



MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE

BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



THE HONOURABLE
DELROY CHUCK, QC, MP
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

**SECTORAL
DEBATE**
GORDON HOUSE
MAY 4, 2021

**ADVANCING THE VISION:
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL**



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

ADVANCING THE VISION: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

SECTORAL DEBATE
GORDON HOUSE
MAY 4, 2021



THE HONOURABLE
DELROY CHUCK, QC, MP
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
ADVANCING THE VISION: Court Operations	5
Technology for Court Operations	
ADVANCING THE VISION: Alternative Justice Services	9
Restorative Justice	
Child Diversion	
Victim Services Division	
Justices of the Peace and Notaries Public	
Expungement	
Minister's Marriage Licences	
ADVANCING THE VISION: Improving Justice Environment	15
ADVANCING THE VISION: Capacity Building for Justice Stakeholders	19
ADVANCING THE VISION: Agency Reports	20
Administrator-General's Department	
Legal Aid Council	
Office of the Director of Public Prosecution	
ADVANCING THE VISION: Projections 2021/22	23
Capital Works	
Legislation	
Restorative Justice	
Child Diversion	
Victim Services	
Administrator-General's Department	
Legal Aid Council	
Justice Training Institute	
Office of the Director of Public Prosecution	
CONCLUSION	28
APPENDIX	29

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Madam Speaker,

I am grateful for the opportunity to report on the achievements of the Ministry of Justice in this my sixth consecutive year as Minister of Justice. I am equally proud to appear in this Honourable House on behalf of the Constituents of North East St Andrew, serving as their Member of Parliament for 23 plus years.

Mr Prime Minister, I extend heartfelt gratitude to you for your continued confidence in my ability to captain the reform efforts within the Justice Sector.

To my hardworking team at the Justice Ministry, I extend whole-hearted appreciation. I would like to specially thank Mrs Sancia Bennett Templer, who served as Permanent Secretary for two productive years. I also take this opportunity to officially welcome Mrs Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane into her new post as Acting Permanent Secretary after serving as a bastion of expertise in the Ministry for over four years. I am grateful for a team that has displayed composure and innovation in a difficult period for our nation. As a result of your work, Jamaicans continued to receive sterling justice services even in one of the most difficult periods experienced by modern society. I can only add that the best is yet to come.

I also thank the Chief Justice, Hon. Mr Justice Bryan Sykes, other members of the judiciary, and the staff of the Court Administration Division for their commitment to the improvement of the Justice Sector. I am confident that our continued partnership takes us gradually and closer to realising our shared goal of elevating our justice system to the best in the Caribbean, and one of the best in the World. The Judiciary and the Court system have my full support as we work together to create a first-class justice system.

Special thanks to:

- President of the Court of Appeal, The Honourable Mr Justice Patrick Brooks, and to The Honourable Dennis Morrison who retired as President in December 2020;
- Appeal Judges and the Court of Appeal staff;
- Attorney General, Mrs Marlene Malahoo-Forte;
- Solicitor General, Mrs Marlene Aldred and the staff of the Attorney General's Chambers;
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Paula Llewellyn and her staff; and
- Director, Court Administration Division, Mrs Tricia Cameron-Anglin and her staff for their sterling contribution to the advancement of the work of the Courts and the Justice System.

Special thanks also to the various affiliated agencies and departments of the Justice Ministry including:

- Administrator-General, Mrs Lona Brown and her staff for protecting the interests of minors, creditors and beneficiaries of estates;
- Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Miss Judith Grant and her staff; and
- The Acting Director of Legal Reform, Ms Nadine Wilkins, and her staff, for contributing to the development of a robust legislative framework. In the same vein, I express thanks to Mr Maurice Bailey, former Director of that Department, who, after a tenure marked by professional acuity and commitment, proceeded on retirement leave.

I must extend gratitude to one particular group of stakeholders whose impact on the justice sector cannot be measured - our donor partners. With their support, we have been able to execute plans and strategies in support of the Justice Reform programme, including the improvement of the built environment of the justice sector.

Special thanks to:

The Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica;
Global Affairs Canada;
The United States Agency for International Development;
The Inter-American Development Bank;
The International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section in the United States Embassy;
The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office;
The United Nations Development Programme;
National Integrity Action;
The Citizen Security and Justice Programme; and
The United Nations' Children Fund, for your continued support of Justice Sector strategic objectives.

To my Close Protection Officer, Sergeant Howard Hamilton, and my driver, Mr Oneil Ennis, I send heartfelt thanks. I also express my gratitude to my two councillors and constituency support staff who assisted in ensuring a sixth consecutive term as MP.

And, finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to my wife Patricia and all our family members for being constantly at my side as I execute my duties as Minister of Justice and Member of Parliament.

My heartfelt thanks to you all.

ADVANCING THE VISION: COURT OPERATIONS

Madam Speaker, I begin my presentation, as usual with a report on our Courts. Firstly, I underscore that I cannot, and do not, interfere with the Judiciary in its management and operations, so my presentation will focus on what is expected from the Judiciary.

I start by extending heartfelt commendation to the Chief Justice and team for their achievements over this past year. Of note is how the judiciary quickly adjusted to the exigencies arising from the pandemic and, in this regard, I am pleased to highlight that during the last fiscal year, the High Courts began hearing matters electronically.

All hearings from the Court of Appeal are now conducted remotely using video and tele-conferencing, and at the Supreme Court, bail hearings and mention matters were moved into the virtual space. This allowed for adherence to the necessary distancing protocols, and resulted in greater convenience for court users and more efficient use of court resources.

Actual performance statistics for the year, **Madam Speaker,** are as follows:

In the Court of Appeal, approximately 68% of judgments were delivered within six months of being reserved. The clearance rate in that Court is 81% - an increase of 11% over 2019 - that is, 81 cases for every 100 reserved.

In 2020, the Supreme Court delivered 234 judgments for every 100 reserved. If the trajectory holds with current trends, during this fiscal year, the Supreme Court is expected to deliver one and a half times the number of judgments being reserved, and by the end of this fiscal year, it is expected that over 90% of judgments outstanding will be current. We project that no more than 10% of judgments will be outstanding for more than six months.

Based on current trends, by the end of 2021/2022 fiscal year, upwards of 75% of judgments will be delivered within six months. **Madam Speaker,** there is progress, but the norm should be for judgments to be delivered within six (6) months. It should only be in exceptional cases that judgments should be delayed beyond six (6) months.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to address the matter of net case backlog, that is, the proportion of active cases that are over two years old. This has been a continuous source of discontent and its reduction is one of the strategic objectives for the Justice Ministry. I know the Chief Justice and the Judiciary have paid particular attention to this matter and they have been making impressive strides in this regard.

