

Additional Boost for Hanover's Tourism Product

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says Hanover is poised to benefit from additional infrastructural developments designed to, among other things, further strengthen the parish's tourism product.

These include the National Housing Trust's construction of the 63-unit Industry Cove Manor housing development in the community of Green Island, for which ground was broken on August 16.

Mr. Holness, who delivered the keynote address at the ground breaking ceremony, said discussions are being fast-tracked with Hanover's key tourism stakeholders to enable their involvement in the discourse facilitating further development of the industry across the parish.

"We are already working on plans to ensure that we have orderly development of the tourism product that will provide the employment and the income for the average 'Hanoverian'," he stated.

The Prime Minister emphasised, however, that with



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd left) breaks ground for the National Housing Trust's (NHT) 63-unit Industry Cove Manor housing development in Industry Cove, Green Island, Hanover, on August 16. Other participants (from left) are: Member of Parliament for Western Hanover, Ian Hayles; NHT Board Chairman, Lennox Channer, and Managing Director, Martin Miller.

the developmental plans come significant responsibility, and encouraged residents and other interests to take steps to create a visitor-friendly environment that engenders harmonious correlation among all concerned.

"When we develop the tourism product here... it has

to be protected by you the citizens. It is in your interest (to) create a climate and an atmosphere in your communities (so) that (tourists) can choose to come and visit," he underscored.

Additionally, he said visitors are now coming to

Jamaica to get out and interact with ordinary Jamaicans.

Industry Cove Manor, which will comprise 23 detached two-bedroom and 40 two-bedroom townhouse units, is being developed on 4.94 hectares (12.31 acres).

Kingston Hosts Earn US\$2.4 Million from Airbnb Service in 2017

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says there is scope for greater expansion of the Airbnb service in Jamaica, which earned hosts in Kingston US\$2.4 million in 2017.

There are now 3,100 hosts in Jamaica, up from 2,300 in December 2016.

Based in San Francisco, California in the United States, Airbnb is an online community marketplace for people to list, discover and book unique accommodations around the world, whether an apartment for a night or week, or a villa for a month.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness emphasises a point during his quarterly press briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister on August 15.

Mr. Holness informed that Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, has been working with the executives of Airbnb to streamline the

service in Jamaica to make it seamless, thereby resulting in its continued growth locally.

The Prime Minister was speaking at his quarterly press

briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kingston, on August 15.

The Tourism Minister has said that more and more Jamaicans have been buying into the Airbnb concept, opening up their homes to visitors and earning money as a result.

"This is all a part of Brand Jamaica, and the beauty of the Airbnb solution is that it allows the average Jamaican to participate in the hospitality industry and use Brand Jamaica," Mr. Holness said.

According to data from Airbnb, there are now 3,100 hosts in Jamaica, up from 2,300 in December 2016. Listings also saw an increase from 4,000 in 2016 to 5,900 in 2017. Visitor usage saw the most significant increase from 32,000 in 2016 to 59,500 in the last 12 months.

Jamaica to Host Caribbean Water and Wastewater Conference

JAMAICA WILL host the 27th annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Conference and Exhibition from October 8 to 12 at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa in Montego Bay.

Over 400 regional delegates and international participants are expected to attend the five-day event, which is being held under the theme: 'Climate Resilience: Innovation and Partnership for Sustainable Water and Wastewater Development'.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is slated to deliver the keynote address at the opening ceremony on Monday, October 8.

This will be followed by a week of discussions and deliberations on a wide range of themes and topics covering water, wastewater and solid waste management.

These include: 'Climate-Resilient Infrastructure'; 'Water and Waste - the Energy Nexus'; 'Planning for Climate Variability and Change'; and 'Waste Management and Security'.

The event is being co-hosted by the Government of Jamaica, National Water Commission and CWWA.

At the launch at Jamaica House on August 15, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Karl Samuda, noted the effect of climate change on the ability of water authorities to provide potable water for their citizens, with resources rapidly depleting in some cases.

