

Gov't Completes Revision of NIDS Policy

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Government has concluded revisions to the National Identification System (NIDS) policy, which is now being reviewed by primary stakeholders.

"We expect the review process to be completed in the next two weeks, after which, the Cabinet will consider the revised policy," he said in a statement to the House of Representatives on November 26.

Mr. Holness advised that the revised policy is consistent with the recommendations of the Supreme Court's ruling.

That decision, made earlier this year, rendered the enabling legislation, the National Identification and Registration Bill, which was passed in Parliament in 2017, null and void.

Mr. Holness said based on those recommendations,

it is intended that new drafting instructions incorporating strengthened oversight and security provisions will be issued by January 2020.

This, he added, is with the aim of tabling a new Bill by the end of 2019/20 financial year.

Mr. Holness stressed that establishing a national system of identification "is not an option", but a necessity, in an increasingly digital age.

"Even in countries that formerly were taking a position that we don't need to do this, they are all now moving towards understanding that if they are going to have a digital economy, they need to be able to identify citizens operating within (this setting)," he said.

NIDS is intended to provide a comprehensive and secure structure to capture and store information on the identity of all Jamaicans.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness speaking during the sitting of the House of Representatives on November 26.

Jamaica Earns US\$3.1 Billion to Date From Visitor Arrivals

PRELIMINARY FIGURES from the Jamaica Tourist Board indicate that Jamaica has earned US\$3.1 billion to date.

The data also indicates that from January to October 2019, Jamaica welcomed 3.4 million visitors to the island.

"We are very proud... that we have hit the US\$3.1 billion mark for earnings. We had already broken the three million mark for arrivals, so we are on track to surpass our target," Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett said.

In a release from the Ministry, Mr. Bartlett noted that December is usually a strong month for the country and it begins the high season when the rates are higher.

"In all probability we will more than likely make our US\$3.7 billion projection for



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett

this year and with a little luck we might be on the edge for US\$4 billion," he said.

Mr. Bartlett added that the island is now on track to surpass the ministry's five-pillar growth strategy, which when proposed in 2016, was projected to result in visitor arrivals increasing to five million in five years and earning US\$5 billion.

PM Encourages Youth to Pursue Excellence



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (3rd left, front row) and Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (third right, front row), with youth mayors and youth councillors from the 14 municipalities across the island, during a courtesy call at Jamaica House in St. Andrew on November 27.

Jamaica Information Service Cops Major Awards

TEAM MEMBERS of the Jamaica Information Service (JIS), who have distinguished themselves in their respective areas of expertise, copped several major awards this month, solidifying the

work of the agency in the delivery of quality media services.

Leading the charge was communications stalwart and Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Enthrose Campbell,

who received the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) veteran's award at a luncheon, held as part of the organisation's National Journalism Week activities.

Ms. Campbell, who has served the JIS for 24 unrelenting years, was recognised by her colleagues as a role model, an educator and dedicated team leader known for her professionalism, commitment and zest in carrying out her duties.

Meanwhile, Acting Director for the Research, Print and Production Division, Celia Lindsay, walked away with the 2019 Civil Servant of the Year award in the category of Senior Management.

Dedicated civil servant and Office Manager, Rosalee Marshall Fraser, who has worked in the public service for 30 years, 18

of those years at the JIS, was also a finalist in the Middle Management category.

Meanwhile, Writer, Producer, Presenter, Anthony Morgan, was recognised at the prestigious PAJ Awards, for his outstanding work. He copped the Digicel Award for excellence for reporting on technology.

He was nominated in five categories for the PAJ Awards, which was the most by any shortlisted journalist. Morgan's winning feature focused on upgrades to the Water Resource Authority's (WRA's) water monitoring system.

"This is my first win at a PAJ awards since I started working as a journalist so I won't forget that moment my name was called. It's really a motivation for me to continue doing what I'm doing," he said.



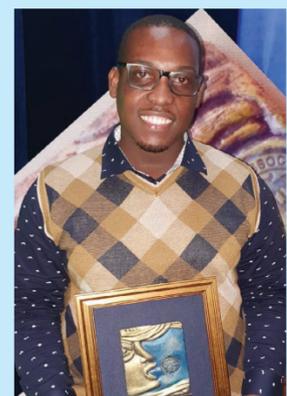
Director, Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ), R. Christene King (left), presents citation to Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Jamaica Information Service (JIS), Enthrose Campbell, at the PAJ Veterans' Luncheon, held at the Courtyard by Marriott, New Kingston, on November 20.



Acting Director for the Research, Print and Production Division, Celia Lindsay (right), accepting her Civil Servant of the Year 2019 award from Chief Executive Officer for First Heritage Co-Operative Credit Union Limited, Roxann Linton.



Mrs. Rosalee Fraser, Office Manager and finalist in the Middle Management category.



Writer, Producer, Presenter, Anthony Morgan, receives the Digicel Award for excellence for reporting on technology.

Aspiring Photographer Wins JIS Heritage Competition on Third Try

THE THIRD time was a charm for aspiring photographer, Yone Gordon, who copped the photography segment of the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) 2019 Heritage Competition after two previous attempts.

Gordon, who is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Technology at The Mico University College in St. Andrew, walked away with the winning trophy at the awards ceremony held on November 25 at the Mona Visitors' Lodge, St. Andrew.

He also received a \$15,000 cash prize; a course at the Caribbean School of Media and Communication at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona; a day pass to Jewel Runaway Bay resort; a tablet; and books from the Centre for Reparation Research at UWI, and LMH Publishing.

Gordon was among 17 participants who were awarded prizes for their entries in the competition in the categories of Photography, Poster and Essay, under the theme 'Reparation'.

An elated Gordon told **JIS News** that he first entered the competition three years ago, where he placed third, and was determined to win after his second-place finish last year.

The Waltham Park Road resident said he is very passionate about the subject of Reparation and was happy that it was selected as this

year's Heritage Competition theme.

Meanwhile, in the poster category, repeat entrant Curtis Clennon took the top prize.

The 16-year-old student of Cornwall College in Mon-tego Bay, St. James, had placed second in the competition last year.

For the Essay competition, which was open to children at the primary level, aged nine to 12, Steven Bernard of Somerton All-Age and Infant School in St. James emerged the victor.

Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Mike Henry, who was the guest speaker at the awards ceremony, congratulated the participants in the JIS Heritage Competition and encouraged them to position themselves to continue the fight for compensation for chattel slavery.

Chief Executive Officer of JIS, Donna-Marie Rowe, in her remarks, congratulated the participants in the competition for tackling such a "bold" theme.

Other sponsors for the event were: Boone Hall Oasis; CPTC/ Media Technology Institute; Frame Art Jamaica; Franklyn D. Resort; Guardian Life Limited; iCreate; Innovative Corporate Solutions; JPS Foundation; NCB Foundation; Palace Amusement Company Limited; RIU Hotels and Resorts; Royale Computers & Accessories; Universal Service Fund; WB Trophies Limited and Wisynco Group Limited.



Chief Executive Officer of the Jamaica Information Service (JIS), Donna-Marie Rowe, presents The Mico University College student, Yone Gordon, with his trophy for winning the photography segment of the JIS 2019 Heritage Competition. Occasion was the awards ceremony held on November 25, at the Mona Visitors' Lodge, University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Andrew.