

# Transformation Commission to Review Education System

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has launched the Education Transformation Commission 2020, which will be tasked with reviewing and assessing the country's public education system and making recommendations.

Speaking at the virtual launch at the Office of the Prime Minister on July 22, Mr. Holness emphasised that it is time to take decisive action to improve the education system for all Jamaicans.

The terms of reference for the Commission, to be chaired by John Cowles Professor of Sociology at Harvard University, Professor Orlando Patterson, will be to comprehensively review and assess Jamaica's education system, including its structure, operation, and processes, to recommend an action plan for change.

Mr. Holness told members of the new Commission that his charge to them would be twofold.

"The first is to advise us as to what we need to do as a



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness speaks at the virtual launch of the Education Transformation Commission 2020 at the Office of the Prime Minister on July 22.**

Government to create a world-class educational system geared towards enabling our people to fulfil their potential and develop the skills base and human capital required for Jamaica to compete successfully in the 21st century global economy," he said.

"The second is to ensure inclusivity. The system we build must ensure that all our

children and learners have access to this world-class education system that we build. If we build a world-class education system, but it is still not accessible to the ordinary Jamaican child, we would have failed," Mr. Holness added.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister pointed out that the world is on the brink of a

fourth industrial revolution, which includes biometrics, artificial intelligence and renewable energy.

"To the average Jamaican those things sound strange, but this is what will define and it is defining the world and it will become main stream in a few years," Mr. Holness said.

Some of the members of the Commission include: Professor of Law and International Affairs at Pennsylvania State University, Professor Eleanor Taylor; Professor of Development Finance and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies (UWI), Professor David Tennant; Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, UWI, Professor Michael Taylor; Professor of Child Health, Child Development and Behaviour, UWI, Professor Maureen Samms Vaughan; and Executive Director of the Centre for Digital Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing, Caribbean Maritime Institute, Erica Simmons.

## 5,000 Young Persons to be Employed Under NYSEP

A TOTAL of 5,000 persons will be facilitated under this year's renewal of the Government's National Youth Summer Employment Programme (NYSEP), slated for August.

This was disclosed by Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, who indicated that the number represents an increase of 1,000 persons over the number of participants last year.

He was making his 2020/21 Sectoral Debate presentation in the House of Representatives on July 21, under the theme 'Building National Resilience through Continuous Investment in Local Government'.

The NYSEP, which falls under the Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) programme, provides educational and job opportunities over four weeks for young people, aged 18 to 24, who are not employed or enrolled in a school or programme of training.

Mr. McKenzie indicated that while the Ministry



**Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie**

planned to extend the programme to eight weeks this year, they were forced to limit it to four weeks due to several challenges.

He advised that this year's participants will be engaged in several COVID-19-related activities island-wide, which will involve surveys, among other activities, in support of the national response to the outbreak. "Already, there are some of them out there who are doing the work," he said.

## PM Hands Over 20 New Garbage Trucks to NSWMA

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on July 23, officially handed over 20 new trucks to the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), which will improve garbage collection across the island.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony at Jamaica House, Mr. Holness said that the Government is making capital investments in equipment that will improve service delivery and build the capacity of the NSWMA.

"It is important to note that in the last four years, 63 [trucks] have been added. It is a major achievement and the Government is serious about enhancing the service," he added.

The Prime Minister, in the meantime, pointed to the need for a culture change to address littering and foster greater care for the environment.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) points out something of interest to Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. The Hon. Nigel Clarke (left); and Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right), as they view the new garbage trucks acquired for the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA). The units were officially handed over during a ceremony at Jamaica House on July 23.**

He noted that a cleaner environment will attract investment in communities.

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, in his remarks,

said the trucks will be distributed across the island, to strengthen collection and transportation of solid waste.

St. James, Clarendon, the Corporate Area and the Municipality of Portmore will

receive two trucks each to deal with the increasing demand for garbage collection, with the other parishes to receive one unit each. The remaining trucks will be used for commercial collection.

## Rediscover Jamaica Campaign Launched

THE 'REDISCOVER Jamaica' campaign, which encourages Jamaicans to taste, see, feel and enjoy the country's tourism product, was officially launched on July 22. The domestic marketing campaign also encourages persons living on the island to feel good again, by going out and enjoying the sights, scenes and taste of the island.

Speaking at the official launch at The Jamaica Pegasus, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, urged persons to take full advantage of the deals that are being provided under the campaign.

"The timing is right for the Rediscover Jamaica Campaign. Summer is traditionally a time when we take day trips to long-time favourites or to those undiscovered places. Our upcoming August holidays provide the perfect reason to enjoy our accommodations, attractions, shopping and transportation," Mr. Bartlett said.

He reminded that persons must adhere to the safety protocols that have



**Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (right), converses with media personality, Sakina Deer, during the launch of the Rediscover Jamaica domestic marketing campaign, at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston, on July 22.**

been established by the Government to protect themselves and families against the coronavirus (COVID-19).

For his part, Director of Tourism, Donovan White, noted that more than 100 tourism partners are offering discounts and products to Jamaicans, so that they can enjoy the tourism product.

He added that the offers range from as high as 50 per cent off in some instances, and urged persons to "call their travel agents to book their staycation".

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## Care Packages Distributed to Residents of Canterbury

**Mayor of Montego Bay, Councillor Homer Davis (left), presents a bag of groceries to Marjorie Mitchell (centre) on July 21, during a food distribution drive in Canterbury, Montego Bay, St. James under the first phase of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Programme sponsored by UN-HABITAT and the St. James Municipal Corporation. Sharing the moment is Councillor for the Montego Bay South Division, Richard Vernon.**



## Labour Ministry to Improve Facilities Islandwide

THE MINISTRY of Labour and Social Security has embarked on a project to improve its facilities island-wide.



**Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Mike Henry**

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Mike Henry, said the construction of a modern office building in St. Ann's Bay, at a cost of \$527 million, has been completed and will be opened in September.

He also informed that \$109 million will be spent to completely renovate the Parish Office in Sam Sharpe Square, Montego Bay.

"On completion, the facility will offer a more efficient layout for service delivery, customer comfort and a safer environment for both our staff and clients.

The renovation will include the new norms for COVID-19. We expect that office to be reopened in December 2020," Mr. Henry said.

He was making his contribution to the 2020/21 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on July 21.

The Minister also stated that in Portland, the Ministry, through the National Insurance Fund and the Factories Corporation of Jamaica, will be developing lands at Boundbrook to facilitate a modern urban centre.

He added that the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Office at 18 Ripon Road, which serves the largest number of customers, will be renovated to facilitate ease of access for persons with disabilities.