical spills, and floods.

## National Disaster Fund

- One per cent of the money charged for development approvals is being used to boost the pool of funds available for disaster preparedness and response.

## Social Development Commission (SDC)

- The Social Development Commission (SDC) provided greater support for Community Development Committees (CDC), through the Government's Admin-



Local Government and Community Development State Minister, Hon. Colin Fagan (right), presents an award to Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) recruit, Dwayne Rankine, during last year's graduation ceremony at the Madge Saunders Conference Centre in St. Mary.



## Stronger Justice... cont'd from page 20

ment and a multi-function heavy duty copier.

- The report on the new Corporate and Organisational Structure for the Ministry of Justice was completed and the proposed Organisational Structure approved in principle by the Ministry of Finance and Planning.
- The Strategic Review of the Legal Reform Department to improve its legislative research/review capacity has been completed.
- Manual for the development of legislation completed.

### Restorative Justice Programme

- An additional Restorative Justice Centre was established in Montego Bay.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> International Restorative Justice Conference was held in Jamaica.

### National Child Diversion Programme

- The National Child Diversion Policy, on how to deal with children in conflict with the law, was approved by Cabinet and tabled in both Houses of Parliament. The required legislation to give it effect is in development.

### JPs Sworn In

- 224 Justices of the Peace sworn during the year.

### Trafficking in Persons

- The Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Intellectual Property Vice Squad received surveillance equipment aimed at increasing prosecution of persons involved in human trafficking and reduce dependence on victims for evidence.
- The National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (NATFATIP) received a \$1 million donation from the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA) to assist efforts to safeguard children.

## Local Gov't Advances... cont'd from page 21

istrative Fund, which is valued at \$20 million.

- 867 jobs were created through the Local Economic Development Support Programme (LEDSP) from 141 projects in 113 communities. The LEDSP was launched in May 2015 to formalize community businesses, and grow entrepreneurship in communities.
- \$15 million was spent to construct a community resource centre for residents of Rockfort in East Kingston. The centre is equipped with space for an office; community-based policing activities; meetings and social events; and business enterprise activities.

### Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB)

- The Jamaica Fire Brigade repaired 357 hydrants islandwide at a cost of \$15.9 million with funding provided by the Japanese Government. Two hundred and twenty-three of the hydrants were repaired in collaboration with the National Water Commission. The funds also facilitated the maintenance of another nine hundred and seventy-four (974) hydrants.
- Phase one of rehabilitation of the Spanish Town fire station has been completed.

### Emergency Response Capabilities

- The capacity to respond to fire emergencies has been significantly enhanced with the acquisition of five fire units (pumpers) and one fire boat.
- Seventy-nine gears (79) were acquired for fire-fighters.

### Human Resource Management

- 55 persons were trained in core skills, and 103

recruits graduated from the Madge Saunders Conference Centre.

### NATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NSWMA)

#### Improvements and Remedial Work Done on the Riverton Disposal Site

- The NSWMA, along with its regional body, Metropolitan Parks and Market, has taken the necessary steps to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires occurring again. Significant remedial works have taken place on the 120-acre Riverton disposal site.
- The entire area has been covered and the tipping area for solid waste is now smaller and more controlled with the use of only one of the three operating cell sites. Additionally, other upgrading and improvements works are taking place. These include:

#### Fire Suppression System

- A 128,000-gallon water storage tank was installed in the north-eastern section of the disposal site.
- Two pumps used for water collection and distribution to the pipes and hydrants were installed.
- Water pipes were installed around the perimeter of the landfill. Fire hydrants have also been placed along the distribution line.
- Members of the Landfill Team were trained in basic fire prevention techniques and early response to prevent fires getting out of control.

#### Measurement of Weight (Scale)

- The existing weigh scale will be repaired and calibrated to capture the volume of waste being delivered to the disposal site daily. This is to ensure

that fees paid to the collection contractors are based on the actual garbage disposed.

### Tipping Cell Design & Division

- All tipping areas will now have multiple access roads to facilitate smooth traffic flow and increased efficiency.

### Public Cleansing

- The NSWMA undertook a massive clean-up drive aimed at eliminating mosquito breeding sites in major towns across the island.
- The NSWMA's public cleansing programme in Falmouth was improved with the addition of a new \$25 million garbage compactor.

