

Gov't Pushes Inclusive Education System

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Government remains resolute in facilitating an inclusive education system that caters to the needs of all children, particularly those with special needs.

"The Government is very sensitive towards special needs education and towards providing the service. We acknowledge that we are not at the service level that we should be, but we are going to be increasing our budget. Indeed, this year we have increased the budget significantly for special needs education," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking during a visit to the Special Needs Department at Liberty Academy at the Priory in St. Andrew, on July 16.

Mr. Holness said the establishment of diagnostic and care centres to cater to students with special education needs is paramount, as these will assist in the delivery of



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) observes as teachers from the Special Needs Department at Liberty Academy at the Priory, in St. Andrew, Jami-Ann Genius (left) and Tamalee Hamilton (right), interact with students during a visit to the institution on July 16. To the Prime Minister's left is Special Needs Coordinator, Liberty Academy at the Priory, Toni-Ann Millen.

special education programmes and services.

"The challenge that we have is that we don't have centres like these spread right across the island in a

geographically equitable way where the population can access. We are building one now at the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE) in Portland that will

serve that end of the island, where there is a total under-provision of services," he informed.

The Prime Minister reminded parents that the Ministry of Education has an obligation to provide an education to every single child, and encouraged them to make contact directly with the Ministry if they are experiencing difficulties.

Unemployment Drops to 7.8 Per Cent

THE STATISTICAL Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) is reporting further reduction in the unemployment rate to a new record low of 7.8 per cent.

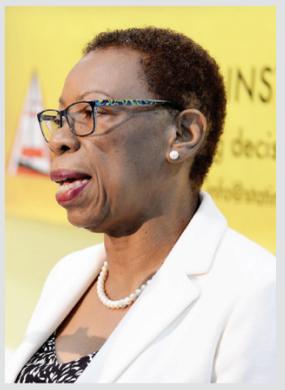
As contained in STATIN's April 2019 Labour Force Survey, the figure is two percentage points lower than the 9.8 per cent recorded for the corresponding period last year, and 0.2 per cent lower than the out-turn for January.

Director General, Carol Coy, said the number of unemployed persons as at April fell by 25,900 or 19.7 per cent to 105,900, relative to 2018.

She was speaking at STATIN's quarterly briefing at the Knutsford Court Hotel in New Kingston on July 17.

Ms. Coy said the male unemployment rate declined by 1.8 percentage points to 5.5 per cent, while the corresponding figure for females fell by 2.1 percentage points to 10.6 per cent.

"The number of unemployed males decreased by 13,000 to 39,900 in April



Director General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), Carol Coy

2019. Over the same period, the number of unemployed females was 65,600. This was a decline of 12,900," the Director General outlined.

Additionally, she said the unemployment rate for youth, aged 14 to 24, fell by 6.4 percentage points from 25.9 per cent in April 2018, to 19.5 per cent this year.

She pointed out that the overall employed labour force increased by 29,900 persons or 2.5 per cent to 1,244,500, over the 1,214,600 for April 2018.

Floating Storage Terminal Unveiled



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) makes a point to Chief Executive Officer, New Fortress Energy, Wes Edens (right), at the unveiling of the floating storage regasification terminal in Clarendon on July 19. At left is Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Fayval Williams.

Preparatory Activities for Vernamfield Development Under Way

THE AIRPORTS Authority of Jamaica (AAJ) is undertaking several preparatory activities for the Vernamfield development project in Clarendon.

Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Mike Henry, said that these include acquisition of private property and the transfer of crown lands near the runway, to allow for compliance with standards relating to runway geometry and Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) requirements.

He noted that concrete structures within the protected verges of the runway have been demolished in keeping with OLS standards, while Jamaica Public Service (JPS) power lines along the Gimme-Mi-Bit main road will have to be rerouted or buried, and trees removed.

Minister Henry was making his contribution to the 2019/20



Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Mike Henry, makes his contribution to the 2019/20 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on July 16.

Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on July 16.

He informed that leaking water mains are being repaired in conjunction with the National Water Commission (NWC) and the National Irrigation Commission (NIC).

Meanwhile, Minister Henry said that work on community roads is slated to com-

mence later this month, and once the repairs are completed, the runway will be closed to vehicular traffic to facilitate rehabilitation.

Mr. Henry said that once the runway rehabilitation is completed, Vernamfield will have the third longest facility in Jamaica and will be the largest airport in terms of real estate.

Violence Prevention Commission Begins Work

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Violence Prevention Commission has been empanelled and has started working.

Speaking in the House of Representatives on July 16, the Prime Minister said the terms of reference is being retrieved, and as soon as that is completed, he will officially launch the Commission.

During the sitting, the House approved a 90-day extension of the State of Public Emergency (SOE) for the South St. Andrew division.

The Violence Prevention Commission will be examining all aspects of violence and ways to address it to ensure lasting solutions in the country.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness speaks in the House of Representatives on July 16.

Mr. Holness informed that the Commission will pull together all the research and studies already done on violence.

"We will pull that together to make some recommen-

dations – how do we treat with trauma, with corporal punishment, intimate partner violence and domestic violence. All those things have to be addressed," he said.

Tyres to be Removed From Riverton City

THE GOVERNMENT is to embark on an initiative to remove the over two million tyres currently stockpiled at the Riverton City disposal site in Kingston.

This initiative is a collaboration of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz, made the disclosure during his contribution to the 2019/20 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on July 16.

"These entities are in advanced discussions with a private-sector company to



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz

implement a pilot project for the removal and transportation of tyres from the Riverton City Landfill, to be disposed of in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner," Mr. Vaz said.

He told the Lower House that approximately 1,000 tyres are deposited at the site each day and pose a potential fire hazard, as well as provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other pests.

"Successful implementation will allow for the expansion of this initiative to those tyres stockpiled at the other disposal sites across the island," Mr. Vaz noted.

He added that strict enforcement measures are being instituted by the relevant regulatory agencies, with the support of the security forces, to eliminate the illegal open burning of tyres by individuals within the environs of the Riverton City disposal site.



WE HAVE MOVED

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