

COVID-19 Measures Extended to September 30

The Government has extended all the COVID-19 measures under the Disaster Risk Management Act (Enforcement Measures) (No. 11) Order, 2020.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness said the objective continues to be the need to reduce the exposure risk of the population to COVID-19, while increasing the capacity of the public health system to respond to cases within the population, to reduce disease spread.

He was speaking during a statement to the House of Representatives on July 28.

Turning to the ongoing curfew, which ended on July 31, Mr. Holness noted that this will continue in place until September 30. "All of the rules relating to the curfew, including travelling times, those remain," he informed.

Also, the COVID-19 safety measures that are in place for the creative and entertain-



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

ment sector and would have ended July, 31, have been extended to September 30.

Similarly, measures for places of amusement, beaches, rivers,

river rafting, restaurants and cinemas, have also been extended to September 30.

The extension of measures to this period, also applies to

zoos, parks and water parks.

Additionally, the Prime Minister informed that the operating hours for markets and vending will also continue through to the 30th of September. Market hours are Monday to Saturdays, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and are closed on Sundays.

Further, measures relating to infirmaries, such as no visitors or admissions of new patients, and those relating to hospitals and nursing homes, namely one visitor per day, will also remain in place until the 30th of September.

In addition, measures regarding the operation of day-care centres and relating to gatherings not exceeding 20 persons will continue in force until September 30.

On another matter, the Prime Minister informed that the phased reopening of the new school year will begin with the administrative opening on September 7.

Agriculture Ministry Providing \$50 Million for Production Incentive, Drought Mitigation

THE MINISTRY of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries will be making \$50 million available to support the production incentive and drought climate mitigation programmes in each constituency.

This was disclosed by Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry, Hon. Leslie Campbell, during a statement to the House of Representatives on July 28. "A total of \$35 million is being made available to the Members of Parliament and we are pleased to issue each Member of Parliament with their letters, representing an allocation of approximately \$555,000 per constituency," Mr. Campbell said.

"This allocation is retrievable through the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), and contact should be made with the respective RADA Parish Managers for further guidance," he added.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Leslie Campbell

Additionally, \$15 million is being made available to RADA to provide support to registered farmers' groups and associations.

Mr. Campbell said the funding being provided is towards support for production incentive to include seeds and other planting material, input material and technical assistance; drought mitigation and climate management support to include water and irrigation systems, among other activities.

PM Commissions HMJS Nanny of the Maroons into Service

PRIME Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on July 29 commissioned into service the HMJS Nanny of the Maroons at the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Coast Guard Headquarters in Port Royal, Kingston.

He said the acquisition of the offshore patrol vessel is in keeping with the Government's commitment to a comprehensive and strategic approach to making Jamaica a safe and secure place.

Mr. Holness said that safeguarding the country's maritime borders is imperative for national security and sustainable development, including protecting critical infrastructure and, most importantly, lives.

In highlighting the importance of the country's maritime domain, the Prime Minister pointed out that more than 90 per cent of the country's trade is conducted by sea, hence Jamaica's maritime borders and space are the gateway to the global economy.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (second left) looks on as Captain of the HMJS Nanny of the Maroons, Lieutenant Commander Mark Lewin (left), points out details of the operation of the vessel, following its official commissioning into service on July 29, at the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Coast Guard headquarters in Port Royal, Kingston. Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General Rocky Meade (second right), and Opposition Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Lisa Hanna, also attended the commissioning.

He noted, however, that while Jamaica's location gives it natural advantages for shipping and trade, it also places the country on the prime transshipment route

for criminal networks dealing in guns, drugs and human trafficking.

"So, the very advantage of our location is also a disadvantage and, therefore, we

must invest in our capabilities to keep our maritime domain safe and secure," Mr. Holness said.

He noted that maritime security is also essential to supporting the blue economy through sustainable use of the ocean resources for economic growth, creating jobs and improving livelihoods, while preserving the health of the ocean's ecosystem.

Education Ministry to Spend \$567 Million for Infrastructural Projects

THE GOVERNMENT will be spending \$567.18 million to carry out infrastructural projects within schools for the 2020/21 period.

A previous sum of \$1.42 billion had been allocated in the 2020/21 budget for the Ministry's capital projects. However, this had to be reduced by 60 per cent when the budget was adjusted to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Making the disclosure, Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda, informed that the money will be used to carry out pre-contract activities for nine expansion projects and electrical upgrading to eight schools.

"It will also be used to construct security fencing in three schools, complete the upgrading of the Ministry's facilities, to make outstanding payments for projects carried forward and to commence works in three schools," the Minister said during his contribution to the 2020/21 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on July 28.

In the meantime, Mr. Samuda informed that Government has made \$425.11 million available to carry out repairs at 156 schools under the 2020/21 Critical Maintenance Programme.

"The funds are being used for critical repairs to sanitary facilities, termite treatment, repairs to roofs, electrical repairs, repairs to the sewage disposal system and other critical matters," he said.



Minister of Education, Youth and Information Hon. Karl Samuda

Kemoy Thomas Receives Home Under Social Housing Project



Prime Minister the Most Hon Andrew Holness (right) dialogues with Kemoy Thomas (left) and St. Catherine South West Member of Parliament, Everaldo Warmington (second right), after a newly built home was handed over to Kemoy, who is visually impaired, under the Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment programme during a ceremony held on July 30, at Six Miles, Barton in St. Catherine.

Guava Ridge to Content Gap Roadway Rehabilitated

HUNDREDS OF residents from several communities in East Rural St. Andrew are now benefiting from improved road conditions and more reliable access to potable water, following rehabilitation of the Guava Ridge to Content Gap roadway.

The \$253-million road improvement project was undertaken by the National Works Agency (NWA) in collaboration with the National Water Commission (NWC), and Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL).

It included laying of 4,800 metres of potable water lines at a cost of \$51 million.

Senior Director at the NWA, Varden Downer, said the scope of works comprised upgrading of the 52-kilometre two-lane roadway, drainage improvement, retaining wall construction, and installation of four-inch diameter water pipes along the full length of the project route, with service connections.

He was speaking at the official opening ceremony in the community on July 29.



Member of Parliament for East Rural St. Andrew, the Most Hon. Juliet Holness (second left), converses with (from left) Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green; Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett; Councillor for the Mavis Bank Division, Alvin Francis; and Senior Director at the National Works Agency (NWA), Varden Downer, as they walk on the newly rehabilitated Guava Ridge to Content Gap road. The road was officially opened on July 29.

Member of Parliament for East Rural St. Andrew, the Most Hon. Juliet Holness, hailed the collaboration among the agencies for the successful execution of the project.

She implored motorists to take care as they use the roadway. "This 'highway' must serve us and our chil-

dren for a long time to come. So I beg you, slow down on the road," Mrs. Holness said.

The newly rehabilitated road is expected to enhance commerce in the beneficiary communities and reduce some of the rural-urban migration.

