

Completion of Arrangements With IMF a Major Milestone

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says Jamaica's successful completion of financial arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a major milestone in the country's economic history, for which all Jamaicans can be proud.

"We have worked conscientiously, deliberately...we have worked with transparency. We have worked diligently to ensure that we meet all the targets that we have set for ourselves and this is a major achievement in our economy and our development generally," he said.

Mr. Holness was speaking at a press conference held at the Office of the Prime Minister, on September 18, as the IMF completes its sixth and final review mission under



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (at podium) highlights a point while addressing a press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister on September 18.

the Precautionary Stand-by Arrangement (SBA).

The Prime Minister said Jamaica is now being viewed

as an example of a country "that has successfully executed difficult economic policies".

He noted that the programme's success signals to all stakeholders "that our system of governance can keep its word, and that is very important for trust-building; it's very important for policy credibility".

Mr. Holness said that the accomplishment was also due, in part, to the fact that the country had ownership of the programme.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that "with the IMF now out of the room" the Government can maintain the fiscal discipline to which the country has committed over the last 10 years.

Hagley Park Road Project 85 Per Cent Complete

THE HAGLEY Park Road Improvement Project is approximately 85 per cent complete.



National Works Agency (NWA) Manager for Communication and Customer Services, Stephen Shaw

National Works Agency (NWA) Manager for Communication and Customer Services, Stephen Shaw, told **JIS News** that the drainage network is about 90 per cent complete with works to be done on the storm-water drains in the Three Miles area.

"We still have some work to do in respect of the pavement works, sidewalks and curbs. We still have

some drainage features that we need to tidy up," he said.

"Once all of those things – which are precursor items to the final lift of asphalt – are completed, then we will move quickly to have the roads paved, the markings done, the cat eyes installed, and all the permanent features in respect of the traffic signals installed and commissioned into service, so that the public can have the full benefit of the improvement works that we have undertaken here," he noted.

Mr. Shaw told **JIS News** that the bridges associated with the project have been completed and are in use.

"What is left to be done is that along the structure that takes persons along Spanish Town Road, we have a bit of paving to do at the eastern end of those lanes that take persons towards downtown Kingston," he said.

The US\$56-million Hagley Park Road Improvement Project is designed to significantly improve traffic flow in the Corporate Area.

Jamaica Fire Brigade to Get Eight New Trucks

MINISTER OF Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, says the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) will be getting an additional eight trucks to bolster the country's fire-fighting capacity.

"We are providing eight brand-new trucks at a cost of over \$400 million," he said.

"When we take into consideration the trucks that we [got] from the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) from the last financial year and this

financial year, the Fire Brigade will have at least some 16 new trucks at its disposal, including water tankers," he noted.

Minister McKenzie was speaking to journalists after a recent tour of the Barnett Street Fire Station construction project in Montego Bay, St. James.

JSIF is funding the works at a cost of \$534.9 million under the Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Programme (DVRP).

The new fire station, which will have capacity to house 200 firefighters, will replace the old Barnett Street facility that was demolished in 2006. Since then, firefighters have been operating from the Montego Freeport.

Minister McKenzie expressed gratitude to JSIF for funding the construction

of the new fire station and improving works at other facilities across the island.

The DVRP supports the Government's overall thrust in strengthening climate and disaster-risk management within the wider context of sustainable development. This includes construction of national priority infrastructure, such as fire stations.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right), converses with Mayor of Montego Bay, Councillor Homer Davis (left), and Superintendent in Charge of the St. James Fire Department, Dolphin Doeman, during a tour of the Barnett Street Fire Station construction project in St. James, recently.

