

Edward Seaga Remembered

THE LATE former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Edward Phillip George Seaga, was remembered at a joint sitting of the Houses of Parliament on June 19, for his unyielding and sterling contribution to nation-building.

Mr. Seaga was Jamaica's fifth Prime Minister, serving from 1980 to 1989. He represented the constituency of West Kingston from 1962 until his retirement from active politics in 2005. He died on May 28 on his 89th birthday.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, who led the tributes, noted that Mr. Seaga always had an enquiring mind.

He said Mr. Seaga had a deeper understanding of the culture of the people and thinking, and under-



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

stood their dreams and aspirations.

"In many ways, he introduced Jamaicans to their culture. He brought Jamaican culture out of the dark and obscure into the light of the mainstream to stand side by side with colonial culture, thereby giving definition to who we are as a people and getting us to accept what we create as being valuable," Mr. Holness said.

For his part, former Prime Minister, Bruce Golding, noted that Mr. Seaga ranks high in the profound impact he had on Jamaica's national and political landscape.

He added that the passion with which Mr. Seaga served his constituents and the spectacular way he built the institutions that stand as milestones have made him a "legend of our time".



Members of the Houses of Parliament pay tribute to the late former Prime Minister the Most Hon. Edward Seaga.

Diaspora Policy Reflects Commitment to Jamaicans Abroad – Foreign Affairs Minister

MINISTER OF Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, says the proposed implementation of a National Diaspora Policy reflects the commitment of the Government across administrations to the development and well-being of Jamaicans abroad.

She said that the policy, which is now at the draft stage, has gone through various consultations and reviews, including valuable inputs from the Jamaican Diaspora.

"We had multi-level layers of consultation and even then, there were deeper discussions with the Diaspora Advisory Board members. This is part of a truly inclusive process, which has taken us to this draft National Diaspora Policy," she said.

She was speaking at a plenary session for the Eighth Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston on June 19.

Mrs. Johnson Smith said the policy is intended to provide the foundational insti-



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith

tutional framework for engagement with the Diaspora.

The Foreign Affairs Minister said the intention is to now embed the policy "to make sure it is there in a formal sense, which will lead to its sustainability".

Eight major policy goals have been established for the National Diaspora Policy. These treat with diaspora engagement and facilitation of their partnership in national development, including through human capital inputs, promotion of the well-being of Jamaicans at home and abroad, and the engagement of young people.

More ABC Kiosks for Airports

MINISTER OF National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, says additional automated border-crossing (ABC) kiosks will soon be made available at the island's two international airports.

Speaking at the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) Border Security Conference on June 19, at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew, Dr. Chang said the increase in the kiosks will positively impact the processing of

incoming passengers at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston and Sangster International in Montego Bay, St. James.

"This will contribute to an overall improvement in services being offered at our ports of entry, including a significant reduction in the wait time in the immigration hall," he pointed out.

Dr. Chang noted that the ABC kiosks, which were introduced in 2014, have boosted PICA's capacity to

process incoming travellers to the island.

"Recent figures show that wait time within the immigration halls has dropped from a minimum of three hours to under 80 minutes during peak times over the last two years," he said.

The kiosks are a partnership between the Ministry of National Security and PICA, with the objectives of enhancing travel facilitation and achieving increased border security.



Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, speaks at the Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) Border Security Conference, held on June 19 at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew.

SRHA Receives Ambulances



Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, examines a piece of equipment inside one of the three retrofitted ambulances, which were officially handed over to the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA), recently, at the Percy Junior Hospital in Manchester. Looking on (from left) are Dimitri South, representing Member of Parliament for North East Manchester, Audley Shaw and Vice Chairman of the SRHA Board, Michael Stern.

More Than 4,000 Persons Find Jobs Through LMIS

SINCE THE recent upgrading of Jamaica's Labour Market Information System (LMIS), some 4,208 persons have found jobs, while the system has attracted 1,300 employers and 23,000 jobseekers.

Making the disclosure, Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Zavia Mayne, said the LMIS has had a "significant impact" on the labour market in Jamaica.

"The LMIS has become a national employment portal, with career practitioners and educators now using it to

make informed decisions," the State Minister said.

He was delivering the keynote address at the launch of the LMIS website and mobile application, held on June 17 at the Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston.

The Internet-based system has three major components – the Electronic Labour Exchange (ELE), the Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) and the Skills Bank. It was established to link prospective employers with employees through a web-based medium.

A major function of the ELE is the provision of career counselling to jobseekers, tips on résumé writing, interview and job search techniques.

Mr. Mayne informed that the system is part of his Ministry's continued quest to "reduce unemployment and to minimise the existing skills gap in the labour market".

He pointed out that the website is now more user-friendly, and features improved job-matching capability, easier navigation, and is more contemporary.



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