

Curfews Tightened in Four More Parishes

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness announced tighter curfew hours under the Disaster Risk Management Act for Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine and Clarendon, effective August 22.

The new curfew period will run from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily until September 2. These parishes join St. Thomas where the curfew was similarly tightened for a 14-day period, from August 18 to September 2. However, the 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. timeline for the other parishes remains unchanged.

Mr. Holness, who was addressing a virtual press con-



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

ference on Friday, August 21, said tightening of the measures has become necessary given the recent clustering of

the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the parishes.

He noted that the curfews have been effective in the management of the pandemic, as the Government continues to balance lives and livelihoods.

"The virus is spread by people who are infected, gathering, greeting, embracing, coming into close contact... sharing transportation space and moving about. If we limit movement, we have a greater chance of limiting spread, and the curfew does help to limit movement, particularly at nights," he said.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the imposition

of restrictions on movement is what the Government will be required to do "if we do not have consistent observation and almost religious following of the infection, prevention and control measures".

Up to Thursday, August 20, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Jamaica stood at 1,290, with 98 new cases recorded over a 24-hour period.

These were recorded in Kingston and St. Andrew (53), St. Catherine (17), Clarendon (7), St. Thomas (5), St. James (4), Manchester (4), St. Mary (3), St. Ann (3) and Westmoreland (2).

Education Ministry to Consult with Stakeholders on Reopening of Schools

MINISTER OF Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda, says stakeholder dialogue will form part of efforts to determine whether to proceed with or delay the proposed phased reopening of schools for the 2020/21 academic year on September 7, in light of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"We will hold consultations with [the] Jamaica Teachers' Association, National Parent-Teacher Association of Jamaica, Ecumenical Church Group, Jamaica Independent Schools' Association, the Jamaica Prefect Association, the National Secondary Students Council, and representatives of tertiary institutions, among others," he said.

The Minister was speaking during the Jamaica Teachers' Association's 56th annual conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James, on August 19.

Mr. Samuda said a risk assessment of trends in new COVID-19 cases is also being done by health officials to assist in arriving at a final decision.

"If the cases continue to spike and it is deemed



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Karl Samuda

unsafe for students and teachers to physically return to school, we will have to reassess [the situation] and put in place contingency plans to face that eventuality," he said.

Mr. Samuda said the Administration is mindful of the latest developments with COVID-19 cases, which he said are being carefully monitored.

"We are guided by the Ministry of Health and Wellness as we seek to ensure that all students and teachers are safe," the Minister added.

He further indicated that the Ministry will continue to meet with teachers in order "to be kept aware of what's happening out there".

PM Calls for Clean Election Campaign

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has encouraged candidates in the September 3 General Election to undertake a clean campaign, in keeping with the tenets of the Code of Political Conduct.

The Code articulates eight governing principles relating to: non-violence and non-intimidation, safety of private and public property, avoidance of confrontation, public utterances, freedom of access, avoidance of defacing of buildings and installation, code of ethics, and political tribalism.

Mr. Holness and Opposition Leader, Dr. Peter Phillips, signed the document during a ceremony overseen by Political Ombudsman, Donna Parchment Brown, at Emancipation Park in Kingston, on August 19.

The Prime Minister said acts of intimidation and confrontational and violent practices "[are] not necessary in modern Jamaica", adding that these are activities "that we should eschew [and] repudiate".

Mr. Holness emphasised that for the Code to be "real and not just a symbol", the General Election must be held



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness signs a copy of the Code of Political Conduct.

without these unacceptable practices.

Dr. Phillips, in his remarks, said that in order for the Code to contribute to a culture change, "it is going to require the engagement of all the key stakeholders".

New Police Post for Ian Fleming International Airport



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda (2nd right), and Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague (centre), break ground for the construction of a new state-of-the-art police post at the Ian Fleming International Airport in Boscobel, St. Mary, on August 14. The facility will cost \$40 million. Also taking part (from left) are: President, Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ), Audrey Deidrick; AAJ Board Chairman, William Shagoury; and Deputy Police Commissioner, Clifford Blake.

New Health Centre Opened in Brown's Hall, St. Catherine

HUNDREDS OF residents in Brown's Hall and neighbouring communities in St. Catherine now have a new health centre that was built at a cost of \$24 million.

The facility was constructed under a public-private partnership involving Kemteck Development and Construction Limited and Omni Industries Limited, whose principals are natives of Brown's Hall, providing the funds, with the National Health Fund (NHF) doing the design work.

Several additional entities and individuals also provided support on other aspects of the development. Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, who officially opened the centre on August 19, lauded the stakeholders collaborating to make the project a reality.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), and Regional Director at the Ministry, Maureen Golding, officially open the Brown's Hall Health Centre in St. Catherine.

"It is a partnership [which demonstrates that] with a vision, with commitment and with the willingness to work with others, there is a lot of good that can be done for people in communities... and this is a good example of it," he said.

The Type One facility provides curative services, maternal and child healthcare,

and dressing of wounds, immunisation, and family planning.

It is staffed with 14 health professionals who include: one resident midwife, a visiting doctor and public health nurse, and six community health aides.

Macka Tree, Marlie Hill, Belfield, and Blue Hole are among the other beneficiary communities.

Jamaica Receives £1M to Strengthen Anti-Corruption Framework

THE GOVERNMENT has received £1 million from the United Kingdom's (UK) Department for International Development (DFID) to further strengthen Jamaica's anti-corruption framework.

The funds will be used to continue engagements under the Unification of Prosecutorial Services Project, which aims to build select institutions' capacity to improve accountability and transparency.

Justice Minister, Hon. Delroy Chuck, and DFID Country Representative, David Osborne, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the support.

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British High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency Asif Ahmad, said he was pleased with the MoU's renewal, noting that "over the last decade, we have been working with Government

Ministries, frontline law enforcement officers [and] agencies to achieve excellence and effectiveness".

This is the second MoU to be signed under the Project.

In March 2019, the Ministry received \$51 million to strengthen the operations of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The provision facilitated a review of the Framework for Clerks of Courts with a view to placing the officers under the supervision of the DPP's office.

The objective is to achieve harmonisation of prosecutorial services, by making the DPP responsible for all prosecutors in the court system.



Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck (seated left), signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Country Representative, Department for International Development (DFID), David Osborne (seated, right), at the Ministry in Kingston. Witnessing the proceedings (from left, standing) are: Permanent Secretary in the Justice Ministry, Sancia Bennett Tlemper; Chief Justice, Hon. Bryan Sykes; Director of Public Prosecutions, Paula Llewellyn; and British High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency Asif Ahmad.