The Gun Court is expected to be current with its active cases by December 2021.

By the end of the current fiscal year, less than 10% of active cases in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts will be in backlog.

Since 2016, when we began collecting data, 83.77% of criminal cases were disposed of under 12 months. Approximately 88% of cases were disposed in under 24 months and approximately 12% in more than 24 months.

In 2020, the overall clearance rate for criminal cases in the Parish Courts was 96.47%. Seven of 13 Parish Courts had a clearance rate of more than 90% and the hearing date certainty was 84%. This means that over 95% of cases will be resolved in a timely manner.

The overall net case backlog for the Parish Courts is now under 2.64%, placing us well within the international best practice guideline of under 5%.

This is the best position the Parish Courts have been in, in recorded history.

The Home Circuit Court has seen a clearance rate of over 70% during the last two years. This means that matters are moving faster in the Home Circuit Court than in previous years.

This is the best position that this Court has been in, in recorded history.

Madam Speaker, we are making commendable strides on our way to meet the Chief Justice's goal to have a justice system that is among the best in the Caribbean and the world.

However, the Ministry would like to see definitive timelines for various processes in the Courts. I believe that no matter in the Parish Courts should extend from filing to completion beyond 24 months, and I expect that 90 per cent of these matters should be completed within 12 months.

In the Supreme Court, no trial matter should remain there longer than three years and certainly 75 per cent of the matters should be completed within two years. Uncontested divorces should be completed within six months and Probate and Administration of Estates should also be completed within four months.

As you would realise from the actual performance data shared, targets are now being achieved in some cases, but it is the isolated circumstances that receive attention from the public and the media and to which we must pay attention.

Whilst we see the enormous improvements in the Courts and see even greater improvements forthcoming, we cannot ignore the frustration of litigants and the members of the public when a few cases are highlighted that seem to undermine how well the Court is functioning.

When bail is granted to individuals charged with murder and other serious offences, some members of the public question how bail could be granted to those individuals. In fact, many of these accused individuals actually continue to commit crimes while on bail.

The Judiciary should be aware that the police are very critical of the decision to grant bail, and perhaps an explanation should be given why bail is granted, so the Prosecution can appeal. By the same token, when a decision is refused, an explanation can be given so the defence can appeal.

Again, when sentences are lenient, or out of the established sentencing range, the public is also alarmed at the inadequacy of the sentence. It was with this in mind that I recently tabled two Bills aimed at giving the Prosecution right of appeal against certain judgments of the court, including appeals against a lenient sentence. This is a timely and game changing development as these amendments will bring us in line with members of the Commonwealth like Barbados, Bermuda and the United Kingdom in balancing the interests of justice.

Additionally, the Legal Reform Department at the Ministry has started working with the Ministries of Government to update relevant penalties to allow for more realistic sentences, in line with the rule of law and international best practices. These will then be brought to Parliament for consideration and time allowed for the public to weigh in on the proposals.

At the end of the day, the Executive and the country, are looking to the Judiciary to play a significant role in sending the clearest signal to criminals that crime has severe detrimental consequences. This can be accomplished by timely trials, strong pronouncements from the Bench and, in appropriate cases, harsh sentences that send a powerful and emphatic denunciation of criminal activities.

Technology for Court Operations

As you would have already heard, the Government of Jamaica is now working assiduously towards completing the framework to connect all parish capitals with broadband connectivity within the next six months. Hopefully, within the next few years, improved and efficient broadband capacity should be available across most of Jamaica.

As we move ever closer to our vision of a justice system that offers first-class services, the Ministry of Justice has been giving ongoing support to the Courts, equipping them with the modern infrastructure and the technology necessary to conduct business efficiently. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to accelerate the pace at which we rolled out our programmes in this respect.

We have installed new state-of-the-art technology in at least one court in each parish to enable virtual hearings.

Through improved technology, we continued court hearings throughout the pandemic year and matters are being disposed of at an impressive pace.

Through improved technology, eight courts across the Corporate Area are now benefitting from enhanced connectivity with new fibre optic technology of 100 Megabytes per second.

Through improved technology, vulnerable witnesses can now testify in complete anonymity from two mobile units which have been retrofitted with audio visual equipment and a wheelchair lift, as well as space to facilitate a stretcher.



Former EU Ambassador to Jamaica, Ambassador Margorzata Wasilewska (left) is joined by Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck (second right) in presenting audio-visual equipment to Puisne Judge, The Hon. Mrs Justice Stephanie Jackson-Haisley (second left), Chief Justice, Hon. Mr Justice Bryan Sykes and Senior Parish Court Judge, Her Hon. Mrs Tara Carr during a ceremony at the St Catherine Parish Court on Friday, June 26. The equipment was given through the Justice, Security, Accountability and Transparency (JSAT) programme includes screens, microphones, cameras and supporting software for 78 courtrooms across 19 court houses island-wide.

Through improved technology, jury selection; case flow and docketing management; case-scheduling; and digital recording will be enhanced through the Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) which was installed in the last financial year and is now being customised for pilot in May 2021.

Madam Speaker, when the Ministry of Justice says it is facilitating access to Justice for all, this is what it looks like!

We want to work with the Chief Justice, the Court Administration Division, the Commissioner of Police and the Ministry of National Security so that in each police station or prison, there can be a witness room where accused persons who are not on trial can attend for their bail hearing or mention date. Additionally, witnesses and accused individuals who have difficulty attending court due to their physical location can connect by Zoom or a similar platform, along with an independent person to ensure that they are not being coached or influenced to give evidence.

My vision is to have all Court matters dealt with virtually and only those who want to be in Court need to be present. Cases can be tried with only the Presiding Judge and Registrar present, attorneys can decide whether they prefer to operate from their Chambers or in the case of the Director of Public Prosecutions, from the comfort of her office, or even from home.

Going forward, we expect that more Courts will use technology to deal with mention matters, bail applications and ultimately trial matters.

Madam Speaker, what this will translate to is an enormous saving for the public purse, less wear and tear on government vehicles and other resources, less engagement by police personnel to transport accused and cost savings to all who participate in court hearings.

Another vision I have for the courts is that they will soon become paperless. I previously made the pledge and the Ministry of Justice remains committed to this objective, where all documents will eventually be filed online and stored digitally. This will free up hundreds of thousands of square footages of space across court complexes.

In truth, Madam Speaker, with a paperless court system and virtual court hearings an actual reality, we may need to examine how we use court space and how we build new courts!

Madam Speaker, Court efficiency, easy access to justice services and timely delivery of justice are the hallmarks of a first-class justice system. We have taken the first steps towards these objectives, but much more needs to be done. In the Court of Appeal, we have now provided first-class facilities and a full complement of 12 Court of Appeal judges plus the president. This means **Madam Speaker**, that on a regular basis at least three panels can sit.

