

PM Holness Signs CARICOM Agreements

PRIME MINISTER and Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) the Most Hon. Andrew Holness on July 6 signed three agreements pertaining to matters of CARICOM.

The signing took place during the 39th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM which was held at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James from July 4 to 6.

One agreement relates to the CARICOM Arrest Warrant Treaty, which seeks to establish a system of arrest and surrender of requested persons within the Community for the purposes of conducting a criminal prosecution for an applicable offence; or executing a custodial sentence where the requested persons have fled from justice after being sentenced for an applicable offence.



Prime Minister and Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (seated) signs one of three agreements pertaining to matters of CARICOM. The signing took place on July 6 during the 39th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM being held at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James. Overseeing the process is Secretary-General, CARICOM, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque.

Another pertains to the Revised Agreement for the Establishment of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). It seeks to update the CXC's legal structure in light of subsequent organisational practices, recent market developments and current needs, with particular emphasis on accommodating requests from additional territories and institutions to join or otherwise participate in the CXC.

The final document is the Protocol amending the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to incorporate the Council for National Security and Law Enforcement as an organ of the community and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security as an institution of the community.

Among the objectives are improved standard of living and work in member countries; accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development; and organisation for increased production and productivity.

SDF Gets More Than \$128M to Upgrade Sports Facilities

A SUM of \$128,608,000 has been allocated to the Sports Development Foundation (SDF) for upgrading of the nation's sports facilities.



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

The objective is to sustain the country's high performance level in sport by retrofitting and improving the infrastructure to create the

right environment for training and development.

"The works will see improvement to the National Stadium, the layout of synthetic basketball courts and upgrading of fields across the country," said Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange.

She was making her contribution to the 2018/19 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on July 3.

Ms. Grange informed that \$48 million has been allocated to Independence Park Limited to fund access to sports facilities by national teams.

These include netball, basketball, aquatics, track and field, gymnastics, badminton, taekwondo, volleyball, table tennis and rugby.

Ms. Grange told the House that 44 national sports associations/federations will benefit from a \$189 million subvention this year.

PM Affirms Jamaica's Commitment to CARICOM

PRIME MINISTER and Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is affirming Jamaica's commitment to the principal objectives of CARICOM.

This, he said, includes the expansion of trade and investment opportunities for its members; the promotion of foreign policy coordination; and structured, functional cooperation.

"Jamaica's chairmanship will have a specific focus and intention, mindful of the rapidly evolving dynamics of our global world, and the need for practical effective responses to the changing realities," he said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the 39th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM on July 4 at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James.

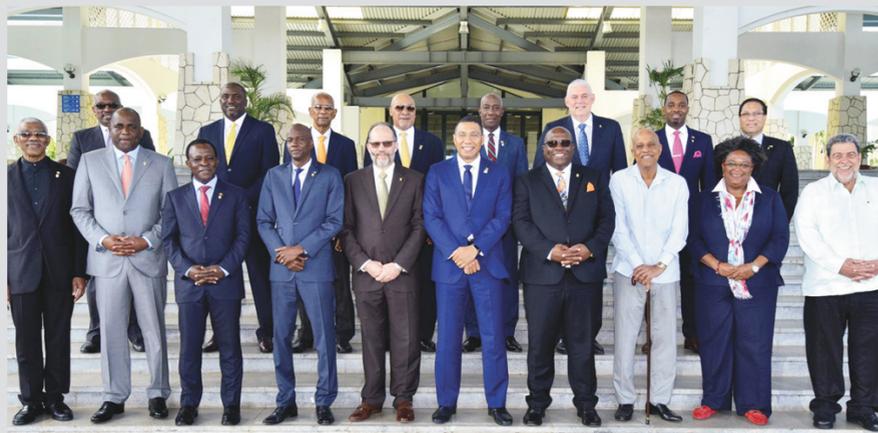
Mr. Holness, who assumed Chairmanship of the Conference on July 1, said his work will be undergirded by the theme: 'Building Stronger, Resilient and Secure Partnerships for Prosperity.'

"With this in mind, we will call upon all member states to summon the necessary political will and determination to ensure that all programmes and initiatives

are strategically focused and geared towards meeting an ambitious process of reform," he said.

The Meeting of the CARICOM Heads was held from July 4-6. Among the key agenda items were crime and violence, disaster management and climate change, and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Jamaica's hosting of the conference is in keeping with the regular system of rotation within CARICOM. Prime Minister Holness' tenure will last until December 31, 2018.



Prime Minister and Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (5th right), with other Heads of Government of CARICOM on July 5. Also pictured (5th left) is Secretary-General, CARICOM, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque.

JSIF Hands Over Equipment to Protect Teachers and Students from Fire



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid (2nd right), examines one of the 120 fire extinguishers that were handed over by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) on July 5 at its office in Kingston. Sharing in the moment are (from left) General Manager, Technical Services Division, JSIF, Loy Malcolm; General Manager, JSIF, Omar Sweeney, and Acting Assistant Commissioner, Jamaica Fire Brigade, Floyd McLean.

Labour Ministry Preparing 60 Youngsters from Denham Town for Job Market

SIXTY YOUTH from the Zone of Special Operations (ZOSO) in Denham Town, Kingston, are benefiting from training geared towards preparing them for the job market.

The intervention, being carried out by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, got under way on July 4 with a registration, orientation and motivational session at the Medallion Hall Hotel in St. Andrew.

Acting Director, Electronic Labour Exchange Department in the Ministry, Dahlia Green, who spoke to **JIS News**, said that the objective is to prepare them for opportunities in the public and private sectors.

She said that the Ministry cares about the welfare of the youth who have been affected by violence and other challenges.

"We want to expose them to a change of atmosphere, and we are preparing



Acting Director, Electronic Labour Exchange Department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Dahlia Green (right), with young people from Denham Town, at an orientation session on July 4 at the Medallion Hall Hotel in St. Andrew.

them for the world of work. We realise that these persons... are in different areas and they may not know that there are other opportunities out there, so we want them to be exposed," she added.

Ms. Green said that the training will continue with a five-day workshop from July 9

to 13 at the Ministry's offices at 1F North Street.

She explained that at the end of the session, "we will be having a mini job fair, where employers will be coming in to interview these persons and, hopefully, at the end of that, they will be selected for employment."

New Guidelines for the Appointment of Public Boards

MINISTER WITHOUT Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Fayval Williams, says the Government will be taking steps to enact proposed new guidelines for the appointment of boards of public bodies.

The guidelines are in keeping with the Administration's undertaking to further strengthen the corporate

governance framework of statutory bodies, in order to improve accountability and the transparency of their operations.

Mrs. Williams said the guidelines, which were approved by Cabinet following a recent submission by Finance and the Public Service Minister, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, will afford anyone interested in

serving on the Board of a statutory body with the opportunity to do so, once they meet the stipulated minimum criteria.

She noted that these would include persons having expertise in the activities in which the public bodies are engaged.

The Minister was speaking at the launch of the second annual Public Bodies' Corporate Governance Awards at the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) head office in Kingston on July 3.

"We believe in this policy guideline... as a next step in the evolution to enhance the corporate governance (framework) of public bodies in Jamaica," she said.

Noting that Jamaica has approximately 190 public bodies, Mrs. Williams emphasised that corporate governance is vital in the stewardship of these entities and their Boards, to ensure that they operate in a manner that positions accountability as the "highest priority".



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Fayval Williams (left), interacts with Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) Vice President, Dennis Cohen, at the launch of the 2018 Public Bodies' Corporate Governance Awards at the PSOJ's head office, Hope Road, Kingston on July 3.