

Sexual Harassment Bill For Parliament Soon

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Sexual Harassment Bill, which seeks to protect women from violence, harassment and discriminatory practices in the workplace, is to be tabled in Parliament soon.

This, he said, is among measures being instituted by the Government to safeguard the nation's workers, particularly the most vulnerable.

The Prime Minister was addressing the high-level meeting of the 108th Session of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference on June 12, in Geneva, Switzerland.

"We are working to address issues of gender discrimination and social protection for all workers, including domestic workers," he told the forum.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addressing the high-level meeting of the 108th session of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference on June 12, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Holness also informed that the Government ratified the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic

Workers, which seeks to set employment standards and secure rights for domestic workers.

"The Government is paying keen attention to the quality of jobs and the conditions of work," he said.

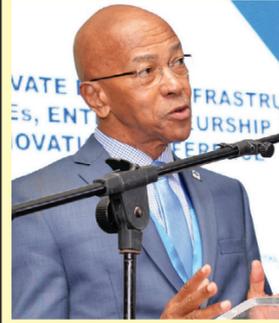
In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Bill was tabled and is now being examined by a Joint Select Committee of Parliament.

"When the Bill is passed, it will establish a robust legal framework to protect and enhance the health and safety of the Jamaican worker in the workplace," the Prime Minister said.

In the meantime, Mr. Holness reiterated the Government's commitment to the Decent Work Agenda, adding that it is continuing its work to empower citizens with education and training, to make them more marketable, employable and productive in a competitive labour market and economy.

DBJ Facilitated US\$1.1B in Investments Under Public-Private Partnership

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) has successfully completed 25 transactions under the Government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Privatisation Programme since 2009, facilitating approximately US\$1.1 billion in investments.



Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) Managing Director, Milverton Reynolds

DBJ Managing Director, Milverton Reynolds, said the amount includes US\$303 million in sales and US\$808 million in private-sector capital investments.

He was speaking during a regional market sounding forum at the DBJ's Private Equity and Infrastructure Development Conference at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel, New Kingston, on June 12.

Notable among the portfolio of PPPs, Mr. Reynolds

said, are privatisation of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA), Kingston Container Terminal (KCT), and Wigton Wind Farm Limited, the latter of which, he noted, was "massively" oversubscribed.

More than 31,000 persons responded to the initial public offering (IPO) of Wigton shares through the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE), which raised the targeted \$5.5 billion.

This represented the largest IPO in the JSE's history, the Managing Director further pointed out.

Meanwhile, Mr. Reynolds advised that the DBJ is working on several additional PPP projects.

These include the National Education Trust's Schools Solar Project; the Rio Cobre Water Treatment Plant Project; the National Water Commission's Northern Parishes Non-Revenue Water Project; the Ministry of Health and Wellness' Centres of Excellence in Oncology and Nephrology Project; the Jamaica Mortgage Bank's privatisation; and divestment of the Government's shares in the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS).

Preparations for Mr. Seaga's Final Resting Place on Track

MINISTER OF Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, says preparations for the final resting place of the late former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Edward Seaga, are on track.

On June 13, Mr. McKenzie and officers from the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation (KSAMC), visited National Heroes Park, where the nation's national heroes, Prime Ministers, and many cultural icons are interred, to get a firsthand look at the work being done to prepare the burial site.

"We should have the vault being completed [soon], and the other works associated with getting the area ready

for the funeral are also well advanced," he said.

Mr. McKenzie said that Mr. Seaga will be buried in the section that is adjacent to the burial of our National Heroes.

"It's an area that represents a wide cross section of Jamaicans whether at the political or the cultural level. It is a very good area, and I know, knowing Mr. Seaga, it is an area that he would really appreciate," he stated.

He also noted that the location of the grave is directly across from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, where Mr. Seaga held office as portfolio Minister in 1974.

A State funeral will be held on June 23 at the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, in Kingston.

STATE FUNERAL & OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE LATE MOST HONOURABLE EDWARD SEAGA, ON, PC

TUESDAY JUNE 18, 2019
THE ARTS IN TRIBUTE TO THE MOST HON. EDWARD SEAGA – 7:30 p.m. Little Theatre, Kingston (Featuring - NDTC, Jamaica Folk Singers, Tivoli Dance Troupe, et al and spoken Tributes from University of the West Indies (UWI), and the University Technology (UTECH)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, 2019 – JUNE 22, 2019
OFFICIAL PERIOD OF MOURNING
 (Flags to be flown at half-mast)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, 2019
SPECIAL SITTING OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN TRIBUTE TO THE MOST HON. EDWARD SEAGA (2:00 p.m.)
 Gordon House

THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2019
LYING-IN-STATE – KINGSTON (11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
 National Arena

SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2019
STATE FUNERAL
 12:00 NOON – Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, North Street

INTERMENT
 National Heroes Park (following Funeral Service)

PM of St. Kitts & Nevis Signs Condolence Book

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) looks on as Prime Minister of St Kitts & Nevis, Dr. the Hon. Timothy Harris, signs the condolence book for the late former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Edward Seaga, at the Office of the Prime Minister, in St. Andrew on June 14.



ZOSOs Extended in Denham Town and Mount Salem

THE ZONES of Special Operations (ZOSOs) in Denham Town in Kingston, and Mount Salem, St. James, will be extended by a further 60 days to August 19, 2019 and September 7, 2019, respectively.

The House of Representatives on June 11, approved two resolutions for the extensions, which were moved by National Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang.

In his address, Dr. Chang pointed out that Jamaica's two current ZOSOs, were



National Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang

operationalised in 2017 and are still in the build phase, adding that this is the longest and last phase of the three-phase strategy.

"Reports from the Social Intervention Committee have indicated that social intervention programmes, pursued under various thematic areas, are being successfully executed in a peaceful environment, conducive to community development and continued prosperity," he said.

Further to this, Dr. Chang said successes in these areas continue to be manifested by an overall lower crime rate.

In the case of Mount Salem, over a period of 638 days, that is, from

September 1, 2017 to May 31, 2019, only three category I crimes have been reported in the space. They include one aggravated assault, one rape, and one break-in.

For Denham Town, there has been a 58 per cent reduction in murders, a 75 per cent reduction in shootings, a 63 per cent decrease in robberies, an 88 per cent decline in break-ins and a 59 per cent reduction in overall category I crimes since the declaration of the Zone.

PEP Results out by End of the Week

THE MINISTRY of Education, Youth and Information has announced that the results for grade six students who sat the inaugural Primary Exit Profile (PEP) examinations this academic year will be announced by the end of this week.

Addressing a Press Conference at the Ministry in Kingston on June 11, Minister with responsibility for the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda, said the Ministry is in the final stages of preparing the reports for release to the schools.

The Minister pointed out that a total number of 41,617 grade-six students sat the examination.

They were tested in three stages with a Performance Task Test on March 27 and 28, an Ability Test on

February 26 and a Curriculum-Based Test on April 16 and 17.

Mr. Samuda also announced that PEP scores will be reported using a scaled score, which allows for more accurate reporting on students' performance.

He said parents will be provided with a Student Summary Report on the performance of their child when the results are released to the schools. This report will include the student's scaled scores, placement, as well as an interpretation of the scores.

The PEP has replaced the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) as the national secondary school entrance test.

It is intended to provide a better and more complete profile of students' academic and critical thinking capabilities at the end of primary-level education.



Minister with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda (right), holding a copy of the new Student Summary Report for the Primary Exit Profile (PEP), during a Press Conference at the Ministry on June 11. With him is State Minister in the Ministry, Hon. Alando Terrelonge.



WE HAVE MOVED

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