### Parish Councils

- Work commenced on the construction of a new \$74.8 million building to house the Westmoreland Parish Council. The modern two-storey structure is being constructed on lands at the intersection of Murray and Great George Streets in Savanna-la-Mar.
- Upgrading work on the municipal building of the St. Elizabeth Parish Council, in Black River, is 60 per cent complete. The first phase which included the construction of the Council Chamber has been handed over and officially opened. Work on this phase cost some \$20 million, with funding from the Council and the Ministry. The overall estimate for the building is \$50 million.
- The St. James Parish Council spent over \$1 million to undertake rehabilitation work on the Cornwall Court Kiddies' Park and the Norwood Community Centre.

- Through the work of the Council, the Montego Bay City's clock tower was repaired and a new clock purchased at a cost of US\$23,000.

- The Portmore Municipal Council spent \$2 million to develop a recreational area and a new park for children and the elderly in Waterford, Portmore.
- The Westmoreland Parish Council rehabilitated the Jerusalem Mountain Community Centre at a cost of \$1.2 million.
- 361 subdivision/building plans were received by the Parish Councils, 91 per cent of which were processed within 14 days.
- The St. Elizabeth Parish Council issued a mandatory policy for rain water harvesting in new housing developments.

### Kingston And St. Andrew Corporation

- 230 vendors were registered under the KSAC's vendor registration programme. The Corporation also reclaimed public spaces in the Corporate Area, including sidewalks and recreational parks to ensure that pedestrians, including persons with disabilities and children, have access to these areas.
- The Corporation introduced the \$2 million Enterprise Assistance Programme, which is intended to nurture and develop Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). The KSAC also awarded \$430,000 in grants to six aspiring entrepreneurs from the Corporate Area.
- The KSAC won the Best Parish Council award, at this year's Public Sector Customer Service Competition (PSCSC).



# Agriculture Recovers From Drought to Record Growth

Despite the severe drought affecting the agricultural sector, preliminary data shows only a small decline of 1.5% in overall domestic production. This was possible through strategic interventions of the Government of Jamaica that caused a record growth of 0.5 per cent for April to June, and 3.3 per cent for July to September quarter. In addition, growth was made possible through the introduction of select crops and livestock.

## Drought Mitigation

- During April to June, the sector was positively impacted by a 12.1 per cent increase in traditional export crops, due to higher sugar cane and banana production. Coffee production increased by 26.8 per cent, despite millions being lost by coffee farmers in bush fires in Mavis Bank.
- Over 200 ginger farmers benefitted from the distribution of fertiliser, fungicide, and weedicide, enabling them to cultivate 70 hectares which will yield up to 1.2 million pounds of ginger.

Additionally, 0.4 hectares of tissue culture ginger was established to provide farmers with access to disease-free seedlings for

future production at a total cost of \$12.5 million.

- Approximately 45,000 pimento seedlings were produced at a cost of \$800,000. These will be distributed (free of cost) to farmers for the cultivation of an additional 253 hectares of pimento in 2016.
- For the July to September quarter, traditional export crops increased by 5.6 per cent, due to a 15.2 per cent increase in the production of bananas. Livestock was up by 8.4 per cent, largely reflecting an 8.8 per cent increase in poultry production and a 39.7 per cent increase in egg production.
- One of the factors contributing to the sector's growth was increased output from the nine agro parks, which are equipped with irrigation facilities. As at December 2015, the output from the agro-parks totalled 611,517 kilograms of agricultural produce, representing a 73.5 per cent increase, compared with the corresponding period of 2014. One thousand, four hundred and twenty-eight (1,428) persons are currently at the agro-parks.



**Agriculture Minister, Hon. Derrick Kellier (left), and Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) President, Senator Norman Grant, examine a jackfruit which was on display during the second day of the Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show at the Denbigh showground, in May Pen, Clarendon.**

They include 1,032 farmhands and 396 farmers.

- 100 agro-park farmers benefitted from protective gear and on-farm environmental management training at a cost of \$2.2 million.
- The National Irrigation Commission (NIC) rehabilitated and commissioned into service storage tanks in New Forest, Manchester.
- Eighteen small farmers who cultivate fruits and vegetables on the Braco Farms in Trelawny benefitted from the installation of a drip irrigation system. The Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) provided funding for the \$11.7 million project, which included the establishment of a food safety facility to enable farmers to package and store their produce.
- Sugar cane farmers, who accessed loans under the Cane Expansion Fund, received relief in their repayment as part of the Government's drought recovery support.