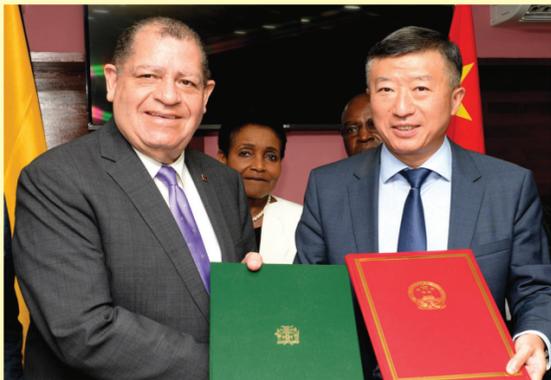
Jamaica to Export Frozen Lobster to China

THE GOVERNMENTS of Jamaica and the People's Republic of China, on September 19, signed a protocol governing the export of frozen lobster from the island to the Chinese market.

The agreement outlines the sanitary and hygienic conditions necessary to facilitate such export and the responsibilities of the local competent authority/veterinary services division in coordination with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw, in his remarks at the signing ceremony held at the Ministry's Hope Gardens offices in St. Andrew, said that the agreement is "a big step in the right direction, because it further expands the market for the export of frozen lobsters into China".

He urged potential exporters and other stake-



Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Audley Shaw (left), and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Tian Qi, exchange copies of the signed protocol governing the export of frozen lobster to China, at the Ministry's Hope Gardens offices in St. Andrew on September 19.

holders to comply with the requirements.

Minister Shaw said the new agreement expands on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the countries, on September 22, 2017, for the export of other fisheries products into China.

He noted that since that MOU signing, a protocol for the export of live

lobster was developed and ratified by both countries, and there has been a steady export of live spiny lobster from Jamaica to China.

"In 2018, over 23,700 kilogrammes (kg) of live spiny lobster were exported to China. The expectation is that over 28,000 kilogrammes of live lobster will be exported in 2019," he said.

Magazine for School Leaders Launched



State Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Alando Terrelonge (left), and Director/Principal, National College for Educational Leadership (NCEL), Dr. Taneisha Ingleton, examine a copy of the new NCEL magazine, dubbed 'The Principal's Voice', at the launch of the publication on September 18, at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew.

120 Teachers Targeted for Training to Address Learning Disorders

A TOTAL of 120 primary school teachers in 75 schools across seven parishes will be trained and certified in the use of the Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, in order to diagnose and correct various language-based learning disabilities in students.

Under the six-month-long project, which is being funded by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) at a cost of \$20.6 million, teachers will receive 350 hours of professional development training in the Lindamood-Bell Literacy Modules; 450 hours of professional development coaching;

three years of ongoing instructional leadership development; and job-embedded coaching and teaching kits.

The training, which will be conducted by the Creative Language-Based Learning (CLBL) Foundation, is being financed under JSIF's Integrated Community Development Project and the Special Educator Needs Coordinator Phase Two.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Alando Terrelonge, welcomed the initiative, noting that it has the

potential to revolutionise the education sector in Jamaica.

"When we have a creative learning-based platform that will assist children with learning disabilities, it is a win not just for the teachers, who are being trained, but it is a win for all our thousands of Jamaican children, who will now benefit from teachers who've educated themselves and gone through professional development," he noted.

Mr. Terrelonge was speaking at the contract-signing ceremony with CLBL representatives at JSIF's headquarters in Kingston on September 18.

Business Hours Under State of Public Emergency Extended

THE HOURS during which businesses can operate under the State of Public Emergency in Clarendon and St. Catherine have been extended and gazetted.

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

informed of the extended opening hours during the sitting of the Senate on September 19.

To this end, in respect of clubs and fast-food restaurants, the opening hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; establishments required by

The Senate, on September 19, approved the Emergency Powers (No. 3) Continuance Resolution, allowing for SOEs in Clarendon and St. Catherine to remain in effect until October 19.

law to operate under a tavern licence – 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; petroleum filling stations – 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; supermarkets and grocery shops/haberdasheries – 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; pharmacies – 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; churches – 6:00 a.m. to 11:00

p.m.; and other public places – 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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