

Government Committed to Protecting the Environment

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Government is committed to protecting and preserving the environment.

He said the Government has and will continue to build with the sustainability of the environment at the forefront.

"We are not looking to destroy our environment. We are not looking to deprive anyone of the lovely vistas and salubrious environment. I believe we are smart, innovative enough and have the capacity to manage these economic enterprises," Mr. Holness said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a ceremony to open the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's St. Ann parish office on November 12.

Regarding the approval of a mining licence for the Bengal Lands situated in Discovery Bay, St. Ann, the Prime Minister in a statement, said that based on the environmental permit stipulations, Bengal Development Limited is directed to restore the land, replant trees and



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness and Rosemarie Pilliner, sister of late former Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Shahine Robinson, unveil a plaque dedicating the Ministry's new state-of-the-art St. Ann parish office to Mrs. Robinson. Occasion was the official opening of the building, located at 4 Windsor Road in St. Ann's Bay on November 12.

engage in other activities that would protect and improve environmental management, and establish wide buffer zones, among the over 70 conditions that have been imposed on them.

"It was therefore concluded that the measures put in place would mitigate the impact on species and on the biodiversity of the area and ensure greater management of the total acreage," the Prime

Minister said.

He added that strict guidance and conditions have been imposed and the public can be assured that no departure from the conditions of the application will be tolerated.

\$646.9-Million Support Package for Farmers

THE MINISTRY of Agriculture and Fisheries has announced a \$646.9-million support package for farmers affected by the recent heavy rains.

Portfolio Minister, Hon. Floyd Green, told the House of Representatives on November 11 that the package is geared at helping more than 14,000 farmers to restart planting as quickly as possible.

He said that the funds from the support package will be distributed through the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Members of Parliament (MPs) and public-private partnership.

via RADA for immediate support to farmers in their respective areas.

The Ministry will also be providing direct support to farmers in the form of a pesticide programme valued at \$95 million.



Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Floyd Green

"Assorted seeds and other planting material will be provided to the tune of \$215 million. These inputs will be provided to open-field farmers as well as greenhouse producers whose growing fields and covered vegetation have been partially or completely wiped out," Minister Green told the House.

The package of support to farmers also include the rehabilitation of roadways under the Farm Road Programme.

Minister Green told the House that 17 farm roads will be rehabilitated at a cost of \$111.6 million.

"The support programme will be focused on the parishes that experienced the greatest losses."

The support programme will be focused on the parishes that experienced the greatest losses. These include Manchester, St. Elizabeth, St. Catherine, St. Thomas, Clarendon and St. Andrew.

Mr. Green informed that a sum of \$64.5 million is to be dispatched through the MPs

Task Force to be Established to Advance Country's Development Agenda

MINISTER OF Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr., has announced that a multi-sectoral task force will be established by his Ministry to support and advance the country's development agenda and to ensure that climate change adaptation efforts are sustainable.

Speaking at the official naming ceremony for the Douglas Cover building at the Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS) Duke Street location in downtown Kingston on November 12, the Minister said the task force will pull on talent from all the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) as well as from the private sector.

"The true outcome for us as a country must be developing a climate-resilient society, climate-resilient housing and

climate-resilient policies that truly advance the new Jamaica," he argued.

and the private sector.

"When you talk about no-build zones, when you talk

the skill sets that we have available across universities and institutions, not just in Jamaica but we will welcome our friends from the diaspora, as well, to have their contributions," he said.



Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr.

The task force, he said, will also focus on ensuring that infrastructure developments are undertaken in a resilient way and that integrated actions are promoted across MDAs

about amending policies and legislation to make sure that we can withstand the climate shocks, this is the task force that is going to go into the 'nitty gritty', is going to pull on

Second Cohort Selected for Jamaica House Fellowship Programme

SEVEN YOUNG professionals have been selected as the second cohort for the Jamaica House Fellowship Programme and will serve in the public sector for a two-year period in various capacities.

They are Asha-Gaye Cowell, Christopher Harper, Jervian Johnson, Anabelle Jones, Kiddist McCoy, Mikol Mortley, and Christal Parris-Campbell.

Speaking at the orientation session for the new Fellows, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness hailed the awardees, who were selected following a rigorous process that started with 87 individuals.

Mr. Holness said the initiative aims to attract young and talented persons to the public sector who will assist in implementing the programmes, projects and plans of the Government.

"It is important that we create a pathway that will see young, vibrant, bright talent coming into the public service, bringing with them a different

perspective and outlook, but at the same time being engaged in a process that will ensure that they develop, more than anything else, the respect for the public service," the Prime Minister said.

The orientation session was held at Jamaica House. Mr. Holness said the Fellows will assist in re-engineering the processes to make the

public sector more efficient.

"What we are interested in is creating 'intrepreneurs'. We want you to come into the organisation, understand the rules, respect the history and tradition, but at the same time, figure out how we can look towards improving those rules, re-engineering those processes to become more efficient," he said.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (fourth left) and Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Audrey Sewell (fifth left), with six of the seven persons selected as the second cohort for the Jamaica House Fellowship Programme, at the orientation session at Jamaica House, on November 11. They are (from left) Christopher Harper, Christal Parris-Campbell, Asha-Gaye Cowell, Anabelle Jones, Jervian Johnson, and Kiddist McCoy.

Chinese Community Donates \$8 Million to COVID-19 Fight



State Minister in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert Flynn (right), accepts a cheque for \$8 million from representatives of the Chinese Community in Jamaica, at the Ministry's New Kingston location on November 11. The funds are in support of the Government's coronavirus (COVID-19) response.

Tablet/Laptop Vouchers for Non-PATH Students

MINISTER OF EDUCATION, Youth and Information, Hon. Fayval Williams, on November 10, outlined the details of the voucher incentive programme, through which the Government is assisting with the purchase of a tablet or laptop for students who are in need but are not on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH).

Dubbed the 'Own Your Own Device Incentive Programme', the initiative will benefit an estimated 36,000 needy students in primary and secondary schools across the island.

Mrs. Williams said that under the programme, parents or guardians will receive an electronic voucher (eVoucher) valued at \$20,000 for the purchase of a device from an approved vendor.



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

"Parents or guardians will be responsible for the difference in the cost of the laptop or tablet," she said, while addressing the sitting of the House of Representatives at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston.

Mrs. Williams explained that parents or guardians

can apply through oyod.educate.gov.jm, or via a manual numbered application form available from their respective Members of Parliament (MP) or the Ministry's regional offices.

The website will begin accepting applications on November 17, 2020 and the process will close on December 4, 2020. Distribution of the manual numbered application forms by the MPs will also commence on November 17.

Queries in relation to this programme can be made by calling 888-696-3669 weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or email oyod@moe.gov.jm.

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