

PM Breaks Ground for \$860M Housing Project

THE STANDARD of living of residents of Maxfield Park in St. Andrew is expected to be greatly improved with the development of an \$860 million housing project in the community.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on October 3, broke ground for the Maxfield Park Development Project, which will see the construction of another 210 housing solutions for National Housing Trust (NHT) contributors.

Mr. Holness said through these housing projects, the Government aims to give all Jamaicans the euphoric experience of owning their own home.

"It's not just getting the better housing solutions, but just changing the way that people live can literally transform and uplift the lives of the people," he said.

The project, which is being undertaken by the NHT, will involve the development of 6.14 acres of land along Ricketts Crescent where, initially, the entity will conduct



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (3rd left) breaks ground for the \$860 million Maxfield Park Development Project during a ceremony at the project site along Ricketts Crescent on October 3. Also participating (from left) are Deputy Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Winston Ennis; Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for St. Andrew East Central, Dr. Peter Phillips; Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Karl Samuda; Chairman, National Housing Trust (NHT), Lennox Channer; and Managing Director, NHT, Donald Moore.

preparatory works to include demolition and removal of some existing structures; disconnection and removal of informal water and electrical distribution systems.

The Prime Minister noted that the project was con-

ceived over a decade ago and is one of the housing projects the Government pulled out of the pipeline and brought to the point of implementation.

The infrastructure works for the project, which is slated

to begin in March 2019, will include paved roads with kerb, storm-water drains and a centralised sewage collection system. Construction of the housing units is scheduled to begin in October 2019.

Town Hall Meeting at Heroes Circle – October 25

THE GOVERNMENT is to host a town hall meeting at Heroes Circle on October 25, where all members of the community and stakeholders will be invited to participate in discussions on the proposed development of National Heroes Park.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness made the announcement during the sitting of the House of Representatives on October 2.

"We will answer their questions and address their concerns. In keeping with this commitment, a contract has been prepared for the retention of the Social Development

Commission – the agency mandated to lead interventions and sensitisation of communities regarding government programmes – to lead this aspect of the project going forward," Mr. Holness explained.

He said the Urban Development Corporation has also initiated consultations with the Member of Parliament and Councillors of the Central Kingston constituency, and stakeholders such as the Wolmer's Trust, technical and professional persons, and members of the construction industry, to seek their input on the way forward.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

The Prime Minister also reiterated that the Master Plan for the development does not propose the demolition of virtually all buildings around the National Heroes Park, including the existing Ministries of Finance and the Public Service, Education, and Labour and most of Allman Town.

"It proposes redevelopment of the area around the park. The development proposal has considered the accommodation of government ministries, departments and agencies... as well as the further upgrade of the adjoining residential neighbourhoods, which include Allman Town," Mr. Holness noted.

Maiden Visit of Carnival Horizon Will Boost Cruise Sector

MINISTER OF Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, says the maiden visit of the Carnival Horizon, is a "shot in the arm" for the island's cruise sector.

Speaking to **JIS News** following the inaugural visit of Carnival's newest and biggest ship in the company's Vista luxury line, at the Ocho Rios Pier on October 2, Mr. Bartlett said the Carnival Horizon is just "a prelude" to what is to come, adding that "we have a commitment from the company that all their luxury vessels will be coming to Jamaica".

The Minister said he is particularly pleased with the "trickle down" benefits he has seen as it relates to craft



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, interacts with guests who came on the Carnival Horizon, which docked in Ocho Rios, St. Ann, on October 2.

vendors, tour operators, shop owners, supermarkets and cab drivers.

He said that with the commitment that the Carnival Horizon will join its sister vessel

– the Carnival Vista – as regulars on the western Caribbean itinerary, "Jamaica now has a good chance of becoming the number one cruise destination in the region".

Mr. Bartlett noted that the Government, through the Port Authority of Jamaica, has been putting in all the required infrastructure to ensure that "we do everything that's necessary to ensure that our cruise-line partners are satisfied".

"Mickey Arison, Carnival's owner, in committing the Horizon to our shores, is making good on an earlier promise that Jamaica is Carnival's first call destination in the Caribbean," the Minister said.

Gov't to Abolish Some Fees Payable to Trade Board

THE GOVERNMENT is to abolish a range of import and export fees payable to the Trade Board Limited and other such entities, in order to increase Jamaica's global competitiveness.

Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw, says that "between seven and 10 of them" that have been identified are no longer relevant and will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

The Minister was speaking at the launch of the National Foreign Trade Policy and Consultancy for the National Trade Information Portal, held at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston on October 4.

"Some of these charges are extraneous and unnecessarily burdensome on our importers and exporters. We must be practical. We cannot use the fees as a feeding tree without considering if the revenue is relevant, and if it is not, get rid of it," he said.

"We must make our money in other ways. We need to make our money, for instance, from the volume of business, not by being overly burdensome on the few businesses that we have," Mr. Shaw continued.

The Minister said the focus is to build competitiveness and that this cannot be done if business is being hampered by heavy, unnecessary fees.



Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (right), shares a good laugh with Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw, at the launch of the National Foreign Trade Policy, and Consultancy for the National Trade Information Portal, held at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston on October 4.

Gov't Launches RIM Policy Implementation and Sensitisation Programme

THE MINISTRY of Education, Youth and Information, in collaboration with the Office of the Cabinet, has launched the Records and Information Management (RIM) Policy Implementation and Sensitisation Programme, geared towards ensuring that all activities and decisions of the Government are fully and accurately documented, managed and monitored.

The policy will govern records and information management across all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Government.

Implementation of the RIM policy will facilitate: accessible, efficient and effective service delivery to the citizenry; data sharing across MDAs; ease of doing business, research and attraction of investments; and the overall attainment of national development goals.

At the launch, held on October 4 at the Jamaica

Conference Centre in downtown, Kingston, Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, said the RIM policy is transformational and will help with the storage of important records.

"Without a robust RIM system which provides ready access to relevant and historical documents and which evidences our work, we cannot truly offer to the people of Jamaica, good governance, sound policy development and decision making, efficient and effective services or accountability and transparency," he added.

The Minister called on stakeholders to ensure that during the implementation, there is adherence to managing their digital records in conformity with the prescriptions of the policy, especially with respect to emails, which are official records.



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid (right), hands over a copy of the Government of Jamaica Records and Information Management (RIM) Policy to Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Carol Palmer, at the launch of the RIM Policy Implementation and Sensitisation Programme, on October 4, at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown, Kingston.



Minister Green Opens Computer Lab at Oracabessa Primary School

Minister of State for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Floyd Green (2nd left), assists Mikahla Silvera (2nd right) as she works on a computer in the laboratory at the Oracabessa Primary School in St. Mary, which was officially opened recently. Carrdavia White (left) and Daena Edwards also try out computers.