

# 'Plan Secure Jamaica' is in Full Effect - PM

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, is reassuring the public that 'Plan Secure Jamaica' is in full effect.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness**

sultations with the security chiefs.

"The plans will obviously include reconfiguration of the security deployment but it will ensure that presence is maintained. It will ensure that there are operations undertaken within the context of regular policing and it will ensure that the public will continue to have a sense of safety and security particularly in those areas that have been badly affected by violence," Prime Minister Holness said.

'Plan Secure Jamaica' is a whole Government plan which focuses effort on ten strategic subject areas. It was tabled in

Parliament by the Prime Minister in late 2016 and was outlined in his budget presentation in 2017/2018.

"The Chiefs have met, and they have committed to me and they will commit to the nation, to do as best as they can, using the regular policing powers," Mr. Holness said.

Colonel Roderick Williams from the Jamaica Defence Force has been assigned to coordinate the intensified implementation phase of 'Plan Secure Jamaica' within the Office of the National Adviser.

## Education Ministry Focused on Sustaining Improvements

EDUCATION, YOUTH and Information Minister, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid says for the new school term, focus will be placed on sustaining the positive momentum in student achievement.

In his national back-to-school broadcast on January 6, Senator Reid said the overall improved student performance, particularly in the core subjects of English and Mathematics, points to the initial success of several teaching and learning initiatives introduced by the Ministry.

The Education Minister also noted that preparations continue for the first sitting of the Primary Exit Profile (PEP) Examination, beginning with the Abilities Component next month.

"I remind you that there is a special website as well as an app with useful information such as relevant exam dates, curricula, lesson plans and sample items for each exam. All systems are on track for a successful implementation of the Primary Exit Profile examination," Senator Reid said.



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

In addition, he noted that, the Ministry has successfully completed the implementation of the National Standards Curriculum, including providing assistance totalling \$77 million for the execution of the curriculum in primary schools.

The Government of Jamaica has also provided subsidies for secondary level students sitting exit examinations in 2019. Full payment is being made for up to eight subjects for students on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) and wards of the State, who are eligible to receive the support.

## Gov't Has Enabled Businesses to Take Resolute Long-Term Steps

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, says the Government has enabled businesses to take resolute long-term steps with greater certainty towards actualising investment decisions.

Speaking at the ceremony to break ground for the new Stewart's Automotive Group showroom on Arthur Wint Drive in St. Andrew, on January 3, the Prime Minister said this has been achieved through macro-economic decisions taken in regard to interest rates and the Government's tax policy.

"I believe Jamaicans can feel satisfied in their Government that the continued sacrifice for fiscal discipline has resulted in an economic environment in which businesses can take decisions and risks about investments," he said.

He referenced the steps taken by the Stewart's Group to open the new Jaguar and Land Rover showroom as evidence of the future long-term decisions that businesses are taking.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (third left), participates in the breaking of ground for the new Stewart's Automotive Group Jaguar and Land Rover showrooms on Arthur Wint Drive in St. Andrew, on January 3. Also taking part (from left) are Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz; Director of the Stewart's Automotive Group, Jackie Stewart Lechler; Chairperson of the Stewart's Automotive Group, Diana Stewart; Director of the Stewart's Automotive Group, Duncan Stewart, and Member of Parliament for South East St. Andrew, Julian Robinson.**

The Prime Minister argued that even greater progress must be made on micro issues, such as the length of time it takes for businesses to get off the ground, to obtain

electricity and titling, in order to "make the big investments happen".

Projected for overall completion in September 2019, the US\$13 million investment

made by the Stewart's Group will be a five-storey building with the first two housing the Jaguar and Land Rover showrooms. That is projected for completion in March.

## Health Ministry Allocates Additional \$250 Million to Contain Dengue

THE MINISTRY of Health is allocating an additional \$250 million to support enhanced measures to contain the spread of the dengue fever virus.

Portfolio Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, made the disclosure at a press conference held at the Ministry's corporate offices in New Kingston on January 3, where he confirmed that the virus surpassed the epidemic threshold of 96 cases for December.

He said the latest figures from the Epidemiological Unit indicate that 123 dengue case reports (suspected, presumed and confirmed) were received for the month.

"This has been a more active season than last year, and we have been observing



**Health Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (centre), addresses a press briefing at the Ministry's New Kingston offices.**

and monitoring the numbers and increases with each month, but by the clinical standards could only claim an epidemic once the threshold is surpassed," Dr. Tufton noted.

A total of 830 reported cases have been classified as suspected, presumed or confirmed as at January 3.

Dr. Tufton said the Ministry has already put a number of measures in place in anticipation of an outbreak of the virus.

These include increased fogging in 300 communities with clusters of dengue cases.

The Enhanced Vector Control (EVC) programme was extended to March 2019 to include the employment of an additional 500 temporary workers, who will join the effort to identify and eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

## Engineers Trained In China Employed at JISCO/Alpart



**Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Mike Henry (centre), presents a certificate to Darrian Bryson (right), for successfully completing advanced engineering training in China. Occasion was a welcome reception at Jamaica House on January 3 for the first 27 engineers to return to the island under the training programme funded by Jiuquan Iron and Steel Company (JISCO). Sharing the moment is Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Tian Qi.**

## Thousands Placed in Employment Overseas in 2018

MORE THAN 16,680 Jamaicans were placed in employment in Canada and the United States under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's overseas employment programme during the 2018 season.

This was disclosed by Portfolio Minister, Hon. Shahine Robinson, during a send-off ceremony for 300 Jamaicans, who will take up employment opportunities in Canada for this year under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP).

The function was held at the Ministry's Overseas Employment Services Centre in downtown Kingston on January 3.

The SAWP, which is part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's Overseas Employment Programme, involves contractual agricultural workers who are recruited to meet the short-term demand of manual labour during planting and harvesting seasons.

"This represents an increase of 703 workers,

compared to the 2017 season. So we are growing," the Minister said.

She added that the figure indicates that 60 per cent or 9,820 of the opportunities were secured in the Canadian labour market, compared to 9,367 in 2017.

Mrs. Robinson noted that the SAWP accounted for the larger part with 9,204 seasonal workers, while 616 workers were employed under the low-skill programme.



**Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson (right) and High Commissioner of Canada to Jamaica, Her Excellency Laurie Peters, interacting with Jamaicans who will take up employment opportunities in Canada for this year under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP). Occasion was a send-off ceremony held at the Ministry's Overseas Employment Services Centre in downtown Kingston on January 3.**



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