In this regard, he affirmed the need for a collective regional approach to develop a policy, which ensures that all residents of Caribbean states are able to access potable water.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Karl Samuda (left), converses with National Water Commission (NWC) President, Mark Barnett, at the launch of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association's annual conference and exhibition at Jamaica House on August 15.



Works of Talented Artists on Display

Permanent Secretary in the Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Ministry, Denzil Thorpe (2nd left), along with (from left): Miss Jamaica Festival Queen 2018, Ackera Gowie, and Director, Corporate Services, Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, Elizabeth Smith, view a self-portrait done by artist and musician, Patrick Kitson (right). Occasion was the official opening of the Visual Arts Exhibition at the Jamaica Conference Centre, recently. The exhibition is opened for public viewing until August 31.

April to June Quarter Records Growth of 1.8 Per Cent

THE PLANNING Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) says the economy grew by an estimated 1.8 per cent for the April to June 2018 quarter, relative to the corresponding period last year.



Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Director General, Dr. Wayne Henry

Director General of the PIOJ, Dr. Wayne Henry, said the out-turn, the largest since July to September 2016, reflected improved weather conditions which facilitated improved outputs in industries, such as agriculture; the positive impact of the resumption of operations at the JISCO Alpart alumina refinery, which strengthened the pace of growth; and higher levels of construction activities associated with road rehabilitation and commercial and residential developments.

Additionally, he said the out-turn marked the 14th consecutive quarter of positive growth.

Dr. Henry was speaking at the PIOJ's quarterly media briefing at the Institute's head office in New Kingston on August 16.

"Indications are that the pace of economic growth will continue to strengthen during the remainder of 2018 and 2019. The forecast for calendar 2018 is that growth will be in the range of 1.5 and 2.5 per cent, and for fiscal year 2018/19, growth is projected to be within the range of two to three per cent," Dr. Henry said.

The Director General said the goods producing and services industries grew by an estimated 5.7 and 0.5 per cent, respectively.

Construction, which grew by 1.2 per cent, reflected ongoing expansion of the residential developments, particularly new housing starts which totalled 1,132 in the preceding quarter.

All industries are projected to have grown, with the largest increases being recorded in mining and quarrying - 27.9 per cent; agriculture, forestry and fishing - 5.3 per cent; and transport, storage and communication - 1.5 per cent.

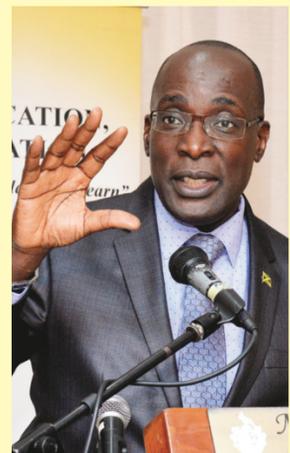
Increase in CSEC Passes

MINISTER OF Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, has announced an increase of 3.8 per cent in passes by students who sat the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations this year, when compared to 2017.

At the 2018 National Exit Examination Press Conference held at the Mona Visitors' Lodge in Kingston on August 16, the Minister said that of the total number of subject entries, 159,280 or 68.4 per cent recorded grades one to three, an increase of 3.8 per cent over the 2017 figure.

He noted that a total of 63,428 candidates were registered to sit the examinations, of which 37,875 (59.7 per cent) were females and 25,553 (40.3 per cent) were males.

"Of those who registered, 59,580 (93.9 per cent) candidates sat, of which 46,443 (78 per cent) obtained grades one to three. A total of 35,819 females sat and 28,217 (78.8 per cent) obtained grades one to three, while some



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid

23,761 males sat and 18,226 (76.7) obtained grades one to three," Senator Reid informed.

For 2018, the subjects of Mathematics and English Language had the largest number of entries and sittings, with percentage passes of 46.5 and 68.7, respectively.

"When the average attainment rates for Mathematics and English Language were compared with 2017 results, there were increases of 4.5 and 2.9 percentage points, respectively," the Minister noted.