

HOPE Phase II to Roll Out Shortly

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the next phase of the Government's training and apprenticeship initiative, the Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme, is to be rolled out shortly.

This, he said, will entail institutionalising the employment and training aspect of the programme.

"I am very satisfied [and] happy to see the programme come to this point where we can now say we have tested it, it has worked and we are now going to bring the programme to the institutional phase where it will be a constant feature of the development of Jamaica," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking during the final stop of a tour of HOPE projects across the Corporate Area on July 24.

Mr. Holness further explained that when the programme is institutionalised, HOPE "will probably move from the Office of the Prime



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) observes work being done by Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme intern, Shenelle Adams (left), during a visit to the HEART GARMEX Training Institute on July 24. Looking on is National Coordinator of the HOPE Programme, Lt. Col. Martin Rickman.

Minister [and be placed] under some other agency that can carry it more effectively".

The Prime Minister noted that the opportunities component is being developed and will be launched soon

along with the production aspect.

"We have already decided that for the production component, we are going to be focusing on getting young people into agriculture using technology," he said.

Mr. Holness noted that HOPE has proven to be successful thus far, having benefited 24,000 youth over the last two years, who have now become examples of and ambassadors for the programme.

Gov't Approves Contract for Twickenham Park Housing Development

CABINET HAS awarded a \$1.2 billion contract to Ashtrom Building Systems Limited for the construction of 110 two-bedroom single-storey duplex units under phase four of the Twickenham Park Housing Development project in St. Catherine.

Speaking at the post-Cabinet press briefing held on July 24 at Jamaica House, Minister without Portfolio with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda, said the project will also include civil infrastructure works and will last for 16 months.

"The company will also undertake supporting civil infrastructure works to include roadways, a storm water drainage system, a potable water distribution system, sewerage network, and other important aspects of the development," the Minister said.



Minister without Portfolio with responsibility for Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda

He pointed out that the development is consistent with the Government's drive to build out homes that are appropriate for the people of Jamaica.

The National Housing Trust (NHT) is undertaking the development of the housing project.

Gov't Partners With Carib Cement to Remove Tyres from Riverton

THE GOVERNMENT is partnering with the Caribbean Cement Company to remove between 1.5 and two million tyres from the Riverton City landfill in St. Andrew.

This will be initially facilitated under a pilot project expected to last 40 days and, thereafter, fully rolled out over time.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed at Jamaica House on July 22 to undertake the activity, which is a collaboration of the Ministry of Economic Growth

and Job Creation, and the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, through the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness said the tyres, which have been accumulating for decades at Riverton as well as other landfills across the island, pose a serious threat to the environment, mainly due to the fire hazard, as when a fire occurs toxins are released into the atmosphere.

Mr. Holness noted that the project is imperative to the Government's environmental agenda, and will see the tyres being removed and transported to Carib Cement's location in Kingston, where they will be incinerated in a managed process in a kiln (to provide some form of energy).

"The Government is on a path; we are committed, and I think that this is a synergistic solution to the problem of solid waste disposal, particularly those combustible types in the form of tyres," he said.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (3rd left) affixes his signature to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will see the Government and Caribbean Cement Company (Carib Cement) collaborating to remove and dispose of between 1.5 to 2 million tyres from the Riverton City Landfill. Also taking part (from left) are: Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Audrey Sewell; Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz; Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, Marsha Henry Martin; and outgoing General Manager, Carib Cement, Peter Donkersloot. The signing took place at Jamaica House on July 22.

Tourism Ministry Hosts Summer Internship Programme

THE MINISTRY of Tourism has again afforded hundreds of youth the opportunity to gain work experience within the hospitality sector, through the 'Spruce Up Jamaica' Tourism Summer Internship Programme.

The initiative, which started in 2008, is being spearheaded this year by the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo).

Some \$25 million has been provided by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) for the engagement, which commenced on July 8.

The programme entailed the placement of high school and tertiary students, aged 16 to 25, in employment within private sector tourism



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett

entities, and Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies for three weeks.

The programme's primary objectives are to expose young persons to various aspects of the tourism industry and the role it plays in the society, forge partnerships with private stakeholders,

provide financial support for needy youngsters, and increase awareness of the linkages between tourism and other sectors.

Speaking at a rally for interns at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston on July 24, portfolio Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, said the programme continues to create opportunities within the sector for the nation's youth, in keeping with its objectives.

He also thanked members of the private sector who have been partnering with the Government on the programme's execution by facilitating and enabling interns to gain work experience.



PM Opens Play Area at Seaward Primary and Junior High School

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Hon. Andrew Holness (left) engages in conversation with student, Infant Department at Seaward Primary and Junior High School, Kerica Thomas, after officially opening the play area during a ceremony at the school on July 25. In the background is the Principal, Arlene Thomas.



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