ADVANCING THE VISION: ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES

Madam Speaker,

Throughout my tenure at the Justice Ministry, I have placed a lot of focus on Alternative Justice Services, because I see these as solutions to support the reduction of case backlog and daily heavy loads in our courts, and to addressing the underlying social issues which give rise to tensions, conflicts and crime.

I encourage our judges to continue to refer applicable cases to ADR, such as our Restorative Justice, Mediation and Child Diversion programmes. I also urge communities to refer their errant children to the programme as we work closely with the police and other justice stakeholders, such as our Justices of the Peace, whom we have been training as mediators and in restorative justice practices. Instead of seeking to resolve conflicts on their own or going to the courts, which can be a lengthy process, Jamaicans can access free justice services at our Centres across the island and peacefully resolve their conflicts.

Very shortly, I will introduce a mediation strategy to encourage potential litigants to mediate matters before they file cases in Courts. The Ministry will share further updates with the public as soon as the plans have been finalised.

Restorative Justice

Madam Speaker, the Justice Ministry is steadily growing its presence islandwide, closing the gap between Jamaicans and accessibility to Justice Services. We have established Parish Justice Centres in all fourteen parishes, and Restorative Justice (RJ) has been constantly engaging with community members who find themselves embroiled in conflict.

In the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year, over 18,000 Jamaicans participated in RJ Conferences and of the 1,960 cases which came into our centres, 1,804 of them were successfully resolved. Colleague MPS, this represents an impressive 92% success rate!

The Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was also a year of significant breakthrough, as, for the first time, a restorative justice case concerning murder was conducted in partnership with the Department of Correctional Services. This is testament to the undeniable remedial nature of Restorative Justice. We will continue to execute our aggressive strategy of sensitization, so that more Jamaicans can be exposed to a mindset of reconciliation instead of retribution, resulting in a win-win for all concerned.

Child Diversion

Colleague MPs, we are not only focused on encouraging the mindset of reconciliation in the general population, but we have narrowed down the principles of accountability, forgiveness and reconciliation to create a programme that is specifically targeted to Jamaican children, the National Child Diversion Programme.



Justice Minister Delroy Chuck and Mariko Kagoshima, UNICEF Country Representative to Jamaica share a COVID friendly embrace after signing an agreement for UNICEF's \$10M donation in support of the National Child Diversion Programme.



Minister Chuck (second right) is flanked by (r-l) Dr Dacia Leslie of SALISES, former Permanent Secretary Sancia Bennett Templer, DPP Paula Llewellyn, former Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica, Her Excellency Laurie Peters and Althea McBean, CCDC Consultant at the launch of the Witness Care and Child Protection Manuals.

Child Diversion (CD) is the process of implementing measures for dealing with children who are alleged, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law, without resorting to formal judicial proceedings. The Justice Ministry established this method of intervention to:

- REHABILITATE children who have committed a diversion offence
- REDUCE the number of children exposed to the criminal justice system, and
- EMPOWER communities to re-socialize child offenders

The Programme officially commenced operation in April 2020, approximately one year ago. I am pleased to announce that since its implementation, 305 Jamaican children between the ages of 12-17 years have been referred to the programme. This means that:

305 at-risk children have been given a second chance;

305 children who might have otherwise ended up in the penal system, are being rehabilitated into their families and communities;

305 children who might otherwise have become more deeply immersed into a life of delinquency and violence, are being nurtured towards becoming productive, well-adjusted citizens.

I express appreciation to members of the community who have partnered with us to deliver this programme. To date, we have established 21 Agreements with mental health and social welfare professionals including psychologists, guidance counsellors and social workers. We conducted 309 sensitization sessions with a range of stakeholders including: Police Officers, Guidance Counsellors, Probation Aftercare Officers, Child Protection and Family Services staff and other stakeholders. In the current fiscal year, we will continue our training and sensitization sessions as our objective is to increase our capacity to reach even more Jamaican youth before they transition into a life of crime.

Victim Services Division

Madam Speaker, criminal activity inflicts long-lasting, physical, financial and emotional wounds on its victims. Many victims never recover from their horrific ordeal, and the effects extend to their families and communities. At the Justice Ministry, we have made available to the public, the services of the Victim Services Division (VSD) as an essential support service for individuals who are suffering from the latent emotional wounds of criminal activity.



The Victim Services Division uses a model courtroom to prepare victims of crime for court appearances as part of their court orientation programme. This tool is used to make the court experience less intimidating for victims



Our Victim Services Division (VSD) received play therapy items from the JN Foundation in October 2020 to enhance victim care services offered by the VSD's Trelawny parish office. The items were used to renovate the office's play therapy area.



Toys are used as tools to assist victims of crime, including adults, to express complex emotions and feelings in play therapy sessions conducted by counsellors at the 14 parish offices of the Victim Services Division.

Since its establishment in 1998, the Victim Services Division has assisted over 200,000 victims of crime through counselling sessions, crisis intervention initiatives and court orientation programmes. During the 2020/2021 fiscal year in particular, the VSD bolstered its efforts to provide counselling and other client-care services to Jamaica's victim population with 8,369 counselling sessions, during which they engaged 5,590 new clients and 7,867 follow-up clients and gave support to 2,407 child victims with trauma and grief therapy support. This, despite the vagaries of a pandemic, where we were unable to gather freely.

Here I would like to underscore for the House, **Madam Speaker**, the expansion of the Division's service offerings to include e-counselling. In response to the outbreak of COVID-19, the VSD ramped up its telephone counselling service and introduced the use of audio-visual communication such as video conferencing and virtual meeting rooms to offer real time therapy and consultations. We exceeded our target of establishing 20 e-counselling stations at VSD locations islandwide and established 25 stations, which facilitated 7614 e-counselling sessions and allowed for continued provision of care and support to victims of crime during the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, when the Ministry of Justice says it is facilitating access to Justice for all, this is what it looks like!

We also relocated three parish offices of the VSD to allow for increased accessibility, as well as provided financial assistance to 43 families through funeral grant disbursements to victims of crime.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to implore my colleagues, both in Government and the Opposition, to encourage your constituents who have been directly or indirectly affected by crime to take advantage of the free services offered by the VSD. The disease of crime continues to spread, attack, and inflict too many emotional wounds and scars on our people and it is our duty to remedy this situation by contributing to their restoration and healing.

Justices of the Peace and Notaries Public

Madam Speaker, the effectiveness of the Justice sector is credited in part to the dedication of hundreds of men and women who, without compensation, serve their communities as Justices of the Peace (JPs). I use this opportunity to express gratitude to all of them for their display of unwavering integrity and for continuing to be the face of justice in the nooks and crannies of this island. Your service is appreciated and has not gone unnoticed.

