

Gov't Moves to Monetise Brand Jamaica

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Government will be pumping resources towards monetising and upgrading brand Jamaica to better capitalise on its economic benefit and value.

He said that the objective is to attract more businesses to the country and also ensure that more Jamaican brands become international.

"Cabinet received a presentation about brand Jamaica, and what we're going to be doing is now literally building out the infrastructure to truly create brand Jamaica. We always hear talks about brand Jamaica, but we do not monetise it," the Prime Minister said.

"And so we are going to put some money behind it to truly own brand Jamaica and ensure that when you hear about brand Jamaica there



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right), greets Chief Executive Officer of MegaMart Wholesale Club, Gassan Azan Jr. (left) at the supermarket's 20th anniversary long-service awards ceremony on November 18, at AC Hotel by Marriott in New Kingston. Looking on is the hotel's general manager, Koen Hietbrink.

are certain things that immediately come to mind," he added.

He was delivering his keynote address at MegaMart's 20th anniversary awards

ceremony on November 18 at the AC Hotel by Marriot in New Kingston.

Mr. Holness lauded the founder and Chief Executive Officer of MegaMart, Gassan Azan Jr., for creating a "good brand" that provides quality goods and services to the public.

"I believe the most valuable thing that you have is the brand. The Jamaican people have grown to trust it. They know it," he noted.

Cardiology Unit Opens at KPH

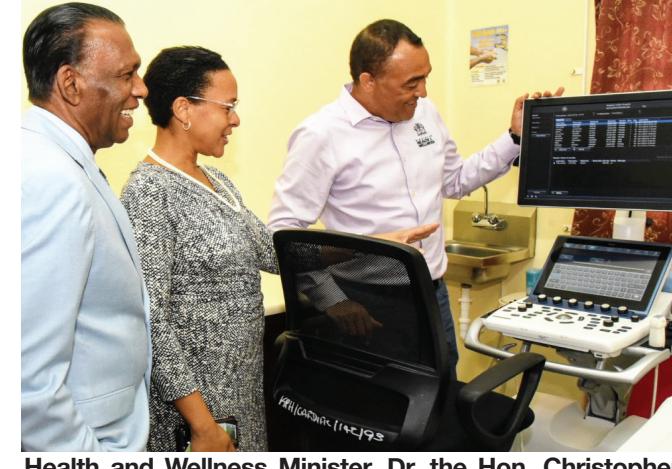
PERSONS CAN now access non-invasive cardiac services at the recently established Cardiology Department, at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH).

Establishment of the unit was made possible through \$64 million in funding provided by the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund.

The facility is equipped with one echocardiogram with three reading stations, one portable echocardiogram, one Holter System with five monitors and electrocardiogram (ECG) extenders, one transoesophageal probe, five patient monitors, five infusion pumps, one defibrillator and one medical treadmill.

The unit was officially opened on November 20.

In his keynote address at the ceremony, Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, said there is need to improve the diagnosis of cardiovascular disease and the treatment of cardiac patients, especially in the public health system.



Health and Wellness Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), examines a Holter System – a type of ambulatory electrocardiography device, at the official opening of the Cardiology Unit at the Kingston Public Hospital, on November 20. Sharing the moment are Head of the KPH Cardiology Unit, Dr. Camille Christian (centre), and Chief Executive Officer, CHASE Fund, Wilford 'Billy' Heaven.

the Jamaican population is cardiovascular disease.

With more than 25 per cent of Jamaica's adult population having at least one major risk factor for the condition, Dr. Tufton said there is need to improve the diagnosis of cardiovascular disease and the treatment of cardiac patients, especially in the public health system.

"In terms of capacity, the unit will increase accessibility and standard of care for cardiac patients by increasing a range of services, moving from 10 patients a week to 15 patients per day in terms of capacity... You will now be in a position to provide modern, minimal invasive procedures," he noted.

Golden Hill Gets Water Supply System

MORE THAN 1,000 residents of several communities in West Rural St. Andrew now have more reliable access to potable water following the installation of a supply system in Golden Hill.

The Government is committed to putting measures in place to ensure that citizens across the island have reliable access to potable water, particularly during dry periods.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. (centre), turns on the tap to commission into service the Golden Hill Water Supply System in St. Andrew on November 20. Sharing the moment (from left) are resident, Ainsworth Kelly; Member of Parliament for West Rural St. Andrew, Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn; Managing Director, Rural Water Supply Limited, Audley Thompson; and resident, Myrtle Brown.

which will serve Golden Hill, Pinto Lane, Fraser Lane and surrounding areas.

Minister Charles Jr said that the Government is committed to putting measures in place to ensure that citizens

across the island have reliable access to potable water, particularly during dry periods.

"As a Government, we acknowledge that it is important for us to make it clear that our mission is not just to

provide water supply for Kingston and St. Andrew, and St. Catherine and Montego Bay. When we talk about water supply, we mean urban, rural – all of Jamaica," he said.

Growth Recorded for July to September Quarter

THE PLANNING Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) is reporting that the economy grew by an estimated 0.3 per cent for the July to September 2019 quarter, relative to the corresponding period last year.

Speaking at the PIOJ's quarterly briefing at the Institute's head office in New Kingston on November 19, Director General, Dr. Wayne Henry, said this represents the 19th consecutive quarter of economic growth that the country has recorded.

"The projected out-turn... largely reflected the positive impact of increased domestic demand, pushed by record levels of employment, increased consumer and business confidence levels, which spurred investment and consumer demand, and continued stability in the macroeconomic environment. This augured well for the business environment," the PIOJ Head noted.

Dr. Henry said the out-turn for the September 2019 quarter was driven by an estimated 1.2 per cent growth in the services industry, despite a 2.1 percentage point contraction in the goods producing industry.



Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Dr. Wayne Henry

He noted that all services group subindustries grew, led by finance and insurance services, which recorded three per cent – the biggest out-turn across all sectors.

Dr. Henry informed that the economy is estimated to have grown by 1.2 per cent for the first nine months of the 2019 calendar year, between January and September.

He said it is projected that growth for the October to December quarter will range between zero and one per cent.

Fifteen Outstanding Youth Leaders Selected for YACJ



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) presents the instrument of office to newly installed Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica (YACJ) member, Lavois Cruickshank (left) during a ceremony held at Jamaica House on November 21. Sharing the moment is Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Alando Terrelonge.

BoJ Reports Increase in Credit Given by Deposit-Taking Institutions

BANK OF Jamaica (BOJ) is reporting a 15.5 per cent increase in credit extended by deposit-taking institutions (DTIs) to businesses and households for the 12-month period ending September 2019.



Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) Governor, Richard Byles

BoJ Governor, Richard Byles, says this is "broadly consistent" with the level of growth in this area, since the start of the year.

He was speaking at the Central Bank's quarterly briefing in downtown Kingston, on November 21.

"In addition to loans from DTIs, firms have been

obtaining financing from the issue of corporate bonds and equity," he added.

Mr. Byles said the continued buoyant growth in DTI credit results from institutions, such as commercial banks, merchant banks and building societies, reducing lending rates on local currency loans.

This, he added, is consequent on reductions in the BOJ's policy rate on overnight DTI placements, which have fallen from 3.75 per cent to 0.5 per cent per annum, since June 2017.

Meanwhile, Deputy Governor, Dr. Wayne Robinson, noted that underlying the overall 15.5 per cent increase in credit is a "healthy" 17 per cent growth in loans to the productive sector, year on year.

"We are seeing growth... right across a number of sectors [including] manufacturing, construction, distribution [and] professional services... so it's quite broad-based," he added.

