

PM Welcomes Auditor General's Report on Petrojam

P RIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Government welcomes the Auditor General's report on the operations of the State-owned oil refinery, Petrojam, and will take further actions as recommended.

"Firstly let me thank the Auditor General. It appears from my preliminary review to be a comprehensive report. There were some matters highlighted which we have already acted on. We have already addressed some of the governance issues. There are still more issues that she has raised, which I will obviously have to address," Prime Minister Holness said.

"The issue with pricing – that is something we will have to take a very serious look at. Issues to do with frugality in the use of public resources ... have to be addressed. I believe that you could say this a watershed moment for



Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica

transparency and accountability in Jamaica," he added.

Mr. Holness was speaking in an interview recently after touring his St. Andrew West Central Constituency.

Among the recommendations is for the development of an Accountability and

Corporate Governance Framework to strengthen the operations of Petrojam and its parent company, the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ).

The report also recommended that the State commission an immediate review of key functional areas of the

PCJ and Petrojam. Additionally, it was recommended that the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service make it a prerequisite for all public boards to establish a governance sub-committee for monitoring and reviewing governance arrangements.

May Pen Hospital to Get \$10 Million C-Arm Machine for Orthopaedic Surgeries

THE JAPANESE Government is providing \$10 million (US\$86,780) for the acquisition of a Digital Mobile C-Arm machine for the May Pen Hospital in Clarendon, which will strengthen the provision of orthopaedic surgeries at the facility.

A grant agreement for the procurement was signed on December 6 by Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton; Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, His Excellency, Hiromasa Yamazaki; and Chief Executive Officer, May Pen Hospital, St. Andrade Sinclair, at the Ministry's New Kingston.

The funds are being provided under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project.

The Digital Mobile C-Arm machine, which will be utilised by the Orthopaedic Department, is used for intraoperative imaging.

Dr. Tufton said May Pen Hospital began offering orthopaedic surgeries last year, with the outpatient clinic commencing February 6, 2017



Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton

and in-patient service starting August 2, 2017.

He noted that the use of intraoperative imaging is an integral part of orthopaedic surgical care and without the machine, patients have to be transferred to another public health care facility.

The Health Minister said the acquisition of the machine will allow the May Pen Hospital to serve a greater population of patients and offer treatment for a wider range of diagnoses, with the intention to safeguard the best possible health outcomes for patients.

Public Education Campaign Launched to End Gender-based Violence

IN KEEPING with its quest to end gender-based violence (GBV), the Government launched the No Excuse for Abuse (#NEFA) public education campaign, on December 4.

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, who officially rolled out the campaign during a public forum, entitled 'Big Ooman and Big Man Chat: Addressing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)', at the Courtleigh Auditorium in New Kingston, said it is in keeping with ongoing efforts by the Administration to deal with the long-standing issue.

"The Government has been working to bring an end to gender-based violence through legislative, policy and programmatic actions that



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (left); and Acting Senior Director for Gender Affairs in the Ministry, Sharon Coburn Robinson, pose at the newly launched No Excuse for Abuse (#NEFA) public education campaign, at the Courtleigh Auditorium on December 4.

protect victims of violence; see to it that perpetrators are

punished; ensure that the victims get redress, and, very

importantly, build a culture in which there is no gender-based violence," she said.

Ms. Grange noted that this is the first public education campaign for the three-year National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-based Violence (NSAP-GBV) that was launched in 2017.

The campaign will be targeted to women, aged 15 to 35; men, aged 15 to 40; perpetrators of abuse/violence; survivors of violence; persons experiencing violence; and persons witnessing or aware of violence.

Varying messages will be used to relay different thematic messages, and target groups supported through the findings of the Women's Health Survey 2017.

AAJ Renovating Ian Fleming Airport and Island's Four Aerodromes

TRANSPORT AND Mining Minister, Hon. Robert Montague, has announced the commencement of multi-million dollar renovations by the Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ) at the Ian Fleming International Airport in St. Mary and the island's four domestic aerodromes: Tinson Pen, Kingston; Ken Jones, Portland; Lionel Densham, St. Elizabeth; and Negril, Westmoreland.

Mr. Montague said the renovations are in keeping with the Government's recognition of the civil aviation industry's importance to Jamaica's economy, and the need to boost operations in keeping with global standards.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony for a two-day aviation seminar, held at the Courtleigh Auditorium on December 6.



Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague

AAJ President, Audley Deidrick, who outlined details of the projects to **JIS News**, indicated that approximately \$100 million will be spent at Ian Fleming Airport to widen the runway and install turning bulbs along the strip to facilitate safe flight operations, and expand the terminal building to accommodate international commercial/aviation activities.

Work at the Ken Jones Aerodrome will entail resurfacing of the runway and installing lights along the strip, as well as refurbishing the buildings, and installing perimeter fencing, at a cost of approximately \$50 million.

Mr. Deidrick advised of plans to raise a section of the Negril Aerodrome runway, and construct a fire hall on the compound to facilitate the availability of firefighting services.

Other earmarked activities across all facilities include establishing pilots' lounges; upgrading of bathroom facilities; landscaping; and repainting.

Five More Companies Recommended to Operate Under SEZ Regime

THE JAMAICA Special Economic Zone Authority (JSEZA) has recommended five additional companies for approval to operate under the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regime, and is negotiating with another 40 that have expressed an interest.



Jamaica Special Economic Zone Authority (JSEZA) Chairman, Metry Seaga

Mr. Seaga says the 40 prospective firms, which are engaged in operations varying from manufacturing and services to logistics, represent "over US\$100 million of investments and in excess of 2,000 jobs".

He also advises that the process to transition 109 free zone companies to the SEZ regime is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Mr. Seaga tells **JIS News** that based on a reverification exercise of the over 219 free zone companies initially registered, 109 were verified as legitimate free zone operators.

He points out that entities that were no longer operational or those that were found to be operating within free zones without the requisite documentation, were removed from the listing.

Their Excellencies Visit Bustamante Hospital

Her Excellency the Most Hon. Lady Allen (centre) interacts with former patients at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Jqani Chung (right), who attends Hampton School, and Jahnia Johnson of The Queen's School, who sat the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) while hospitalised. The occasion was a visit to the St. Andrew-based hospital by the Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen and his wife, Lady Allen, on December 5.



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