

# New Policy for Electrical Approvals by Year End

**T**HE GOVERNMENT is seeking to fully implement the policy framework governing the electrical inspection approvals process for new buildings by year end.

This was announced by Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on August 9 while speaking at the official opening of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) new Kingston office at 6 Montrose Road.

Under the policy, the Government will outsource the electrical inspection approval process, currently undertaken by 11 inspectors islandwide.

The Prime Minister said this is expected to speed up approvals, thereby facilitating more timely installation of electrical fixtures.

"I have given that directive ... that we must have the new regulatory policy decision, which was made in 2015, implemented. It is simple decisions like these that help us to move up on the (Doing Business) index," he said.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left), assists General Manager for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Caribbean Country Department, Therese Turner-Jones (centre), to cut the ribbon to symbolise the official opening of the IDB's new country office, during a ceremony at its 6 Montrose Road location in Kingston, on August 9. Also assisting is President of the IDB Group, Luis Alberto Moreno.**

In the meantime, Mr. Holness welcomed the IDB's new energy-efficient building, noting that he is pleased that a local team of experts were used for the design, construction and overall management process of the project.

He also said he was pleased that the building is fully accessible to those with disabilities and that it has incorporated disaster-preparedness features.

In her remarks, General Manager for the IDB's Caribbean

Country Department, Therese Turner-Jones, said that the construction of the new structure was a strategic move and an opportunity for Jamaica to continue to be the Bank's base, and a centre for leadership.

## Expansion of Court of Appeal Building to be Completed by September

MINISTER OF Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck, says expansion of the Court of Appeal building on King Street in downtown Kingston is progressing smoothly and is on track for completion before the start of the new court term, which begins in September.

"I think we are still on target. The major deliverables to come would be the elevators and they should be delivered by August 25. It should take less than a week to install them," Mr. Chuck said.

The Minister was speaking with journalists following a tour of the building on August 9.

"I am hoping that in the second week of September before the start of the Court of Appeal term, that we can have a formal opening of the

two top floors. The bottom floor may take a few more weeks. We are going to have three courts on the second floor and (additional) judges' chambers," he said.

The Minister was accompanied on the tour by Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Jamaica, Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Carol Palmer. The EU is providing funding for the project. Mr. Chuck pointed out that with the additional space, more judges can be appointed.

In April, the Minister signed an \$846 million contract to undertake the project, which will see the addition of three new courtrooms, 13 judges' chambers and two lounges.



**Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck (left), and Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Jamaica, Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska, inside the Court of Appeal building on King Street, downtown Kingston. The Minister and the Ambassador toured the facility on August 9.**

## PM Welcomes Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is welcoming the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator Programme, which has the objective of making the region the world's first climate-smart zone.

The initiative was launched at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona campus on August 9.

Prime Minister Holness said he is excited by the project's potential in combatting climate change and accelerating national and regional development.

He noted that the Caribbean is already making progress with the expanding use of renewable energy.

He said that low-carbon technologies are creating good jobs and building profitable businesses across the region, adding that Jamaica is already on a path to 30 per cent of its electricity generation being from renewable energy.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (front, left), President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Luis Alberto Moreno (centre, second row) and Founder of the Virgin Group, Sir Richard Branson (front, right), with other dignitaries at the launch of the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator Programme, at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, on August 9.**

Mr. Holness called on the partners to "make impactful innovation" a priority, noting that the success of the initiative will be measured by "how it improves people's lives, makes them feel safer, provides better jobs, improves

social services and increases economic growth to build a sustainable and successful future".

So far, some 26 countries and more than 40 private and public-sector partners have joined the accelerator, which

will transform the region's economy by fast-tracking sound investment opportunities that support climate solutions for resilience, social development and broad-based growth for the Caribbean.

The climate-smart zone will not only protect the region but create jobs and a new economy.

Core partners include the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, CARICOM, and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs).

## Work to Start on Essex Valley Irrigation Project

MINISTER OF Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw, says development of the Essex Valley irrigation project in St. Elizabeth is expected to start within the next three months.

"This project will positively impact the livelihoods of over 700 farmers on 1,700 acres of land through the provision of irrigation water and increased access of our agricultural produce to local and international markets," he noted.

Minister Shaw was speaking during the 66th

Denbigh Agricultural, Industrial and Food Show at the Denbigh showground in May Pen, Clarendon, recently.

The Essex Valley development is being funded through a grant of GBP35.5 million from the United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UKCIF), which is administered by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

In addition to improving irrigation systems, the project entails other components to boost agriculture in Essex Valley.

These include training for farmers and other stakeholders

in food-safety standards and climate-smart agriculture practices; design and construction of a photovoltaic plant to power the irrigation system and related administrative buildings; financing for a climate vulnerability assessment study to enhance the sustainability of the systems developed under the project; development of guidelines to support the participation of men, women, youth, and persons with disabilities; and an operational plan to enhance the viability and sustainability of the facilities and services.

## Jamaica and Atomic Energy Agency Sign Country Programme Agreement

JAMAICA WILL benefit from increased technical support from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the utilisation of nuclear technology for development purposes.

This is being facilitated under a new five-year Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period 2018 to 2023, which will focus on areas such as water and environment management, health and nutrition,

food and agriculture, nuclear and radiation safety and security, energy, and industry.

Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Dr. Wayne Henry, and the IAEA's Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Dazhu Yang, signed the new CPF during a brief ceremony at the Institute's head office in New Kingston on August 9.

It is the second CPF, with the first, covering the

period 2010 to 2015, focused on six priority areas – establishing a legislative framework and regulatory infrastructure for radiation and nuclear safety and security, human health, energy planning, management of water resources and environmental protection, agriculture, and radiation technology.

Mr. Henry, in his remarks, said the new framework covers broad themes carried out under the previous programme, and adheres to the goals of the National Development Plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, which seeks to position Jamaica to attain developed country status within 12 years.

He indicated that Jamaica currently has nine ongoing national projects, four of which commenced in January under the 2018/19 project cycle, adding that another six will be submitted for the next cycle.

The IAEA has provided funding support, totalling nearly €3 million, for projects in Jamaica that have either been completed or are currently under way.



**Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Director General, Dr. Wayne Henry (left, seated); and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Dazhu Yang (right, seated), sign Jamaica's new five-year Country Programme Framework (CPF), during a brief ceremony at the PIOJ's head office in New Kingston on August 9.**

## Jamaica Welcomes 32 New Citizens



**National Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (centre), presents Sangeeta Sharma (left) with her Registration of Jamaican Citizenship at a ceremony conferring Jamaican citizenship on 32 persons at the Police Officers' Club in Kingston on August 9. At right is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), Andrew Wynter.**