

PM Tours Completed Barbican Road Project

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness toured the completed Barbican Road Upgrade Project on June 1.

The US\$4.4 million project was done under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP).

The works at Barbican entailed significant widening and upgrading in the vicinity of the Barbican Centre, which is expected to alleviate congestion in the area.

The Prime Minister said the Barbican and other upgraded roads have been designed with law enforcement in mind.

"We have built into them technology. These areas will be monitored with the latest sensors and cameras. We are not building roads to make it easier for criminals to do what they do. These roads are built to make it harder for criminals," he said.

The Prime Minister noted that the technology will enable the police to identify licence plates, facilitate facial recognition, and track persons through road crossings.



Prime Minister the Most Hon Andrew Holness (left), along with National Works Agency (NWA) Chief Executive Officer, E.G. Hunter (centre), and Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Audrey Sewell (right), view road works in St. Andrew being carried out under the Major Infrastructure for Development Programme (MIDP).

"If you are about to commit a crime, don't drive through here," he warned, in reference to Barbican Road, pointing out that this will be replicated throughout Jamaica, "because we must get on top of the criminals."

The Barbican Project is one of several legacy road projects under the MIDP which the Prime Minister visited in Kingston and St. Andrew.

He also toured the Constant Spring Road Improvement Project, Mandela Highway Real-

ignment and Reconstruction Project, and the Hagley Park Road Improvement Project.

The legacy projects are aimed at significantly improving the targeted roadways to facilitate seamless travel by the commuting public.

ODPEM Ready for 2018 Hurricane Season

THE OFFICE of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) says that "all critical checks and balances" have been put in place to ensure that the island is in a state-of-readiness for the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season.

The forecast from the Meteorological Office of Jamaica (Met Service) suggests that the season, from June 1 to November 30, will be above average.

Speaking in an interview with **JIS NEWS**, Director General of ODPEM, Major Clive Davis, said the agency is "exceptionally prepared" having made the necessary adjustments based on lessons from last season.

"We have constantly been improving and strengthening our programme. There have been a number of consultations with local authorities, who have critical roles to play and we have made our checks to ensure that supplies and shelters are ready and sufficient," said Major Davis.

He noted that the necessary communication is being carried out to ensure that the facilities designated as shelters are not only ready and available, but that



Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Major Clive Davis

the local populace is aware of their location and shelter managers are accessible.

"There have been some allocations made for contingency funds to be put in place for the purpose of emergency response, which also helps to bolster our overall readiness for the season," he indicated.

Major Davis is imploring all Jamaicans to be vigilant during the season, paying attention to bulletins being issued and to have supplies ready.

\$400 Million to Build and Upgrade Markets

MINISTER OF Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond

McKenzie, said some \$400 million will be spent during the 2018/2019 financial year to

construct and upgrade markets across the island.

He said that the expenditure is the largest in recent years for the improvement of market infrastructure, noting that the investment will stimulate small-scale economic activity.

He said there is a need for markets across the island to get "serious attention" as the facilities are major sources of income for many Jamaicans.

Minister McKenzie was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the new Port Maria Market in St. Mary on May 30.

The \$56 million market will replace the existing structure, and will comprise a ground floor for the sale of produce and a top floor to accommodate shops, which will be rented for commercial activities.

The Minister urged the people of Port Maria to take care of the asset being provided. "It is your investment; you are going to benefit," he said, noting that it will have a positive impact on business in the town and wider parish.

He indicated that once the market is erected, the Ministry and the local authority will be engaging vendors to get them to use the facility, as there will be "zero tolerance" on street vending.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (centre), participates in the breaking of ground for construction of the new \$56 million Port Maria Market in St. Mary on May 30. Others from left are Member of Parliament for Central St. Mary, Dr. Morais Guy, and Mayor of Port Maria, Councillor Richard Creary.

PM Tours Hagley Park Road Works



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) speaks with workers on the Hagley Park Road Improvement Project during a tour on June 1. Looking on are National Works Agency (NWA) Chief Executive Officer, E.G. Hunter (2nd left), and Deputy General Manager of China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC), Dr. Zhimin Hu (2nd right).

JUTC to Introduce Tracking System

THE JAMAICA Urban Transit Company (JUTC) is to implement a vehicle tracking and maintenance monitoring system shortly.

Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague, made the disclosure during his contribution to the 2018/19 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives, on May 30.

"This will tell us where the bus is at any time, what speed is being driven and the fuel consumption. Today, when the bus leaves the depot we have no sight of it until eight hours later," Mr. Montague said.

He pointed out that the experiment that was done revealed that the buses were idle for upwards of 40 per cent of the time, adding that there was one instance where a bus was left running in a depot for four hours.

"This not only wastes fuel, but parts wear and causes overheating," the Minister said.

Mr. Montague explained that the monitoring system sends an alarm when a pre-set boundary is exceeded.



Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague

"Whether it's speeding, idling or routine maintenance, this system, by reducing idling, can save an estimated \$125 million per year. The system will also allow us to electronically count our riders and automatically balance the fare returns," he said.

Meanwhile, the JUTC has started to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras on its buses.

This, Mr. Montague said, has allowed the workers to be protected, when they are accused of poor behaviour as the camera is an independent witness.

Gov't Poised for Significant Savings Under US\$40M Energy Programme

THE GOVERNMENT is poised to generate significant savings from the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) implementation of the US\$40 million Energy Management and Efficiency Programme (EMEP).

The initiative, which was launched during a stakeholders' workshop at the PCJ Auditorium in New Kingston on May 30, is expected to yield a reduction of US\$6 million per annum in Government expenditure on energy consumption at the 80 health and educational entities shortlisted for its implementation.

The phased roll-out, which runs until 2023, will entail the infrastructural upgrading at these entities through the installation of energy-efficient equipment and technology.

Additionally, it will target improvement in the Kingston Metropolitan Region (KMR)

traffic management system, which is projected to, among other things, reduce travel time by approximately 35 per cent, resulting in lower fuel consumption.

Speaking at the workshop, Science, Energy and Technology Minister, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley, said the investment in improving the traffic management system aims to enhance public safety and security.

"[It] involves upgraded traffic controllers, CCTVs and communication switches at intersections to provide real-time traffic count and patterns, among other things," he outlined.

The programme also aims to boost the Ministry's expertise and capacity to complete an Integrated Resource Plan for Jamaica to guide the development of a modern energy sector.



Science, Energy and Technology Minister, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley (centre), in discussion with Programme Manager, Energy Management and Efficiency Programme (EMEP), Derian Jackson (right), during a stakeholders workshop at the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) auditorium in New Kingston on May 30. Looking on is PCJ Group General Manager, Winston Watson.

The initiative is being jointly funded through loans totalling US\$30 million from the Inter-American Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency, and a

US\$10 million grant provided by the European Union Caribbean Investment Facility.