## Building Capacity

- A solar system was commissioned into service at the National Irrigation Commission's (NIC) Ebony Park

pumping station in Clarendon. This is expected to reduce electricity cost for irrigation by \$6 million per year.

- A US\$1.5 million project was launched to assist 2,220 small farmers in Jamaica and five other Caribbean countries to diversify product offerings, and improve market linkages and profitability. It is being implemented by the Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN) and funded by the European Union's Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation in partnership with the Sandals Foundation.

## Training

- 297 farmers from five parishes benefitted from weather pattern training. The farmers are now better able to interpret and understand weather predictions and make informed decisions regarding planting and harvesting. The programme was funded through a US\$100,000 grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- The Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) began imple-

mentation of a \$14 million farmers' training programme. 1,500 farmers were trained in poultry, pig and small ruminant management over the year.

- Jamaica 4-H Clubs youth leaders continue to benefit from technical and vocational training being provided under a three-year MoU signed with the HEART Trust/NTA in 2014.
- The Ministry invested \$8 million in a train the trainers course in Good Aquaculture Practices, Good Fishery Vessel Practices and Seafood Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). It benefitted aquaculture farmers, fishers, processors/exporters and regulators.

## Arresting Praedial Larceny

- The Government spent \$7 million to employ additional staff in the Praedial Larceny Prevention Co-ordination Unit (PLPCU) as it intensifies efforts to address agricultural theft.
- The PLPCU reported a 14 per cent decrease in praedial larceny and farm theft cases since the Unit began operating in March 2015.
- The Unit has prosecuted 148 offences, which include larceny of cattle, receiving stolen property, unlawful possession of property, selling uninspected meat, and killing animals with intent to steal. Of this number, 137 convictions were obtained.
- 205 stolen animals were recovered and over 7,160 pounds of uncertified meat seized and destroyed. The Praedial Larceny Prevention Unit also visited 168 farms, conducted 71 community meetings and 83 stakeholder meetings.

## Support to Export Facilities

- Two food export entities in western Jamaica benefitted from grant assistance amounting to \$2.1 million to undertake improvements

*Cont'd on page 25*



**State Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Luther Buchanan (centre), inspects calves during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Cattle Breeders Association in Westmoreland. Others looking on, from left, are: officer at the Bodles Agricultural Research Station in St. Catherine, Owen Prince; Director General in the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry, Don McGlashan; Senior Research Director at Bodles, Huntley McKenzie; and Senior Livestock Research Officer, Juan Williams.**



# World Leaders Visit

## High-level Visits

Visits including three from G7 countries and other high-level representatives, provided significant opportunities and further strengthened Jamaica's relations with the international community. The Diaspora Conference also forged partnerships and had significant outcomes aimed at deepening relations.

- President of the United States, Barack Obama, visited Jamaica in April. He held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, and also met with CARICOM Heads of Government who were here for a Summit. He also held a youth forum at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies where he announced nearly US\$70 million of investments in education, training, and employment programmes for young people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rt. Hon. David Cameron, visited in September. He held bilateral talks with Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, and addressed a Joint Sitting of Parliament.

£300 million was granted to Jamaica and other CARICOM countries for infrastructure projects over five years. Additionally, £30 million was given to improve climate relief and disaster resilience of health facilities; and £30 million for economic support for private sector development and improvements to public sector effectiveness.

- Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, visited the island in October. He held talks with Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, on a range of issues. A Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between the University of the West Indies and Sophia University was also signed.
- President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Nicolas Maduro, visited Jamaica in September to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit of the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement.

There were other visits including:

- South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, the Hon. MaiteNkoana-Mashabane



**Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. A.J. Nicholson, (right), receives Letters of Credence from Canada's High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency Sylvain Fabi, shortly after his appointment in 2015.**

- Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal who toured the Jamaica Defence Force's Headquarters, RJR Basic School, and The Mico University College.
- Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Zhang Baowen
- Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Mrs. Patti Londono Jaramillo, who signed a cooperation agreement to increase trade and investment between the two countries.

an Air Services Agreement between Jamaica and China. This will create new opportunities for tourism.

