

Jamaica Secures US\$100M from IDB to Fight NCDs

THE MINISTRY of Health has secured US\$100 million in loans from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to execute a programme aimed at boosting the country's fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Dubbed the 'Health Systems Strengthening for the Prevention and Care Management of NCDs Programme', the initiative aims to improve the health of Jamaica's population by bolstering policies for the prevention of NCD risk factors, and implementation of a chronic care model with enhanced access to integrated primary and hospital service networks.

Portfolio Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton and Chief of Operations, for the IDB in Jamaica, Adriana La Valley, signed the loan agreement at the international financial institution's country office in St. Andrew on April 2.

The loan comprises two complementary elements – a US\$50-million Programmatic Policy-based (PPB) loan and



Minister of Health, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (seated centre), and Chief of Operations, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Jamaica, Adriana La Valley (seated left), sign a US\$100-million loan agreement at the IDB country office in St. Andrew on April 2. Observing are Senior Health Specialist, IDB, Dr. Ricardo Pérez-Cuevas (seated right); Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie (standing left); and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dunstan Bryan.

a US\$50-million investment loan.

The Programmatic Policy-based Loan will facilitate measures to address prevention and control through a people-centred primary health, chronic care model.

On the other hand, the investment element comprises

three components – US\$40,155,000 for the organisation and consolidation of integrated health services networks; US\$7,500 for the improvement of management, quality and efficiency of health services; and US\$2,345,000 for programme administration and evaluation.

Dr. Tufton said that the programme is “transformational (and) represents for us, an opportunity that we should take advantage of to change the narrative (and)... culture of public health in the interest of achieving better health and wellness for our population, which is our ultimate objective”.

Gov't Committed to Implementing Robust Diaspora Policy

THE GOVERNMENT remains committed to implementing a robust diaspora policy that provides the framework for effective partnerships with Jamaicans living abroad.

In this regard, Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, says she will be leading focus group meetings “to take forward the consultative process in some cities where our largest populations of the diaspora reside”.

The Minister also encouraged members of the diaspora to read the draft policy on the Ministry's website and offer feedback.

“We are particularly looking forward to the active participation of those who are overseas [and] Jamaicans at home as well. Your feedback will enrich the final outcome,” Mrs. Johnson Smith said.

She was speaking at the launch of the eighth biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference,



Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (centre), listens to a discussion between Government Senator, Don Wehby (left), and Jamaica National Group Assistant General Manager, Leon Mitchell, during the official launch of the eighth biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference, at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel on April 2.

at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston on April 2.

She indicated that feedback can be sent in writing to diasporapolicy@mfaft.gov.jm by May 17 to ensure these are substantively considered for discussion at the conference.

“It is our intention that one of the principal tangible

outcomes of this conference will be the finalisation of the diaspora policy [so] that it may be presented to the Cabinet and the Parliament for its acceptance and implementation,” Senator Johnson Smith informed.

The conference, which will be held under theme 'Jamaica and the Diaspora: Building

Pathways for Sustainable Development', is scheduled for the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston, from June 16 to 20.

New Fisheries Act to Come into Force Soon

MINISTER OF Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw, says the new Fisheries Act has been promulgated and will come into force soon.

He explained that this new law will not only facilitate modern fisheries management and development strategies, and significantly increase the maximum fines for breaches of the law, but will also transform the Fisheries Division into the National Fisheries Authority (NFA).

Mr. Shaw's comments were contained in a speech read by Chief Technical Director for Special Projects in the Ministry, Courtney Cole, at the Jamaica Fishermen Co-operative Union Limited annual general meeting, held at the Knutsford Court Hotel in St. Andrew on April 2.

“The Authority will be properly staffed and resourced to better meet the challenges of managing and developing the fisheries and aquaculture subsector,” the Minister said.

Mr. Shaw informed that among the key improvements to be facilitated by the creation of the NFA is



Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw

the establishment of a compliance division, which will have staff dedicated to fisheries surveillance.

“The NFA's compliance staff will certainly bolster the cadre of existing enforcement personnel from the partner entities, such as the National Environment and Planning Agency, Special Fishery Conservation, the Jamaica Defence Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force, among others,” he said.

The Minister also noted that in addition to the increased number of enforcement officers, fisheries surveillance and enforcement will be further enhanced by the use of modern technology.

National Library Receives Documents



Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Library of Jamaica (NLJ), Beverley Lashley (left), receives documents from author of the book, 'The Jamaicans: Children of God in the Promised Land', Ambassador Basil K. Bryan (right), recently, at the NLJ headquarters, downtown Kingston. Sharing in the occasion is Manager, Collections Development, NLJ, Monique Forgie-Scott. The documents, which date back to the year 1910, include minutes of meetings of the first known Jamaican association in the United States of America, the British Jamaican Benevolent Association.

Two New Divisions at NLA

TWO NEW divisions have been established at the National Land Agency (NLA), to continue the titling of land under the Registration of Titles Act.

They are the Land Administration and Management Division (LAMD) and the Adjudication Services Division (ASD).

The departments were created out of the merger of the NLA with the Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP); the latter was officially closed in December 2018.

Senior Director of LAMD, Felicia Wiltshire, explained that the new division will “continue the functions of LAMP as you know it”.

“The NLA (through LAMD) will be assisting per-



Senior Director of the Land Administration and Management Division (LAMD), of the National Land Agency (NLA), Felicia Wiltshire

sons in getting registered titles, and where titles exist, we will assist persons in dealing with these titles, such as estates, and whole or part transfer of titles,” she

noted, while addressing a JIS Think Tank on Tuesday April 2.

The project areas for LAMD operations are St. Catherine, excluding Portmore; St. Mary; Portland; St. Thomas; Rock Hall, St. Andrew; Lawrence Tavern and its environs in St. Andrew; and Rose Town, Kingston.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness recently announced a push to issue 20,000 land titles in three years, starting April 1.

The new divisions will work together to achieve the overall goal by targeting 4,000 titles in year one and 8,000 titles for each of the second and third years.

DBJ Targets \$26.4B in Investments for 2019/20

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), is targeting investments of \$26.4 billion from the disbursement of \$7.6 billion in loans for 2019/20. Approximately 220 new businesses will be facilitated.

This is stated in the 2019/20 Jamaica Public Bodies Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

Engagements being embarked on during 2019/20 are consistent with the DBJ's continued focus on aligning its activities with the Government's economic growth targets.

The entity will focus on three main pillars in executing its mandate.

Emphasis will be placed on developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem, correcting market failures in the financial sector, divesting Government assets, and facilitating public-private partnerships.

The DBJ will, in 2019/20, specifically seek to improve the number of loans provided to the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), by providing financial and non-financial products, and policy advocacy.

The entity will also implement a digital strategy to improve brand awareness in the market by, among other

things, conducting a business process review aimed at aiding in the restructuring and redesign of systems to digitise processes and procedures.

It will also increase efforts to divest the Government of non-core assets; and improve the utilisation of current State assets to reduce the Administration's expenditure through public-private partnerships, while benefiting from private investment.



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