The Justice Ministry continues to receive and process applications from additional members of the public who want to answer the call to public duty. During the last Financial Year, **443** new JPs were appointed and commissioned and **17** new Notaries Public appointed, bringing the complement for the island to **96**.

Throughout the year, we continued to offer virtual sensitisation sessions to JPs to increase their capacity and to help them to refresh knowledge acquired from training at the Justice Training Institute. Just over 3,600 JPs benefitted from these sessions on the JP Act, alternative justice services, estate planning and offerings from the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA).

Madam Speaker, the functions of our JPs are crucial for many Jamaicans who depend upon them for recommendations, to authenticate documents and certify identities. In this respect, it became necessary for JPs to function not only in the communities in which they work or reside, but right

across the length and breadth of this country. In 2018, the Justices of the Peace Act was passed which widens their jurisdiction. The only exceptions are when JPs serve as Justices in the Lay Magistrate Court or when considering applications for bail.

Therefore, since the final quarter of 2020/21, the Justice Ministry has begun rolling out new seals to Justices of the Peace with 'Jamaica' engraved instead of parish names. This means that when a JP uses his or her official seal, you will no longer see a parish on the stamp, but 'Jamaica', indicating that the JP is a JP for Jamaica instead of for a specific parish.

To allow for this change the Justices of the Peace (Official Seals) Regulations was amended in November 2020. The rollout of the new seals will be done in phases and we expect this to be completed in due course.

Expungement

A critical justice service which we have been delivering to Jamaicans is the Expungement of certain criminal convictions for those who meet the qualifying requirements.

Madam Speaker, it is the intention of the Justice Ministry to bring to this Honourable House an amendment to the existing law that will allow additional conditions under which Expungement can be approved. The Justice Ministry is aware of cases where individuals have served time in prison and been released into their communities, where they have led exemplary, productive lives, but do not qualify under the current law. We, therefore, want to allow for these individuals to have their records expunged.

However, under the current provisions, in 2020/21, 696 members of the public have happily had their records expunged and are now free to engage in business, travel and employment. The Justice Ministry is aware that there are many others whose applications have not been finalised as there is a backlog at the Criminal Records Office, due to the volume of business that comes in to that office. However, I have met with the Police Commissioner and we are looking at options to streamline the process to make it quicker and more efficient.

Minister's Marriage Licences

Members of the public also visit our offices for Minister's Marriage Licences. For the period under review, we processed **1,195** from hotels. Additionally, **3,010** walk-in applications were approved within 24 hours. I am proud to report to the House that the Justice Ministry contributed \$16.8 million dollars to government income from this service.

ADVANCING THE VISION: IMPROVING JUSTICE ENVIRONMENT

Madam Speaker,

It has long been my firm belief and strong conviction that all Jamaicans should access justice services from state-of-the-art facilities. To this end, in 2020/21 the Ministry spent over \$540 million to support the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of justice infrastructure islandwide.

During the period under review, we commenced the establishment of modern, tastefully appointed family courts in St Ann and Manchester. As at the end of 2020/21, works on these courts were at 35 per cent and 65 per cent complete, respectively, and we fully expect both to be completed and available in their respective parishes during this financial year.

Additionally, we undertook advanced renovation and expansion of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Public Building West, that will improve efficiency and support the continued implementation of the Backlog Reduction Strategy.

At this point, I specially thank our DPP and her staff for their patience and for working in less than ideal circumstances for the duration of this major renovation. We expect that shortly the Justice Ministry will be able to formally hand over the expanded facilities. Our projection is that their facilities will be doubled because they will have not only the ground floor of the DPP but also an additional area previously occupied by the Court of Appeal.

You may recall during my presentation last year, **Madam Speaker**, and **Members of this House**, that I spoke of the establishment of three gold standard Regional Judicial Complexes. Today, I can report that we are closer to that goal as topographical and geotechnical surveys have been completed for the establishment of the Manchester and St Ann Regional Judicial Complexes.

We are also closer to the realisation of justice centres in Stony Hill, St Andrew, St Catherine, Clarendon and Hanover.

In the meantime, **Madam speaker**, we continue to improve justice facilities islandwide so that Jamaicans can conduct their business in comfort and dignity.

In that regard, I am happy to report that in the preceding fiscal year, 10 courthouses across nine parishes were refurbished, renovated and retrofitted, including the Supreme Court; and Parish Courts in Kingston and St Andrew, St James, Manchester, Portland, St Ann, Trelawny, Hanover and St Elizabeth.



Installation of an elevator shaft at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, which will house a new elevator, thereby providing access for persons with physical challenges.

In addition to modernising courthouses, the Ministry opened a new Restorative Justice Centre to serve the community of August Town in Kingston and an interim Centre in St Thomas. Significant infrastructural work was also completed at 15 alternative justice service facilities in Trelawny, Westmoreland, Hanover, St Catherine, St Mary and Portland.

Madam Speaker, every parish in Jamaica has benefited from renovations to justice facilities in the last fiscal year.

When the Ministry of Justice says it is facilitating effective access to justice for all, this is how we do it!

Jamaica is on its way to a First-Class Justice System!



Minister of Justice, the Hon. Delroy Chuck (left) greets FCO Country representative, Mr David Osborne after the two signed an MoU valued at £1 million. Looking on are (from left): Former Permanent Secretary at the Justice Ministry, Mrs Sancia Bennett-Templer; Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr Justice Bryan Sykes; Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Paula Llewellyn and; British High Commissioner to Jamaica, His Excellency Asif Ahmad. The agreement is intended to strengthen Jamaica's anti-corruption framework by building the capacity of select institutions to improve accountability and transparency.



Minister Chuck (second right); Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Paula Llewellyn; Contractor, Mr Y. P. Seaton (front) and staff from the Justice Ministry and the ODPP, tour a section of the ODPP where major renovation is being done. Works include demolition, spatial reconfiguration, extensive masonry and tiling work and the upgrading of sanitary facilities.

Contract Signing- St Ann Family Court



Justice Minister, Hon. Delroy Chuck signs a copy of the J\$90.87M contract to commence work on the St Ann Family Court. Also signing are former Permanent Secretary, Mrs Sancia Bennett Templer (centre) and Managing Director of Contraxx Enterprise Limited, Mr Stephen Chung. Looking on are (l-r): Senior Director Corporate Services, Mrs Kathy Chambers Adman; Chief Justice, Hon. Mr Justice Bryan Sykes; Chief Parish Court Judge, His Hon. Mr Chester Crooks; and former Chief Technical Director at the Ministry, Mrs Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane.