- The People's Republic of China handed over a Chinese Garden to the People of Jamaica in August at the Royal Hope Botanical Gardens.
- The governments of Jamaica and Brazil signed a Visa Waiver Agreement in May. The agreement came into effect on June 26, and is expected to boost tourism between both countries.

## Technical and Economic Cooperation

- Minister Nicholson and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Dong Xiaojun, signed an Economic and Technical Cooperation agreement on February 20, valued at 100,000,000 Renminbi Yuan (J\$1.8 billion). The funds will be used to cover projects to be agreed by both countries.
- The Governments of Jamaica and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 16 for the commencement of negotiations to establish

## Key Appointments

- Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies in Geneva, His Excellency Mr. Wayne McCook, assumed the role of CARICOM Coordinator in Geneva.
- The following Ambassadors were appointed: His Excellency Mr. Ralph Thomas to the United States in August; and Her Excellency Mrs. Fay Pickersgill to the People's Republic of China in November.

## Regional and International Engagements

Jamaica participated in a number of meetings and international engagements:

- Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and China Forum in China;
- Third CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Costa Rica.
- Conference of CARICOM and German Foreign Ministers in Germany.
- Seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama City.
- Second European Union and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Summit in Brussels.
- Third International Conference for Development held in Addis Ababa in July.
- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris.

## Trade

- Senator the Hon. A. J. Nicholson led Jamaica's delegation to the 10<sup>th</sup> World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi.
- Jamaica ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and transmitted its Instrument of Acceptance to Geneva in December. The TFA, aimed at expediting the movement, clearance, and release of goods, was adopted by the WTO in December 2013. The Agreement will enter into force, once two-thirds of the members have completed their domestic ratification process.
- Jamaica's profile in the international sphere was raised. Attorney-at-Law, Margaret Macaulay was elected as Jamaica's representative on the Inter-American Commission of



**State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Arnaldo Brown (left), converses with members of the Jamaica Association for the Resettlement of Returning Residents (JARRR) during the launch of the organization's updated website, at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston.**



## World Leaders Visit... cont'd from page 24

Human Rights, of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and Professor of Social History at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Verene Shepherd, will represent the country on the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

### Sixth Biennial Diaspora Conference held in June in Montego Bay

Key outcomes of the Conference:

- Team Jamaica Bickle, Inc., donated a number of Defibrillators to several schools across the island.
- Formation of a partnership between the Diaspora

and the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Paediatric Oncology.

- Hosting of a summer camp for 375 grade three primary school students with a remedial programme in Maths, in July.
- The Diaspora Day of Service resulted in Nineteen (19) projects in the

areas of agriculture, education, community development, health, immigration and sports implemented in seven parishes.

### Mapping Jamaica Diaspora Project

- More than 2,300 persons and 30 groups have been registered by the Inter-

national Organization for Migration (IOM). The project aims to identify the location, skills, expertise and interest of Jamaicans in the Diaspora, with the ultimate objective of matching the skills in the Diaspora with gaps that exist in Jamaica.

## Agriculture Recovers from Drought... cont'd from page 23

to their facilities. These improvements will prepare the entities to meet the requirements under the US Food Safety Modernization Act and other international standards, as well as provide safe food for the local population.

- A new offsite fumigation facility was established at the Jam Island Processing Company in Manchester, to aid in the preparation and packaging of products for export. The project, which was undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, will serve to enhance Jamaica's export capacity. The new facility is over 12,000 square feet and can accommodate up to three 40-foot containers.

### Support to Farmers

- \$106 million was spent under the Government of Jamaica/Adaptation Fund Programme (GOJ/AFP) to strengthen the agricultural sector's resilience to climate change. Two thousand and seventy-four (2,074) farmers were trained in climate-smart technologies and proper land husbandry techniques. Additionally, two hundred and twelve (212) on-farm drip irrigation systems were established on select farms as well as 22 hand tractors provided to farmers groups by Food for the Poor. The initiative aims to protect farmers' livelihood; safeguard food

security in vulnerable communities by strengthening coastal protection; improve land and water management; and build capacity for climate change adaptation.

### Sugar Transformation Programme

- 17 cane roads totalling 78.37km were completed in the six sugar-dependent parishes (St. Catherine, Clarendon, St. Thomas, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and Trelawny) at an approximate cost of \$700M
- 552 residents of sugar-dependent areas received training and certification in welding, plumbing, general beauty therapy, and cake baking from the HEART Trust/NTA at a cost of over \$100M.
- 55 socio economic projects were completed in sugar dependent communities at a cost of \$623 million. The project involved work carried out at schools and health centres; water system developments, and rural electrification, among other activities.
- 44 applications were submitted for the registration of small businesses for residents of sugar-dependent areas. The grants to be issued total \$40M.

