

PM Calls For More Private Investments

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is calling for increased private investments, as the Government continues to maintain proper fiscal management that will facilitate growth in the economy.

Speaking at the Jamaica Flour Mills plant rededication ceremony at the facility, 209 Windward Road, in Kingston, on October 10, Mr. Holness said steps have been taken to ensure macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability.

"We have reduced our debt to GDP ratio from 141 per cent, and by the end of this year, we will be below 100 per cent. All Jamaicans should take great pride in saying our interest rates are now at record low," he said.

The Prime Minister said that employment is growing at such a rate "we have never seen before in the history of Jamaica."



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) listens to Managing Director, Jamaica Flour Mills, Derrick Nembhard (left), during a tour of the Jamaica Flour Mills, located at 209 Windward Road, in Kingston, on October 10. At right is Plant Manager, Jamaica Flour Mills, Andre Neil.

Mr. Holness stated that he is "pleased" with the findings of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce Business and Consumer Confidence Survey for the third quarter, as it shows that consumer confidence is "very high".

"It means that consumers are likely to not just spend more but invest more, and it means that businesses will continue to invest. There is a very high level of optimism in Jamaica," he said.

He noted that improved service delivery and reduction in the bureaucratic culture in the public sector will positively impact the business and investment climate in Jamaica.

Norman Manley Int'l Airport Operation Divested

THE GOVERNMENT has divested the operation of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) to Mexican entity, Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacifico S.A.B. De C.V. (GAP).

A 25-year concession agreement was signed on October 10, at the Office of the Prime Minister by Chairman of the Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ), which owns the NMIA, Hon. William

Shagoury; President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Audley Deidrick; and GAP's Chief Executive Officer, Raul Revuelta Musalem; and Head of the entity's subsidiary, PAC Kingston Airport Limited, Saul Villarreal Garcia.

The formalities were witnessed by Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness and Transport and Mining Minister, Hon. Robert Montague.

Under the agreement, GAP will be responsible for improving the airport's land and air operational efficiency, and financing and completing a modernisation programme, at an estimated cost of over US\$110 million.

Additionally, the Government will receive a guaranteed percentage of the airport's gross revenues. The entity has the option to

extend the arrangements by an additional five years.

Prime Minister Holness said the transaction represents another successful public-private partnership (PPP) deal, coming on the heels of similar arrangements with the Kingston Container Terminal and North-South Highway.

"The successful outcome of this public-private partnership attests to the transparency and equity of the process as well as the professionalism, accountability and integrity of all stakeholders involved," he said.

Mr. Holness argued that this type of investment is critical to the Government's economic growth strategy, adding that "it is evident that PPPs are excellent vehicles for unlocking the value of assets, reducing debt and mobilising local and foreign investment in our economy."



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left, standing) and Transport and Mining Minister, Hon. Robert Montague (2nd left, standing) observe as Chief Executive Officer of Mexican entity, Grupo Aeroportuario del Pacifico S.A.B. De C.V. (GAP), Raul Revuelta Musalem (2nd right, seated), signs the 25-year Norman Manley International Airport concession agreement on October 10. The signing took place at the Office of the Prime Minister. Also observing (from left, seated) are: President and Chief Executive Officer, Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ), Audley Deidrick; AAJ Chairman, Hon. William Shagoury; and Head of GAP subsidiary, PAC Kingston Airport Limited, Saul Villarreal Garcia. At right (standing) is NMIA Enterprise Team Chairman, Paul B. Scott.

Contract Signed For Reconstruction of Family Court Attendance Centre

MINISTER OF Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Carol Palmer, on October 11, signed a \$50.7-million contract for the reconstruction of the Kingston and St. Andrew Family Court Attendance Centre.

The Centre, which was destroyed by fire on December 30, 2015, will be located at the corner of East and Beeston Streets in downtown Kingston.

The contract signing took place during the Ministry of Justice's Quarterly Press Briefing, held at the Ministry on Constant Spring Road.

Mrs. Palmer said that children who are dependent



Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck (left); Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Carol Palmer; and Managing Director of Contraxx Enterprise Limited, Stephen Chung, sign a contract valued at \$50.7 million for the reconstruction of the Kingston and St. Andrew Family Court Attendance Centre, at the Ministry of Justice in Kingston on October 11.

on the resocialisation services of the Kingston and St. Andrew Family Court Attendance Centre have been displaced.

She expressed the hope that contractor, Contraxx Enterprise Limited, will deliver on their agreement to complete the Centre by January 2019.

MINISTER WITHOUT Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Karl Samuda, says a contract has been signed for the construction of the Montego Bay bypass.

Speaking at the official opening of Isratech Jamaica Limited's new retail outlet in Reading, Montego Bay, St. James, on October 10, Mr. Samuda said the Government signed off on the contract recently.

Kitson Town Gets Upgraded Health Centre



Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), shares a light moment with (from left): Medical Chief of Staff at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), Dr. Carl Bruce; Regional Technical Director at the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA), Maureen Golding; and Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Fund (NHF), Everton Anderson, while in the dental room at the upgraded Kitson Town Health Centre in St. Catherine on October 10.

Top-Five Entrants in Parliament Design Competition Received \$10 Million

A TOTAL of \$10 million has been handed over to the top-five entrants of the Government's Houses of Parliament Design Competition.

The presentations were made by Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, during a ceremony to open the competition's exhibition of entries at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston, on October 10.

Chosen from 24 submissions by 178 persons, the leading teams were each awarded \$2 million for advancing to the second stage of the competition where they will submit more detailed designs by December 18.

The concept for the design competition, which is being staged by the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), includes a Parliament complex to be located within the confines of the National Heroes Park, among recreational spaces and gardens.

The Prime Minister said the Government is intent on building a Parliament building that all Jamaicans can be proud of and noted that putting forward a design competition has brought democracy to the process.

Mr. Holness stated that the preliminary designs, which are now on exhibit at the Jamaica Conference Centre, are a representation of the significant value and symbolism of a structure such as the Parliament building, it being the seat of legislative and executive authority of the State.

He reminded that the need for a new Parliament building is not for the comfort of the Parliamentarians, but rather making the Jamaican State more effective.

The top five teams were led by registered architects Evan Williams, Ravi Sittol, Stephen Facey, Guenet Anderson, and Damian Edmond.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd right) listens with interest as architect, Ravi Sittol (2nd left), explains the concept behind his entry titled 'Out of Chaos, Comes Forth Prosperity' for the Government's Houses of Parliament Design Competition. Also looking on (from left) are Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Pernell Charles; and architect and patron of the competition, Gordon Gill. The exhibition was officially opened by the Prime Minister during a ceremony at the Centre on October 10.

Contract Signed For Montego Bay Bypass

CHINA HARBOUR ENGINEERING COMPANY (CHEC) will construct the highway, which is slated to commence in the 2019/2020 financial year.

According to Minister Samuda, when completed, the infrastructure will facilitate greater investment for Montego Bay.

The new route is expected to start at Ironshore, near the Sangster International Airport and will bypass the City Centre and Sam Sharpe Square.

behind us because that will bring about enormous improvements to Montego Bay," he said.

The Government has committed to building the bypass at an estimated cost of US\$200 million.

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