Manchester Family Court



Built in 1817, the Georgian-styled former Manchester Parish Court is the oldest building in Mandeville Square. It is being renovated by the Justice Ministry at a cost of \$50M and will be operated as a Family Court for the parish.



Renovation is underway at the Manchester Parish Court as fire destroyed parts of the building in 2019. Scope of work for the project includes repairing the fire-damaged section of the roof; upgrading the electrical and mechanical systems; and retrofitting and renovating approximately 6,000 square feet of gross floor area.

ADVANCING THE VISION: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR JUSTICE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

Madam Speaker, the Justice Ministry has been educating and enhancing the skills and knowledge of justice sector stakeholders by implementing capacity building plans and initiatives. Through targeted capacity building efforts, the quality of justice service delivery has improved as our stakeholders are more empowered and more equipped to discharge their duties at the highest standard.

Training activities coordinated and delivered by our Justice Training Institute have positively impacted the individual performance of 1,378 justice sector stakeholders. Many citizens have answered the call to become JPs and as such participated in 20 Qualifying Training sessions for 851 aspiring JPs.

Madam Speaker, this would not have been possible without the kind support of our friends from the Canadian Government who, in October 2020, donated a smartboard and other equipment to facilitate virtual training sessions with JPs. This contribution was timely, allowing virtual training sessions with JPs to continue, despite the pandemic.

Additionally, 478 JPs benefited from specialised training sessions conducted by the JTI, with 51 being trained in the operations of the Lay Magistrates' Court and 427 being trained in Conflict Resolution. We were also able to improve the capacity of 49 justice sector workers and court staff, training 26 deputy clerks of courts and 23 justice sector workers in competencies that will enhance their abilities to deliver justice services efficiently and effectively.

Through improved technology, our over 9,000 commissioned JPs islandwide will shortly each have a dedicated email address. This process is well advanced as we have acquired a Storage Access Network (SAN) at a cost of \$6.1 million for email. Once implemented, it will allow for domain registration of jp.gov.jm. This will allow for ease of communication with Jamaicans across the island who need to access services from their JPs.

Administrator-General's Department

The Administrator-General's Department (AGD) continues to ably fulfil its duties to protect the interests of minors, beneficiaries and creditors of estates through effective administration of assets of those who have died intestate.

In the 2020/21 fiscal year, the AGD transferred all assets to beneficiaries in 434 estates and closed these cases, exceeding its initial closure target of 400. 350 new estate cases were also reported to the Department.

Madam Speaker, improving efficiency in every area of the Justice Sector is one of the critical planks of the Justice Reform agenda. The Department, in this regard, succeeded in its efforts to shorten the timeframe for the administration process by issuing 98% of the 245 instruments of administration within four months of the application date. The highly functional Trust and Estate Management System (TEMS) also continues to improve the efficiency of the AGD's operations as key estate-related functions were automated in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

These include:

- digitisation of 90% of manual files and records
- full automation of 75% of estate accounts
- compensation of beneficiaries via online methods

Legal Aid Council

The Legal Aid Council continues to advance the Ministry's vision of ensuring effective access to justice for those who are unable to afford and secure legal representation for their criminal matters as well as access legal information.



En route to a first class justice system - Our Mobile Justice Units advance the vision of improving access to justice for all by travelling islandwide each month to provide persons with information on their legal matters.

Empanelled attorneys of the Legal Aid Council have been making themselves available through duty counsel representation and providing representation in the Parish, Gun, Circuit and Appeal Courts. 3,903 individuals benefited from services offered by the Legal Aid Council. This number includes 2,277 persons who received assistance through the duty counsel representation programme.



Leaving no one behind - Citizens with mobility issues can also access legal information from the Mobile Justice Units as they are equipped with wheelchair lifts.

Madam Speaker, I am also happy to report that the LAC empanelled 37 more attorneys, which brings to 817 the number of attorneys who have been empanelled to assist persons with their criminal matters in court.

Members of this Honourable House, please join me in commending these attorneys for their willingness to improve access to justice for underserved and high-risk populations. This is an indication that the actors in the justice system are empathetic and mindful that socio-economic factors should not be a deterrent to accessing justice.

Madam Speaker, our Mobile Justice Units have been taking us on a smooth and comfortable journey to a first-class justice system. In the last fiscal year, our justice fleet provided legal information to 1568 residents from 101 communities across the island. Furthermore, in response to occasional suspension of operations as a result of spikes in COVID-19 cases, the Council expanded the operations of the Units to include telephone and virtual consultations.

Madam Speaker, we are indeed en route to a first-class justice system as we will use and explore all avenues available to facilitate effective access to justice services to the people of Jamaica.

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Over the past fiscal year, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) contributed significantly to the Ministry's mandate of protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of our citizens.

Madam Speaker, the DPP and her team were able to dispose of more than 1200 cases across the various circuit and gun courts islandwide, adding to their excellent track record of delivering effective and just prosecutions in criminal proceedings.

In November 2020, the ODPP partnered with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to launch a training video entitled **'Digital Policing Criminal Investigations in the Technological Era'**, that explores the three investigative tools available to the police under the Cybercrimes Act.

This training tool will assist them to gather computer material for any criminal offence and enhance their capacity to use their investigative powers under the act.

Members of this Honourable House, these are the types of synergies we encourage among members of law enforcement and the justice system to root out crime and violence in our society. I commend the DPP and the JCF, as their partnership on this initiative underscores the value they place on the continued legal education of law enforcers, especially in a technologically driven era where criminal investigations involve digital devices.

I also thank the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for providing the justice system with more funding support to strengthen our prosecutorial services. I am confident that this boost in resources will improve the operational efficiency of the ODPP.

Madam Speaker, one area that could be addressed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in further expediting the completion of cases is more emphasis on plea bargaining in all cases.

Once a file is completed and ready for trial, as is the practice in the US where some ninety (90) per cent of cases are completed by plea bargaining, the prosecution should engage defence attorneys to bargain the completion of the case by a lesser charge and/or a lower sentence. Naturally, for serious matters, the sentence has to be within the normal range and at the higher level, taking note that both charge and sentence would have to be approved by the Presiding Judge. The Plea Negotiations and Agreements Act is one which I think is not being utilized and I am urging prosecutors to give more attention to plea bargaining to reduce the backlogs in the courts.

Madam Speaker, this leads me to address the matter of sentencing. I have heard the cry of our people, that some of the sentences being imposed for certain offences are mere slaps on the wrists of criminal offenders given, the serious nature of their crimes.

I strongly believe that after a guilty verdict, there should be a sentence hearing where the sentencing judge hears presentations from both the prosecution and defence attorney before imposing sentence.