### Regularising Land Ownership

- 300 families in sugar-dependent communities in Westmoreland and St. Catherine received certi-



**Agriculture Minister, Hon. Derrick Kellier (left), presents Manchester farmer, Sylvia Jones (centre), with a commitment letter for the provision of a 650-gallon water tank, highlighted in the background, during a handing over ceremony at the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) parish office, in Mandeville. Looking on is RADA Chief Executive Officer, Lenworth Fulton.**

ificates of possession for lands which they have been occupying for decades, under the Sugar Company of Jamaica Holdings Limited Community Regularisation Programme.

### Land Leasing Programme

- Just over 5,180 acres of land is being leased under the Agro Parks initiative. To date 2,142 acres have been leased. The remaining lands are at various stages of lease processing. Of note, is an agreement signed with Red Stripe for 250 acres

of land in Cheesefield, St. Catherine, for the cultivation of cassava. This will support Red Stripe's move to use locally grown cassava as a replacement for imported barley in the production of beer.

### Support to Agricultural Schools

- The Government provided \$12.2 million in grant funding to the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) to renovate its Dairy Unit. The support includes a donation of 25 Jamaica Hope heifers. In addition, scholarships

valued at \$18 million have been granted to students.

### Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)

- Two thousand and seventy-five farmers in drought-affected areas benefitted from a \$25 million rehabilitation and mitigation programme. This undertaking included the replanting coffee in the Blue Mountain Ridge; restoration and replanting of banana and plantain; and increasing resilience against dry spells and fires in critical productive zones by distribution of water tanks and training in watershed management and proper land preparation.
- \$44 million was spent to rehabilitate 100.9km of farm roads. Twenty-nine thousand (29,000) persons in several farm communities benefitted under this programme.
- \$56.4 million was spent to provide nine thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine (9,739) farmers with seeds and chemicals for the production of select crops under the Production Incentive Programme.
- The new parish office of RADA in Trelawny, built at a cost of \$80 million, was officially opened in October.
- 26 extension officers were trained in greenhouse production techniques.



# Outstanding Achievements in Sports

The Government allocated significant sums to improve sports facilities, introduce a welfare programme for athletes, and strengthen the anti-doping system.

The country's athletes continued to excel at the international level with outstanding performances in various sporting disciplines.

## Upgrading of Facilities

- The G.C. Foster College of Physical Education and Sport now boasts a \$171 million running track constructed in 2015. The track is certified by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).
- Stands at the Leila Robinson Netball Courts at the National Arena were expanded and improved, providing greater comfort for spectators. Work was done at a cost of \$13 million, as part of a wider \$36 million development programme for the facility.
- \$45 million was allocated for upgrading of the electrical system at the National Stadium pool.
- A Special Olympics Basketball Court and sports complex, the first of its kind in Jamaica, was opened at the National Arena. The project was funded by Digicel Jamaica Foundation.
- \$25 million was allocated for the installation of an irrigation system at the Trelawny Multi-purpose Stadium in Falmouth. This is part of infrastructure upgrading works to prepare the facility to be renamed the Usain Bolt Sports Academy.

## Support for Athletes

- More than 1,000 Jamaican athletes across all sports now have an insurance plan to provide group health, as well as life and personal accident insurance. In addition to the Government's contribution, national sporting associations and federations have agreed to contribute

five per cent towards the cost for their participating member athletes.

- \$71 million has been provided to offset some of the costs to athletes and federations preparing for regional and international competitions. They will also be allowed greater access to and use of the national sporting facilities in their preparations.
- Government is providing a monthly stipend for 84 athletes preparing for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. \$42 million has been allocated to provide support ranging from \$30,000 to \$60,000 per athlete per month under the Athletes' Development Fund.
- Telecommunications firms Flow and LIME provided sponsorship valued at \$28 million towards the development of track and field.

## Outstanding Performances

- Athletes won 12 medals at the World Championships in Beijing, China, with an all-time high of seven gold, two silver, and three bronze. This stellar achievement placed the country second on the medal table.



