

Jamaica Best Choice for Business - PM

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is inviting regional and international investors to make Jamaica their place of choice to invest and do business.

"We have established a stable and expanding economy that is open and welcoming of investors in all sectors," said Mr. Holness.

He was speaking at the opening day of the Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations (CHICOS) Summit at the Secrets Wild Orchard and St. James Resorts in Montego Bay on November 14.

The Prime Minister, in highlighting the strides made in improving ease of doing business, noted that Jamaica has become a model for public-private partnership (PPP) investments, ranking second in the 2019 Infrascope PPP Programme Index for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Additionally, he said that the country attracted US\$196



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness speaking at the opening of the Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations (CHICOS) Summit at the Secrets Wild Orchard and St. James Resorts in Montego Bay on November 14.

million in foreign direct investments (FDI) and created 29,900 new jobs in the fiscal year 2018/2019.

"Jamaica was ranked, this year, as the best Caribbean country for doing business by Forbes [magazine]. We had the best performing

stock market as acknowledged by Bloomberg. It's likely no surprise that Jamaica was voted best destination in the Caribbean and among the 14 best destinations in the world for 2019 by TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards," Mr. Holness said.

He added that the Government recognises there is still more work to be done and is making headway in enacting the necessary legislation and policies that will attract greater levels of investments for Jamaica.

\$1.3B for Sanitation, Drain Cleaning and Beautification Programme

THE GOVERNMENT will be undertaking a major mitigation, sanitation, drain-cleaning and beautification programme at a cost of \$1.3 billion.

The programme, to be executed over the next few months up to February 2020,

will be implemented by the National Works Agency (NWA) and the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), with the Ministry of Health and Wellness providing guidance.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, who

made the disclosure in the House of Representatives on November 12, said that the programme will take on a national focus and will be driven by the needs of each constituency, as advised by the Members of Parliament (MPs).

for patching of potholes/minor road repairs.

The Prime Minister said the Integrity Commission has been invited to provide the requisite oversight for the implementation of the programme.

"The work that we expect to be undertaken would be clearing and cleaning of blocked drains and gullies, de-bushing, clearing and cleaning of roadsides, gully banks, median and verges; collecting municipal waste and cleaning and beautification of public spaces," he said.

Under the programme, each constituency will receive \$15 million, broken down as follows – \$4 million for bushing and drain cleaning, \$3 million for sanitation and beautification, \$3 million for vector control, and \$5 million

Gov't Earmarks \$1B to Bolster Dengue Eradication Programme

THE GOVERNMENT will be spending \$1 billion over the next three months to support enhanced measures to contain the spread of the dengue virus.

Of the sum, some \$469.9 million is earmarked for the procurement of 31 mounted fogging machines; 35 fogging vehicles; ultra-low volume flushing solutions; 25 handheld fogging machines; 150 cases of Natular tablets for water treatment; and continuing the engagement of 1,000 vector workers into March 2020.

Additionally, approximately \$302.5 million will go towards solid waste removal, and \$227.5 million for sensitisation.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, made the announcement during a statement to the House of Representatives on November 12.

He informed that the enhanced intervention includes the establishment of a National Dengue Coordination Committee that will comprise representatives of key ministries, departments and agencies.

Dr. Tufton noted the National Solid Waste Man-



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton

agement Authority is to ramp up the removal of solid waste, especially bulky waste, from communities; while the National Works Agency is to undertake drain cleaning and bushing activities to reduce mosquito breeding sites, especially in communities with high indices.

The enhanced measures will also see the planning and execution of a National Mosquito Eradication Day exercise in conjunction with the National Labour Day Secretariat in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness emphasises a point during a statement to the House of Representatives on November 12.

\$140M Adult Transitional Facility to be Built in Kingston

A STATE-of-the-art Adult Transitional Facility is to be built at a cost of nearly \$140 million to serve homeless persons in Kingston and St. Andrew.

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, on November 11, broke ground for the centre at 163-167 King Street, downtown Kingston.

The facility, to be operated and managed by the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation (KSAMC), will be the first of its kind in Jamaica.

It will offer temporary care to members of the homeless population. Through treatment and intervention provided, persons will be reintegrated into the society.

Minister McKenzie, in his address at the ground breaking said that the Government is committed to providing support for the less fortunate in the society, including the homeless.

He said that the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) will be responsible for the maintenance of the grounds of the compound.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (centre), breaks ground for construction of a state of the art Adult Transitional Facility for the homeless in Kingston on November 11. Others participating (from left) are Minority Leader at the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation (KSAMC), Andrew Swaby; Mayor of Kingston, Senator Delroy Williams; Senior Pastor at the Webster Memorial Church, Rev. Astor Carlye; and Managing Director of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Omar Sweeney.

Mayor of Kingston, Senator Delroy Williams, said establishment of the facility will better enable the municipal authority to manage the problems of homelessness in the Corporate Area.

"This Adult Transitional Facility will ease the burden from the Marie Atkinson Night Shelter," he said, adding that more persons will be reached at the new centre.

I Believe Initiative (IBI) Ambassadors Installed



Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (6th left, 2nd row) with the newly installed I Believe Initiative (IBI) Ambassadors, at a luncheon and pinning ceremony held on November 14 at the Spanish Court Hotel, in New Kingston. Seated at the front are the Custodes of Jamaica.

Amaterra Group and Marriott Int'l Partner on New Hotel Development

THE AMATERRA Jamaica Group has entered a hotel management operator agreement with global chain, Marriott International.

The partnership will see Marriott bringing its first all-inclusive property to the island.

An agreement formalising the arrangement was signed during a press launch at the Hard Rock Café in St. James on November 13.

The project, to be sited in Trelawny, will be Amaterra's flagship development. It will initially comprise 800 rooms, and boast two miles of white-sand beach.

Construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2020 and be completed in 2022.

Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, who spoke during the signing ceremony,

said the partnership is a "high point for our tourism investment programme".

He emphasised that the deal is indicative of Trelawny's repositioning as a strong tourism destination on the island.

Mr. Bartlett further pointed out that the arrangement, along with several other investments in the pipeline, will see the parish boasting



Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett

With several other investments in the pipeline, will see the parish boasting close to 15,000 hotel rooms.

close to 15,000 hotel rooms "which will make it the

largest block for formal tourism accommodation within [Jamaica's] tourism sector".

The Minister also underscored the importance of ensuring that Jamaica's cultural offerings, including food, are heavily incorporated in new tourism developments on the island.