Capital Works

During this fiscal year, the Ministry is projecting to spend an estimated \$540 million on capital works and another \$257.95 million on Appropriation in Aid (AIA) projects, to include both new construction and renovations. As we build and renovate, we are now taking into consideration the needs of children, the elderly and those with mobility restrictions. We are providing for the people of Jamaica modern, accessible, well-appointed spaces to conduct their business. These facilities will rival the best in the Caribbean!

In this Fiscal Year:

We will begin the design phase for the establishment of a Regional Judicial Complex in Manchester and Phase one of the St Catherine Parish Complex.

We will complete the professional architectural services for the development of Justice Centres in Hanover and St Catherine.

We will operationalise the Family Courts in Manchester and St Ann which are now being renovated. We will continue our programme of preventative maintenance, rehabilitation and repair works programme to Justice Centres, Child Diversion and Victim Services Division offices islandwide.

We will renovate and refurbish the Supreme Court and courthouses in five parishes.

Madam Speaker, I am confident that in a matter of months we will exhaust our budget for projects so I am putting Minister Nigel Clarke and the Ministry of Finance on alert, that I will no doubt be coming to you for additional funding so that we can adequately develop the justice built environment for the people of Jamaica.

Legislation

Two key pieces of legislation were finalised in the House this past year. In October 2020, the Authentication (Foreign Public Documents) Act was passed. This facilitates a more simplified process for authenticating local public documents intended for use overseas, and foreign documents to be used in Jamaica.

The second piece of Legislation was the Dogs (Liability for Attacks) Act, which was passed in December 2020, allowing for criminal as well as civil liability for attacks by dogs. This was a well-needed amendment to the previous law which did not allow for criminal liability, and I have noticed a decline in the incidence of dog attacks reported in the media since its passage. I continue to encourage Jamaicans to monitor their dogs in public spaces to mitigate against needless injury to members of the public.

As Members of this Honourable House would be aware, the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel supports each Ministry with drafting Legislation relevant to their areas. I am proud to report that every one of my colleague ministers received support from the OPC this past year!

Madam Speaker, just under two hundred (200) pieces of Legislation are being revised and the Ministry of Justice is working assiduously with my colleague Ministers to have them completed and eventually tabled in Parliament as soon as possible.

These pieces of Legislation are being revised to reflect the current and emerging needs of our democracy and will be brought in line with comparative Legislation in developed countries. This is one of the benchmarks of a First-Class Justice System!

I thank the public for continued engagement in the process of passing Legislation and look forward to comments and suggestions when others are brought to the House for consideration.

Madam Speaker, for 2021/22 the Justice Ministry will focus on some key legislation as follows:

- the Judicature (Parish Courts) (Amendment) Act and Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Act to grant limited right of appeal to the prosecution, which will shortly be debated in Parliament.
- the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act that will expand the powers of the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Board to consider applications for expungement. We are now finalising the Cabinet Submission.
- the Mediation Act which is intended to ratify the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (the Singapore Convention on Mediation), and to create a framework for greater use of domestic mediation. The Policy for which Cabinet approval will be sought is being finalised by the Justice Ministry's Legal Reform Department.

Restorative Justice

The Restorative Justice Programme is steadily increasing in accessibility and utilization. It is therefore our intention to support the programme's growth in the new Fiscal Year.



We will be aiming for a 25% increase in both the number of sensitization sessions conducted, as well as the number of citizens who are educated on Restorative Justice.

We will also deliver restorative practices training to over 3,000 justice service providers including JPs, school administrators, Police Officers, and Department of Correctional Services staff, including Probation Officers.

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck (second left) and Member of Parliament for St Andrew Eastern, Hon. Fayval Williams (second right) prepare to cut the ribbon and officially open the brand new August Town Restorative Justice Centre. They were joined by Former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice Mrs Sancia Bennet Templer (right) and Restorative Justice Coordinator Andriene Lindsay (left) for the special moment



Restorative Justice Coordinator Ms Andriene Lindsay presents Mr Dexter Thompson, External Alliance Specialist at the Department of Correctional Services with a gift basket after his presentation at the Restorative Justice Virtual Seminar held as a part of Restorative Justice Week 2021. The RJ Unit and the DCS partnered on the first restorative justice case relating to murder in 2021.



Restorative Justice aims to make a national difference by creating change and encouraging healing at the community level. Trained RJ practitioners therefore maintain a positive presence in their respective communities.

Child Diversion

The 2020/2021 Fiscal Year was a year of establishment for the CD Programme. The 2021/2022 Fiscal Year, **Mr Speaker**, will be a year of abundant growth.

We will be increasing:

- the number of children in conflict with the law who are serviced by CD Service Providers;
- the number of new children offenders who are referred to the CD programme;
- the number of agreements established with service providers;
- the number of sensitization sessions conducted;
- the number of Child Diversion Parish Committee meetings held;
- the number of new mentors introduced to the programme; and
- the public awareness and education efforts surrounding the programme.

It is our ultimate goal that by increasing these factors, we can increase the value of the child diversion programme to the children it serves and the country it aims to improve.

Victim Services

We will continue to care for the victim population through counselling and other therapeutic and crisis intervention initiatives. In the 2021/22 fiscal year, we intend to provide counselling and emotional support services to at least 5036 new clients; follow-up with 5000 existing clients as well as conduct over 10,000 counselling sessions.

Administrator-General's Department

The Administrator-General and her team are committed to improving the efficiency of the Department's operations and as such is projecting to:

- close 800 estates during the 2021/22 fiscal year, with major emphasis to be placed on closing multi-generational cases;
- reduce the timeframe for the issuing of Instruments of Administration to 3 months of application;
- complete automation of records and
- integrate risk management into the Trust and Estate Management System

Legal Aid Council

In the upcoming financial year, the Legal Aid Council plans to:

- empanel 57 more attorneys to assist those of moderate means with legal representation in court for their criminal matters
- satisfy 95% of duty counsel requests received
- assign attorneys to 90% of cases involving mentally ill detainees
- provide residents living in 200 communities with legal information through the Mobile Justice Unit

Justice Training Institute

Our Justice Training Institute will continue to improve the capacities of Justices of the Peace and justice sector stakeholders so that our citizens can benefit from high-quality justice service delivery. The JTI projects to train 735 Justices of the Peace through Qualifying and specialised training sessions and conduct 18 capacity building initiatives with justice sector stakeholders.

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

The ODPP is also aiming to improve its efficiency during the upcoming fiscal year by:

- increasing the number of cases disposed of in the various circuits by 14%
- completing 95% of urgent rulings assigned to Crown Counsel within 24-48 hours of receipt
- ruling on 60% of files within 6 weeks



Justices of the Peace from St James being sworn into office in December 2020.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, the team at the Justice Ministry has faithfully discharged their duties as the lead administrators of Justice in Jamaica. I have been impressed by their agility and dedication as they responded to the demands of the pandemic and continued to deliver efficient customer service to justice stakeholders across the island.