Minister with responsibility for Sport, Hon. Natalie Neita Headley (2<sup>nd</sup> left), compete in a "sprint" on the new running track at the G.C. Foster College of Physical Education and Sport, at Angels, St. Catherine, following the re-commissioning ceremony for the facility. Also participating in the "event", (from left) are: Councillor for the Angels Division, Pat Harris; and Olympian Sherone Simpson.



Minister with responsibility for Sport, Hon. Natalie Neita Headley (3<sup>rd</sup> left), cuts the ribbon to open the upgraded stands at the Leila Robinson Courts at the National Arena in Kingston on February 3. Others (front row, from left) are: Chairman, Sports Development Foundation (SDF), Dr. Warren Blake; President, Jamaica Netball Association, Marva Bernard; General Secretary, Jamaica Olympic Association, Christopher Samuda; former Patron of Jamaica Netball Association, Lady Rheima Hall; Chairman Institute of Sports, Don Anderson; Project Engineer, Sports Development Foundation (SDF), Terry Montague; General Manager, SDF, Denzil Wilks; and Project Manager, SDF, Christopher Marshall.

- There were also impressive performances from the National Paralympic Team at the Para-Pan Games in Canada which equalled its record of five medals comprising two Gold, two Silver, and one Bronze
- Jamaica earned 29 medals at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, California;
- The Sunshine Girls placed fourth at the Netball World Cup in Australia;
- Alia Atkinson won a gold medal in the 50M breast-stroke at the FINA Swimming World Cup in Paris, France, and earned a silver medal in the 50M, and bronze in the 100M, at the FINA World Championships in Russia.
- The Reggae Boyz placed second in the CONCACAF Gold Cup Final;
- Jamaica earned six medals – 4 gold, one silver, and one bronze, at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa.
- Control procedures. The tests are being done in collaboration with Central Medical Laboratories Limited.
- 17 doping control officers and 50 chaperones were trained.
- Partnerships were strengthened with other anti-doping agencies and local bodies such as the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (PSJ) and the Jamaica Medical Doctors' Association (JMMDA), to educate athletes.
- JADCO also continued to educate athletes through information posted on its website, social media pages, through the monthly 'JADCO and You' radio programmes, and the quarterly True Spirit newsletter and television programmes.

## JADCO

- The Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) formed a partnership with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS) laboratory in Canada. JADCO will use INRS' Athlete Passport Management Unit for the steroids module to monitor urine samples of athletes.
- JADCO began blood testing as part of its doping con-

## Table Tennis Championships

- The inaugural staging of the Jamaica Winter Table Tennis Championships, held at the Montego Bay Community College, attracted 25 of the best players from Europe, the United States, and the Caribbean.



## More Persons Accessing ICT

Increasing access to information and communications technology (ICT); forming partnerships for strengthening cybersecurity; increasing renewable energy solutions; and energising the mining sector, were some of the achievements of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining last year.

### Community Access Points

- Through the Universal Service Fund (USF), 48 Community Access Points (CAPs) were completed at a cost of \$174 million. There are now 231 CAPs in operation across the island including the fully equipped Internet Café and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Centre in Green Pond, St. James, which was completed at a cost of \$4.7 million.
- The computer centre at the New Day Primary and Junior High School in Kingston, was refurbished at a cost of \$3.7 million.
- A computer lab was established at the Refuge Temple Learning Academy in St. Elizabeth at a cost of \$4.4 million.

### USF Provides Jamaicans with more ICT Access

- Through the Universal Service Fund (USF), 73 police stations and facilities across the island are being linked by Wide Area Network at a cost of \$7 million. The USF also provided connectivity to 60 Ministry of Health facilities. (Move to Health)
- The Government signed two MoUs with the United States Government to increase access to the Internet in rural parishes and implement clean, sustainable energy initiatives in the country. The first agreement seeks to make use of unused television (TV) band spectrum, also known as called TV white spaces (TVWS), to improve the information and communications technology



**Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining, Hon. Phillip Paulwell (seated at centre), points to the new computer as he speaks with students of the Bickersteth Primary School during a tour of the computer facility. The occasion was the opening of the Bickersteth Computer Skills Training and Homework Centre, located at the Bickersteth Church of God of Prophecy. Looking on (seated) is Chief Executive Officer of Universal Service Fund, Hugh Cross.**

(ICT) infrastructure. The second is a programme of technical collaboration on the implementation of clean energy activities.

