

Gov't to Tackle Bureaucracy in the Public Sector

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has reiterated the Government's intention to tackle the systemic inefficient bureaucracy in the public service.

Addressing the National Competitiveness Council held at the Office of the Prime Minister on November 15, Mr. Holness said bureaucracy is inevitable in organisations.

He noted, however, that the challenge for Jamaica is that the bureaucracy is focussed on process, rather than outcomes in service delivery.

"Bureaucracy is necessary, it's the systematic representation of an organisation. That's how organisations channel power and authority to get things done. It's the hardest thing to change because it is not the outcome that matters but (the) process, and there is a dilemma. The stage of development that Jamaica is



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness speaks at the National Competitiveness Council meeting held at the Office of the Prime Minister on November 15.

in, we have to now focus on both compliance and outcome and that is the challenge," Prime Minister Holness explained.

He further noted that as an independent society, Jamaica

must adjust to comply with rules while getting necessary outcomes at the same time.

He emphasised that the role of the public service is to facilitate the growth of the private sector, adding that it

is the duty of Government to create the environment in which the private sector can operate at an "optimum" through the ease of doing business.

Gov't Allocates \$997 Million for Drain Cleaning and Beautification

THE GOVERNMENT is to undertake a national mitigation, sanitation, drain cleaning and beautification programme at a cost of \$997 million over the next several weeks, leading into the Christmas season.

The programme will be implemented by the National Works Agency (NWA) and the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, who made the disclosure during a statement to the House of Representatives on November 13, said that the programme will have a national focus and will be driven by Members of Parliament (MPs).

He said that each constituency will be allocated \$12 million to target critical drains, road patching, cleaning, de-bushing and sanitation.

It is being proposed that the allocation be broken down as follows: \$6 million for bushing and drain cleaning; \$5 million for patching of potholes; and \$1 million for general clean-



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

up of urban towns and rural townships.

"The \$6 million will be directed by MPs, so (they) will make recommendations to the NWA as to the roads that should be bushed, and the roads that can be patched," Prime Minister Holness explained.

Additionally, the NSWMA is being allocated \$100 million for the removal of bulky waste in townships across the country. The funds are also to be used to assist in implementing a beautification project in these areas.

Work on the programme will commence on November 19.

JDF Acquires New Surveillance Aircraft

THE JAMAICA Defence Force's (JDF) aerial and maritime capabilities have been significantly boosted with the acquisition of new surveillance aircraft.

The Beechcraft King Air 350 WR maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) and two Bell 429 helicopters, were commissioned into service during a ceremony on November 14 at the Air Wing Manley Base at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston.

The units, along with a new Maritime Patrol Aircraft Hangar, form part of the resources for the newly established JDF Maritime Air and Cyber Command.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness who delivered the main address at the commissioning, said that the investment in the JDF's aerial and maritime capabilities reflects the Government's commitment to securing Jamaica and its resources for present and future generations.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) listens to a point from United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Sergio de la Pena (second right), following the November 14 commissioning of the Jamaica Defence Force's (JDF) new aircraft and hanger, at the Air Wing Manley Base, Norman Manley International Airport. Others sharing in the conversation are Chief of Defence Staff, JDF, Major General Rocky Meade (second left); and Chief Executive Officer of American firm, Sierra Nevada Corporation, Fatih Ozmen.

Mr. Holness, who has portfolio responsibility for the JDF as Minister of Defence said that the acquisitions represent "one of the single largest

investments that any Government of Jamaica has made in the area of security".

He noted that security and economic development are

inextricably linked and "is the foundation of our plan to develop Jamaica into a place of choice to live, work, raise your families [and] do business".

The aircraft were acquired through collaborations with American entities Sierra Nevada Corporation, Textron Aviation, and Bell.

Three Miles Bypass to Be Completed In Two Weeks

THE NEW US\$1million bypass for Three Miles in St. Andrew that is being constructed to help ease traffic congestion in the Corporate Area should be completed within the next two weeks.

The two-lane 1.5 kilometres roadway is part of the Government's overall road development and traffic management programme and will link Chesterfield Drive, off Spanish Town Road, to Marcus Garvey Drive.

Senior Communications and Customer Services Officer at the National Works Agency (NWA), Ramona Lawson, told **JIS News** recently that the project is about 68 per cent complete.

"Based on where we are now, and barring any unforeseen circumstances, such as rain, for example, we should be delivering that in another



Work is steadily progressing on a section of the new US\$1million bypass for Three Miles in St. Andrew.

two weeks," she said.

Ms. Lawson noted that several aspects of the project, including the drainage improvement works, culvert installation and construction of two Bailey bridges, have been completed.

"We are just about complete with the sub-base and base works and the curb and sidewalk installation along Chesterfield Drive itself. We are scheduled to begin

pavement works in the upcoming week and an additional two weeks for completion. That's what our target is," she said.

The road is being built alongside the existing rail line that runs between the Caymanas area and Marcus Garvey Drive. It will create a dedicated access route to Marcus Garvey Drive for traffic coming from the Mandela Highway.

DBJ Has Provided Over \$3 Billion for Energy Projects

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) has provided loans totalling more than \$3 billion to fund a wide range of energy projects since 2008.

The funds have been allocated from the DBJ's resources as well as provisions from the PetroCaribe Fund, World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.

Managing Director, Milverton Reynolds, said the beneficiaries include approximately 280 businesses, which were assisted in reducing and managing their energy consumption levels.

Speaking at a Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum at the Spanish Court Hotel in New Kingston on November 13, Mr. Reynolds said the loans, provided to small, medium and large enterprises,

facilitated energy efficiency and conservation solutions as well as the introduction of alternative energy options.

"We have also provided, and continue to provide, a wide range of technical assistance in the form of training and grants to help companies manage their energy use," he outlined.

He indicated that householders are also able to access loans for renewable energy solutions, including installation of solar panels, solar-powered water heaters, biodigesters, and wind turbines.

"The DBJ's efforts [are yielding] positive effects on the economy and, indeed, on the population in general. The DBJ has responded to the needs of the nation... and with



Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) Managing Director, Milverton Reynolds (left), converses with JN Fund Managers Deputy General Manager, Jermaine Deans, at the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum held on November 13 at the Spanish Court Hotel.

local and international partners, we have sought practical ways and means of assisting Jamaican companies, entrepreneurs and households in controlling their energy use," Mr. Reynolds added.

Youth Month Volunteer Competition Launched



Students of the Jamaica House Basic School perform at the launch of the National Youth Month Volunteer Competition, on November 13.



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