In particular, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the stellar work of the Ministry's Finance and Accounts Division as it relates to the settlement of Judgement Debts. In the 2020/20201 Fiscal Year, \$646M was paid out in the settlement of 176 matters. We will continue to execute due process for sums awarded in the course of Justice as this is a true indicator of a first-class justice system.

My team and I have approached this new fiscal year with confidence and a deepened commitment to play our part to foster a 'safe, cohesive and just' society. For now, we will continue to virtually provide those services and support that cannot be done in person, but **Madam Speaker**, to quote local singer Koffee, when the quarantine thing done, and everybody touch road, we are primed and ready to continue to take justice to the people of Jamaica, land we love!

Thank you, **Madam Speaker**.

APPENDIX

DIVISION/AGENCY	ACHIEVEMENTS 2020/21	PROJECTIONS 2021/22
<p>THE JUDICIARY</p>	<p>Court of Appeal Approximately 68% of judgments were delivered within six months of being reserved.</p> <p>Clearance rate of Court of Appeal is 81% - an increase of 11% over 2019 - that is 81 cases for every 100 reserved</p> <p>Supreme Court Now delivering 234 judgments for every 100 reserved</p> <p>Parish Court Overall clearance rate for criminal cases was 96.47%. Seven of thirteen Parish Courts had clearance rate of ≥ 90%. The hearing date certainty was 84%</p> <p>Number of Matters coming into the Parish Courts 2019 = 353,614 of which 79.74% are traffic offences 2020 = 340,578 of which 82.79% are traffic offences</p> <p>Home Circuit Court has seen a clearance rate of over 70% during the last two years.</p>	<p>Court of Appeal Based on current trends, by the end of 2021/2022 fiscal year, upwards of 75% of judgments will be delivered within six months.</p> <p>Supreme Court At the current rate, by the end of this fiscal year it is expected that over 90% of judgments outstanding will be current. No more than 10% of judgments will be outstanding for more than six months.</p> <p>Parish Court Civil Division By the end of this fiscal year, under 10% of active civil cases will be in backlog</p>
<p>LEGISLATIVE AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM</p>	<p>Dogs (Liability for Attacks) Act, passed by the Houses of Parliament in December 2020, which provides for criminal and civil liability for attacks by dogs; and the Authentication (Foreign Public Documents) Act, passed by the Houses of Parliament in October 2020, which will facilitate a more simplified process for authenticating local public documents intended for use overseas, and foreign documents to be used in Jamaica.</p>	<p>The Government will continue to pursue Legislative Reform through the following: Judicature (Parish Courts) (Amendment) Act and Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Act, to grant a limited right of appeal to the Prosecution.</p> <p>Reform of the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act to expand the powers of the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Board to consider application for expungement.</p> <p>Mediation Act, to enact legislation to ratify the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements resulting from Mediation (“the Singapore Convention on Mediation”), and to create a legislative framework for greater use of domestic mediation.</p>

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMME	<p>Restorative Justice (RJ) Week was held under theme, <i>“Working Together for Healing and Restoration”</i> Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Church Service • All Island Sensitizations; and • Opening of August Town RJ Centre 	<p>On-going facilitation of Restorative Justice Cases: 14,080 persons islandwide, to benefit from Restorative Justice Sensitization sessions.</p> <p>3,045 beneficiaries (to include JPs, School Administrators, Police Officers, and Department of Corrections staff, including Probation Officers) to be trained in Restorative Practices.</p>
NATIONAL CHILD DIVERSION PROGRAMME	<p>Training webinars conducted for the Judges of the Parish Court, Supreme Court and Appeal Court</p> <p>Sensitization sessions conducted for Prosecutors across the island</p> <p>Agreements established with service providers including: Women’s Centre of Jamaica Foundation and National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA)</p> <p>21 Agreements established with mental Health Professionals, including psychologist, Guidance Counsellors and Social Workers</p> <p>309 sensitization sessions conducted Police Officers, Guidance Counsellors, Probation Aftercare Officers, Education personnel, parish council personnel, Jamaica Fire Brigade, Service clubs, Child Protection and Family Services staff, Deans of Discipline, potential mentors, students, schools, court professionals, justice staff and the general public.</p> <p>305 referrals of children to the Child Diversion Programme</p> <p>16 CD Officers trained as Trainers to deliver the Child Diversion National Curriculum</p> <p>The Child Diversion Standard Operating Procedure Manual was drafted and the document piloted and finalized its use.</p> <p>Social Worker Practicum students engaged across the island.</p>	<p>The Ministry will continue to roll out the National Child Diversion programme:</p> <p>781 children in conflict with the law serviced by CD Service Providers</p> <p>840 new children in conflict with the law serviced by CD Service Providers</p> <p>80% of new children in conflict with the law serviced by CD Service Providers</p> <p>70% of children referred identified as needing treatment serviced</p> <p>30 Agreements established with service providers</p> <p>504 sensitization sessions held</p> <p>156 Child Diversion Committee meetings held</p> <p>280 mentors added to the existing cadre in the Mentorship Programme</p> <p>Training held of all newly appointed Parish Child Diversion Committee members and approved mentors</p> <p>Public awareness and education campaign</p>

<p>PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</p>	<p>In the last Fiscal Year, over \$540 million was spent to support the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of justice facilities islandwide. The achievements for the year include:</p> <p>Advanced renovation and expansion of Public Building West, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.</p> <p>Construction in progress to establish the St. Ann and Manchester Family Courts. At the close of the Financial Year 2020/2021 works completion of these courts were at 35 per cent and 65 per cent, respectively.</p> <p>Completion of Topographical and Geotechnical Surveys to guide upcoming construction projects to establish the Manchester and St Ann Regional Judicial Complexes.</p> <p>Development of Architectural Designs and Bills of Quantities to guide the commencement of major construction works for the St. Andrew (Stony Hill) Justice Centre. Schematic Designs were also completed to support the construction of the St Catherine Justice Centre. Designs for Hanover and Clarendon Justice Centre are in progress.</p> <p>General Refurbishing, Renovation, and Retrofitting of ten (10) Courthouses: Retrofitting and renovation of James Plaza, Mandeville to facilitate the temporary relocation of the Manchester Parish Court.</p> <p>Upgrading and modification of the electrical distribution system at Hanover Parish Court - Lucea Refurbishing Works at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court - Criminal Division</p>	<p>Completion of Renovation works at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions – Public Building West, to include additional electrical and mechanical upgrades</p> <p>Completion and operationalisation the Manchester and St Ann Family Courts Completion of Professional architectural services for the development of the Hanover Clarendon and St. Catherine Justice Centres. These Justice Centres will offer a combination of Restorative Justice and Child Diversion services.</p> <p>Commencement of the design phase for the establishment of Regional Judicial Complex in the parishes of Manchester. The designs for Phase 1 of the St. Catherine Parish Complex (Family Court) will also be targeted.</p> <p>Renovation and refurbishing of selected courthouses to include the Supreme Court, St Catherine Parish Court, Clarendon Parish Court, Manchester Parish Court, St James Family Court, Westmoreland Parish Court and the St Mary Parish Court.</p> <p>Continued roll out of the Ministry’s preventative maintenance, rehabilitation and repair works programme in relation to Justice Centres, Child Diversion and Victim Services Division islandwide.</p> <p>Property acquisition for the Westmoreland Family Court and identification of alternative location for Manchester Justice Centre.</p>
---	---	---

