

PM Holness Thanks Diaspora and Encourages Them to Invest in JA

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is encouraging members of the Jamaican diaspora to take advantage of the myriad opportunities that exist for investment in the country.

“There are so many areas in which we would welcome the investment of the diaspora. It is not just about sending your remittances. There are real business opportunities in Jamaica that we encourage you to take advantage of,” he said.

Mr. Holness was addressing a Prime Ministerial town hall meeting on June 16, held as part of a virtual Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium.

The Prime Minister noted, for example, that one way the Jamaican Diaspora can invest in the country is to “own a piece of Jamaica” with the purchase of homes, adding



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addresses a Prime Ministerial town hall meeting, held as part of a virtual Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium, on June 16.

that many members of the diaspora have been doing that, which augurs well for the economy.

“That helped the growth of the construction sector, which has been the most resilient sector of the economy

during the [COVID-19] pandemic and we want to keep the construction sector going. So, we encourage members of the diaspora to keep on investing in real estate and housing developments in Jamaica,” he said.

The Prime Minister pointed out that tourism, which is “another strong mainstay of the economy” that was badly hit by the pandemic, and is now recovering, is another key area for investment by the diaspora.

Jamaica to Benefit From COVID-19 Vaccines Donated by United States

JAMAICA IS poised to benefit from the United States (US) donation of an initial 25 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines that have been earmarked for deployment globally, to assist in easing challenges with access being experienced by a number of countries.

This was disclosed by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, who said that representatives of the Government had discussions with US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, among other officials, during which assurances were given that the region would be assisted with vaccines “at a point in time”.

“Jamaica will be part of the Latin America and Caribbean region where it is anticipated that by the end of this month (June), some distribution will have started,” the Minister further informed.

She was speaking during a digital town hall meeting on June 16, which forms part of the two-day virtual Jamaica Diaspora Sustainability Symposium.

The town hall meeting was hosted by Prime



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith

Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness.

Senator Johnson Smith indicated that Jamaica has also participated in discussions facilitated through CARICOM in relation to securing supplies from the initial 25 million vaccine doses.

“We have not yet had a confirmed quantity. But we continue to liaise as they work out the different formulas that they use, on guidance from Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) ... taking into consideration the rate of transmission which is taking place in the various islands,” she said.

Trelawny Gets New Custos

THE HON. Hugh Wayne Gentles was officially sworn in as Custos of Trelawny, on June 17 by Governor-General His Excellency the Most Hon.

Sir Patrick Allen at the Ocean Coral Spring Hotel in the parish.

In his address at the ceremony, Prime Minister the

Most Hon. Andrew Holness said the post of Custos forms an important part of rebuilding the nation.

“The post still maintains its cherished value; it represents the call for unity and peace, as part of a system of values which must be engendered in our society,” Mr. Holness said.

“As Jamaica grapples with an epidemic of violence, Custodes are part of the framework of rebuilding Jamaica as a peaceful, caring, loving and dignified society,” the Prime Minister added.

Mr. Holness emphasised that dignity is a crucial aspect of the administration of public affairs.

For his part, the Governor-General said that the new Custos will provide leadership to inspire and instil a strong

sense of direction for the citizens of the parish.

Custos Gentles in his response, said he “is humbled by the honour bestowed on me”, and thanked the Governor-General and the Prime Minister for their decision to appoint him to serve his country.

As part of the proceedings, the Order of Distinction, Commander Class, was also conferred on Custos Gentles by the Governor-General.



Governor-General His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (right) confers the Order of Distinction, Commander Class, on newly installed Custos of Trelawny, the Hon. Hugh Wayne Gentles, at the Ocean Coral Spring Hotel, on June 17.

Seaforth Health Centre Adopted by Seprod Foundation and Canco Ltd.

THE SEAFORTH Health Centre in St. Thomas has been officially adopted by the Seprod Foundation and Canco Ltd., under the Ministry of Health and Wellness Adopt-a-Clinic Programme.

Speaking at the ceremony, which was held on June 17 at the facility, Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, thanked both entities for their combined commitment to the facility of \$6 million over three years.

“They have demonstrated the kind of corporate social responsibility that is essential to our ongoing efforts to enhance the public health system and particularly at a time when we are faced with the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic,” he said.

“This funding will not only support the renovation of the facility but also the purchase of needed clinical and office equipment as well as maintenance,” the Minister added.

For her part, Executive Director of the Seprod

Foundation, Lisa D’Oyen, said that St. Thomas and the community of Seaforth are very special to the Foundation.

She said it was only fitting that Seprod was deepening its investment in the community through the adoption of the Seaforth Health Centre, pointing out that capacity issues have been identified and will be addressed, and that this will be done while ensuring that each of the clinical spaces are fit for purpose.



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (2nd right), and Chairman and CEO of Canco Ltd., Norman McDonald (2nd left), unveil a plaque marking the adoption of the Seaforth Health Centre by the Seprod Foundation and Canco Ltd., which operates under the Linstead Market brand. Sharing the moment are Member of Parliament for St. Thomas Western, James Robertson (left), and Executive Director of the Seprod Foundation, Lisa D’Oyen.

Hospitals to Receive Mobile Blood Pressure Machines



State Minister in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn (left), views mobile blood pressure equipment at a handover ceremony by the Rotary Club of St. Andrew North, in New Kingston, on June 14. With the State Minister are former President of the Rotary Club of St. Andrew North, Henleith Annmarie Curtis (right); Founder of the Jamaica Kidney Kids Foundation, Dr. Maolynne Miller (2nd left); Senior Medical Officer at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Dr. Michelle-Ann Richards-Dawson (2nd right), and Director of Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Dr. Judith Leiba.

Comprehensive Upgrading of Montego Bay Hip Strip

THE GOVERNMENT has budgeted \$1.2 billion to undertake comprehensive upgrading of the popular Montego Bay Hip Strip, located along Jimmy Cliff Boulevard (formerly Gloucestershire Avenue), in the resort city.

Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, says the sum includes \$150 million earmarked in the 2021/22 Budget to commence preliminary work on the project, which, he notes, will form part of the focus on reimagining and transforming the Hip Strip and, by extension, Montego Bay.

The Minister made the announcement while delivering the closing 2021/22 Sectoral Debate presentation in the House of Representatives on June 15, under the theme ‘Recovering Faster, Stronger and Better’.



Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett

Mr. Bartlett said the proposed Hip Strip development includes physical improvements, new product development and substantial operations, heavy street-scaping, and possible pedestrianising of the area after re-scoping of the transportation and road networks.

Additionally, he said the work will include creating thematic facades and developing an entertainment park, spanning the stretch from the Harmony Beach Park to the popular dead-end beach on Kent Avenue.

Mr. Bartlett further advised that the programmed renovations will be complemented by the proposed construction of a 13-storey mixed-use facility along the strip by a local developer that is intended to accommodate hotels, residences and entertainment activities.

He added that this development will push the value of investment in that area to approximately \$7.9 billion.

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