- A \$3 million computer centre, outfitted with Wi-Fi access, was handed over to the Mobile Reserve of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). The facility is equipped with 10 computers, a printer, a projector and a screen, and will be used as a training centre for officers.
- The Ministry officially opened the Bickersteth Computer Skills Training and Homework Centre in Southern St. James. It was established through the collaborative effort of the Ministry, the Universal Service Fund (USF), and LIME Foundation at a cost of \$2.6 million.
- The Jamaican Foundation for Lifelong Learning (JFLL) received \$18.95 million to purchase computers and related equipment and provide Internet connectivity for 14 adult education centres.
- Approximately \$19 million was provided last year to the Court Management Services for technological upgrading and improving efficiency.

### Tablets in Schools Pilot Project

- The pilot of the Tablet in Schools (TIS) programme came to a close at the end of the 2014/15 academic year, with over 25,000 tablets issued to students and teachers in 38 institutions islandwide.

### Cybersecurity

- In January, the Government launched a National Cybersecurity Strategy to protect the country's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.



**State Minister for Science, Technology, Energy, and Mining, Hon. Julian Robinson (2<sup>nd</sup> left); and Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) President and Chief Executive Officer, Kelly Tomblin (left), officially open the JPS McGregor Gardens Service Centre in Kingston. Others, from 2<sup>nd</sup> right, are: Vice President for Community Renewal and Energy Solutions at the JPS, Keith Garvey; and Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) Managing Director, Omar Sweeney.**

- The Cyber Incident Report Team, responsible for coordination and response to cyber-threats, was also launched in May.
- An MoU was signed for a 'Stop, Think, Connect' Campaign to raise public awareness about cybersecurity.

### Open Data Policy

- An Open Data Policy is being finalized to guide the operations of Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in facilitating improved and more convenient public access to Government data.

### Number Portability

- Over 33,000 mobile customers have switched service providers, since the Government facilitated the introduction of Number Portability in June.

### Energy

- Phase three of the Wigton Wind Farm expansion programme, in Manchester, is almost complete. The US\$45 million project is being undertaken by the Spanish firm, Gamesa.
- Work has started on the construction of a US\$89 million wind farm at Munro in St. Elizabeth. The 36.3-megawatt facility will generate electricity using 11 Vesta Model V-112 wind turbines.

- Jamaica continues to realise massive savings from the Energy Conservation and Diversification Programme. The cost of electricity has fallen from US\$0.42 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) in 2012 to US\$0.26 cents in 2015. The drop in the base rate of electricity has surpassed the target set by the Government to achieve a rate of US\$0.30 cents per kWh in 2016.
- A \$20 million pilot project to outfit the National Indoor Sports Centre with solar panels to generate 100 megawatts of energy, was launched in July.
- American company, New Fortress Energy LLC, will invest more than \$200 million to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Jamaica. This follows an agreement between JPSCo and the company for the supply of gas to fuel the generation of electricity, and is the catalyst for the development of Jamaica as an energy hub.
- In April the Government and the United States signed a Statement of Intent outlining areas of cooperation on the development and deployment of energy-related technologies. This paved the way for Jamaica to implement its LNG programme, and is a major shift by the Department of Energy of the United States government to allow the export of LNG to Jamaica.

### Electricity Act Passed

- The Electricity Act 2015 was passed in the Houses of Parliament in May, to allow for the provision of a modern codified system of regulating the generation, transmission, supply, distribution and the dispatch of electricity.

### Rural Electrification Programme

- The Government has changed the name and mandate of the Rural Elec-



# Significant Laws Passed in Parliament

Several significant pieces of legislation were passed in the Houses of Parliament during the year under review, to strengthen the Government's efforts in crime fighting, facilitate investments and job creation, enhance justice, and entrench the process of local governance.

## Legislation Passed

1. The Disaster and Preparedness Emergency and Management Act, 2015
2. The Urban Renewal (Tax Relief) (Amendment) Act, 2015
3. The Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act, 2015
4. The Financial Administration and Audit Act 2015
5. The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015
6. The Appropriations Act 2015
7. The Minimum Business Tax Act, 2015
8. The Quarries Control (Amendment) Act, 2015



Members of both Houses of Parliament stand during the ceremonial opening of Parliament. The Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, delivered the 2015/16 Throne Speech under the theme: 'Partnership for Development: Inclusive Growth...Expanding Opportunities'.