<p>PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</p>	<p>General Refurbishing, Renovation, Retrofitting and Maintenance of fifteen (15) Alternative Dispute Resolution, Victim Services Division, and other justice facilities: Establishment of Interim Justice Centre for St Thomas and August Town RJ Centre; Repair works undertaken at Trelawny, Westmoreland and Portland Justice Centres, Hanover and St Mary Victim Services Division, and the St Catherine Child Diversion Office. Roof repairs at Justice Training Institute;</p> <p>Repair and replacement of air conditioning systems at twelve (12) justice institutions including Victim Support Divisions, Justice Centres, Justice Training Institute and Child Diversion Offices;</p> <p>Installation of cameras and monitors at ten (10) Restorative Justice Centres and Justice Centres islandwide to facilitate virtual sessions.</p>	
<p>VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION</p>	<p>Provided counselling and emotional support services to 5,099 new clients; 7,181 follow-up clients.</p> <p>Conducted 8,119 counselling sessions. Provided trauma and grief therapy to 2,407 children individually.</p> <p>Provided emergency assistance (funeral grants) to 45 beneficiaries Provided 388 residents of West Kingston and its environs with counselling services.</p> <p>25 E-Counselling stations established which facilitated</p> <p>6,688 e-counselling sessions ensuring business continuity despite COVID19.</p> <p>3 Parish offices (Westmoreland, St. Catherine & St. Mary) relocated and/or renovated in order to enhance service delivery.</p>	<p>Provide counselling and emotional support services to 5,036 new clients; 5,000 follow-up clients.</p> <p>To conduct 10,120 counselling sessions Provide counselling and emotional support services to</p> <p>400 new clients in West Kingston and its environs</p>

<p>ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT</p>	<p>For the 2020/2021 financial year the Department transferred all assets to beneficiaries in 434 estates and closed these cases. The closure target for the period was 400.</p> <p>A total of 350 new estate cases were reported to the Department.</p> <p>98% of the 245 Instruments of Administration issued during the period were done within 4 months of the applications being made. This allows for shorter timeframe for the administration process.</p> <p>The implementation of the Trust & Estate Management System (TEMS) has resulted in the automation of key estate related functions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 75% of estate accounts fully automated - Online payment to beneficiaries 90% Digitisation of manual files and records 	<p>The Department is projecting to close 800 estates during the 2021/2022 financial year, with major focus on closing the multigenerational cases.</p> <p>The Department has developed a 3 year plan to eliminate backlog estates through a project staffed by Attorneys-at-Law who recently attained their Certificate of Legal Education from the Norman Manley Law school.</p> <p>The Department projects to reduce the timeframe for the issuing of Instruments of Administration to within 3 months of application being made, over the next 3 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete automation of manual records • Data Protection Compliant • Integration of Risk Management into TEMS <p>Further develop capacity to facilitate remote work</p>
<p>LEGAL AID COUNCIL</p>	<p>In excess of 2,551 cases were completed by attorneys assigned Legal Aid Matters -</p> <p>Parish Courts – 1,626 Gun Courts – 337 Circuit Court – 573 Appeal Court – 15</p> <p>37 attorneys were empanelled to provide representation</p> <p>Over 2,277 persons received Duty Counsel services.</p> <p>Over 55 mentally ill persons received representation over the period.</p> <p>101 community visits and provided consultations to community beneficiaries.</p> <p>1,568 residents received legal advice.</p>	<p>To assign attorneys to no less than 90% cases referred.</p> <p>57 additional Attorneys empanelled 95% Duty Counsel request satisfied.</p> <p>90% mentally-ill cases assigned</p> <p>13 Outreach programmes</p> <p>200 community visits</p>

<p>MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS</p>	<p>: The retrofitting of a mobile unit to have audio visual equipment and wheelchair lift. This is to facilitate remote testimonies for witnesses</p> <p>Acquisition of a SAN for storage of email and domain registration of jp.gov.jm</p> <p>Development of a Migration tool to migrate information the legacy system JEMS & CISS into JCMS</p> <p>The payment of one-year support from the developer for the ongoing customization of the JCMS</p> <p>The payment of one-year support from the supplier for the maintenance of JEMS pending the migration of legacy information to JCMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The payment for works to provide high-speed internet to 8 court locations in the corporate area. 100 MPs per location of internet access 	<p>Handing over for the bus to CAD</p> <p>Awaiting delivery of SAN then provisioning of email address for JP islandwide that are commissioned</p> <p>Migration of real information from legacy system scheduled to migrate in second quarter of 2021/2022 Fiscal year</p> <p>Implementation phase tentative set for April 2021</p> <p>Facilitate the migration project schedule to commence shortly</p> <p>Additional courts are to be identified for connection to this high speed internet.</p>
<p>PUBLIC LAW RESTORATIVE AND PREVENTATIVE JUSTICE</p>	<p>Legislative Amendment to the Justices of the Peace Act, section 8(1) tabled in Parliament on April 13, 2021</p> <p>Introduction of New Design Official Seals for Justices of the Peace</p> <p>Ministry procured necessary storage capacity and registered domain for email address to be assigned to all Justices of the Peace. Email domain characteristics – firstname.lastname@jp.gov.jm</p> <p>17 Notaries Public were approved and commissioned</p> <p>The 2012 Restorative Justice (RJ) Policy and accompanied legislation assessed/reviewed with the development of a Position Paper/ Situational Analysis Developed to revise the over 8-year-old Policy to become compatible with current/ leading trends in RJ</p>	<p>Preparation for the replacement of Old design official seals and roll out with full implementation/replacement by March 2026.</p> <p>Roll out of email address to be introduced on a phased basis per selected parish in 2nd Quarter of 2021/2022</p> <p>Budget - \$6.2M</p> <p>To obtain Cabinet’s approval for the revision of the RJ Policy and effect needed legislative amendments</p>



