

# Tighter Curfew Hours for Heroes Weekend

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has announced tighter curfew measures for the upcoming Heroes weekend.

Delivering a statement in the House of Representatives on October 6 at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston, he said the Government has taken a decision to discourage parties and gatherings, which are normally held during the Heroes weekend.

"The curfew hours during the Heroes weekend will be from 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 2020, ending 8:00 a.m. Monday, October 19, 2020. The curfew will resume Monday, October 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. and will end at 5:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 20, 2020," Mr. Holness informed.

"Thereafter, as we have done before, the curfew will move to 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. the following day, each day, ending 5:00 a.m. Sunday, November 1, 2020," he added.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness delivers a statement during the sitting of the House of Representatives on October 6 at the Jamaica Conference Centre.**

The existing islandwide curfew time will remain at 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. until October 18.

Further to the announced curfew hours, the public should also adhere to the following:

- The limit for public gatherings remains at 15 persons.

Public passenger motor cars will be limited to one person fewer than the number of persons allowed.

- The ban on funerals, parties, and other events will continue. Burials will continue to be allowed with strict observation and enforcement of the 15-person rule.

- Worship services may continue within the existing guidelines during services.
- Persons 65 years and older are required to work from home. They are, however, permitted to leave home once per day for medical care, food, exercise and other essentials of life.
- The following employees may request their employers' permission to work from home:
  - Employees who are immunocompromised with underlying illnesses that are not under control and cannot be in an environment where many persons are gathered, and this is certified by a doctor.
  - Employees who have no suitable arrangements available to care for a child, elderly or ill family member, or a person with a disability.
- Employers who permit employees to work from home must do so without imposing any adverse consequences to the employee. The measures will remain in effect until October 31, 2020.

## COVID-19 Mental Health Response Programme to be Implemented

THE MINISTRY of Health and Wellness is to implement a \$20 million COVID-19 Mental Health Response Programme aimed at mitigating the progression of mental health issues that have or are otherwise anticipated to emerge, resulting from COVID-19.

This was disclosed by Portfolio Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, during his statement to the House of Representatives on October 6, at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

He said the intention is to provide community-based support, creating ease of access to mental health services through community engagement, and mass media education to promote mental health and prevent mental illness.

"The first component of the programme will focus on increasing the skill set of our healthcare workers and community volunteers to include Psychological First Aid, so that they are better equipped to respond to mental health issues within communities," Dr. Tufton said.

He informed that the Ministry is to be supported in this effort by key partners, including the Jamaica Red



**Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton**

Cross and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).

The programme will also feature targeted community interventions, notably a volunteer service that provides vulnerable community members with assistance with day-to-day tasks, including the purchase of groceries and the filling of prescriptions.

The Minister also urged members of the public who may be experiencing anxiety or other mental health challenges to access the Ministry's mental health support services.

To do so, they can call the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Helpline at 888-NEW-LIFE (639-5433).

## Education Ministry to Launch 'One Laptop or Tablet per Child' Initiative

THE MINISTRY of Education, Youth and Information will shortly launch its 'One Laptop or Tablet per Child' initiative.

The programme, being launched in partnership with the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), aims to equip students with the tools to access online education.

"We are seeing corporate Jamaica rally to the call already. These include the Musson Group which, on its own initiative, has put in place a programme to help their employees buy a laptop or tablet for their child," said

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams.

She was speaking during the sitting of the House of Representatives October 6 at the Jamaica Conference Centre, in downtown Kingston.

Mrs. Williams said companies such as the Sandals Group, Manpower Maintenance Services, Premix, Digicel, and New Fortress Energy are on board with the initiative.

"There are vendors who have come on board to offer payment plans for those parents who cannot afford the full upfront cost of the



**Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Fayval Williams.**

device. Jamaicans are committing themselves to ensure our children succeed," she said.

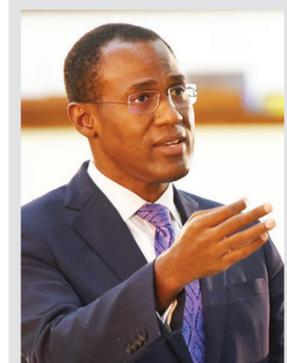
## Ashagaye Mullings Wins 'COVID AH KIP' Social Media Competition



**State Minister in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert Flynn (left), presents a prize to Ashagaye Mullings, winner of the 'COVID AH KIP' social media competition at the awards ceremony held on October 7, at the Ministry's New Kingston offices. The competition was organised as part of a community engagement initiative aimed at reinforcing the infection prevention and control measures to stop the spread of the virus.**

## Gov't to Scale-Up Public Investment

THE GOVERNMENT will be scaling up public investment in the Second Supplementary Estimates for 2020/21, which was tabled in the House of Representatives on October 6.



**Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke**

Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, said that the objective is to help revive economic activity and maintain jobs, adding that it sends an important signal to the private sector about the Government's

confidence about the future.

"It is for this reason that we are increasing the capital expenditure component of the Budget by \$6 billion, of which \$4.6 billion will go towards the South Coast Highway Improvement Project," he told the House.

"We believe that the South Coast Highway Improvement Project meets the definition of the kind of public investment that catalyses economic activity and jobs, which is precisely what is needed at this time," he added.

The Second Supplementary Estimates proposes overall additional expenditure of \$15.7 billion to generate a total expenditure budget of \$853.7 billion.

Focus is placed on addressing the health requirements, assisting individuals who have lost jobs, and increasing public investment to assist in fast-tracking economic recovery.

## Buses Presented to Two Rural High Schools

THE MINISTRY of Transport and Mining on October 6 handed over two buses to the Tacky High and Mile Gully High schools as part of the Ministry's mandate to strengthen the transportation capacity of rural school districts.

The vehicles, valued at approximately \$19 million each, were officially handed over at the Ministry on Maxfield Avenue in Kingston. Funding for the purchase of the vehicles was provided through the Ministry's corporate social responsibility programme.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Transport and Mining Minister, Hon. Robert Montague, said the initiative seeks to address the challenges being faced by students in keeping abreast with their schoolwork.

Noting that the majority of students in these schools do not have reliable access to internet connectivity, the school bus initiative is one of several measures being explored by the Government to ensure universal access to information by students.

"In the best of times, these children are challenged to come to school, and now with the pandemic, that extra pressure on them is horrendous. In choosing these schools, we took those matters into consideration. The imperative is immediate to get the material to these students," he said.

The initiative was conceptualised by the Ministry in partnership with the Transport Authority and the National Education Trust (NET).



**Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague (4th left), and Tacky High students, Tianna Wilson (3rd left) and Dalvin Wray (3rd right), point to the bus that was presented to the school by the Ministry on October 6, in Kingston. Sharing the moment are stakeholders from the Ministry and the National Education Trust.**