9. The Baptist Mid-Missions in Jamaica (Incorporated) (Change of Name and Amendment) Act, 2015
10. The Revenue Appeals Division, Act 2015
11. The Administrator-General's (Amendment) Act, 2015
12. The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2015
13. The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2015
14. The Constitution (Amendment) (Local Government) Act, 2015
15. The Conch (Export Levy) (Special Provisions) Act, 2015
16. The Evidence (Amendment) Act, 2015

17. The Nuclear Safety and radiation Protection Act, 2015
18. The Electricity Act, 2015
19. The Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act, 2015
20. The Public Procurement Act, 2015
21. The Fishing Industry (Amendment) Act, 2015
22. Weights and Measures (Amendment) Act
23. Civil Aviation (Amendment) Act
24. Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Act
25. Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation General Election (Postponement) Act
26. Parish Councils General Election (Postponement) Act
27. Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Act
28. Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act
29. Office of Utilities Regulation (Amendment) Act
30. Road Traffic Act
31. Transport Authority (Amendment) Act

32. Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Evidence Act, 2015
33. Representation of the People (Amendment) Act
34. Special Economic Zones Act
35. Judicature (Resident Magistrate's) (Amendment and Change of Name) Act
36. Judicature (Supreme Court) (Amendment) Act
37. Firearms (Amendment) Act

## Tabled Bills

1. Sexual Harassment Act

## Orders, Resolutions, Committee Reports, Ministerial Statements

2. Since January 2015, 28 Orders and Resolutions have been approved by the House of Representatives.
3. Since January 2015, ten committee reports have been adopted, as well as 27 requests for answers to questions granted.
4. 37 Ministerial statements were made between January and December.

## More Persons Accessing... cont'd from page 27

trification Programme (REP) to the National Energy Solution Company Limited (NESol), with an expanded role to achieve energy efficiency, including green energy solutions.

- Under a \$4 million project executed by NESol, 46 residents of Douglas Castle in St. Ann now have electricity in their homes.

### Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme (EECP)

- The Government has realised savings of \$80 million through the implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme (EECP) in 40 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and will be extending the initiative which commenced in 2011.

The EECP has been implemented in 40 MDAs that now enjoy energy savings ranging between eight and 23 per cent. These include: the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); the Jamaica Information Service (JIS); and the Sugar Industry Authority (SIA) head office.

The programme involves: the retrofitting of buildings; the overhauling of air conditioning systems; and the installation of solar microfilm and heat control solutions on roofs.

### Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ)

- An energy-efficient air conditioning system, valued at \$8.4 million, was installed at the maternity ward of the Spanish Town General Hospital in St. Catherine. The project was undertaken by the

Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ).

- The PCJ also invested \$12 million in upgrading the air-conditioning system which serves the operating theatre suites and the accident and emergency ward of the Annotto Bay Hospital in St. Mary. This is expected to reduce the facility's electricity usage by 34 per cent.
- Fifteen primary and secondary schools across the island were retrofitted with solar panels by the PCJ, as part of a \$60 million green energy project.
- The PCJ invested \$22 million in the installation of variable frequency drives (VFDs) at the National Irrigation Commission's (NIC's) six

pumping facilities across the island. The VFDs, located at sites in St. Catherine, Clarendon, Trelawny, and St. Elizabeth, are expected to efficiently regulate the utilisation of energy in pumping and supplying irrigation water to farmers.

### Mining

- Over 300 persons have been employed since the resumption of bauxite mining operations at Alpart in South East St. Elizabeth. The Government has agreed to the export of bauxite pending the December 2016 reopening of the alumina refinery at Nain in the parish.
- The Quarries Control (Amendment) Act 2015, which includes new provisions regarding fines and offences, quality control, transfer of licenses, and

quarry management, is now in force.

### Liberalisation of Ganja

- Under the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act 2015, licences were granted to the University of the West Indies and the University of Technology to undertake the acquisition of ganja for research purposes.

### Hi-Tech Farming Project

- A \$200 million agreement was signed for a hi-tech farming project involving some 20 greenhouses at eight sites, which will benefit more than 200 farmers in the parishes of Manchester, St. Elizabeth, and St. Ann. It is being funded by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) and the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI).