

Cardiac Ward, Overnight Parent Suite for Children's Hospital

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on July 7, broke ground for the construction of a multipurpose building at the Bustamante Hospital for Children in St. Andrew to house a paediatric cardiac ward and overnight parent suite.

The two-storey facility, to be built over the next two years at a cost of approximately \$120 million, will be developed by the National Housing Trust (NHT) in partnership with the National Health Fund (NHF) and South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA).

It is part of the hospital's multimillion-dollar redevelopment master plan, which includes a newly established Drug Serv Pharmacy built by the NHF at a cost of approximately \$70 million, which the Prime Minister also officially opened on Wednesday.

The plan also entails expansion of ward space at the hospital to provide 100 additional beds.

Mr. Holness, in his address, said implementation



Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (third right) breaks ground on July 7 for the construction of a multipurpose facility at the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston that will house a paediatric cardiac ward and overnight parent suite. Also participating in the ground breaking (from left) are National Health Fund (NHF) Director of Projects, Orett Clarke; Senior Medical Officer at the Hospital, Dr. Michelle-Ann Richards-Dawson; National Housing Trust (NHT) Chairman, Lennox Channer; Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton; Chairman of the Hospital's Management Committee, Kenneth Benjamin and NHF Board member, Nicole Ebanks

of the redevelopment masterplan will continue the revitalisation and upgrading of the hospital's existing infrastructure which, he pointed out, has been significantly improved over time.

The Prime Minister said these upgrades include construction of a diagnostics

services block, operating theatre suite, accident and emergency building, a specialist outpatient block, and a new cardiac wing.

Mr. Holness, who has portfolio responsibility for the NHT, thanked the entity for funding the construction of the paediatric cardiac ward

and overnight parent suite, which will provide accommodation for persons, particularly those travelling over long distances to the hospital with their children.

He said that the redevelopment plan "fits in the broader context of national development".

EU provides \$1.8B Grant to Build, Upgrade Health Centres

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE facilities will be built and upgraded in select rural communities through a \$1.8-billion (€10.2-million) non-reimbursable grant from the European Union (EU).

The EU has committed the funds under its Caribbean Investment Facility (EU-CIF) in support of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Health Systems Strengthening Programme (Health Hybrid Programme), which aims to bolster the country's capacity to effectively address the issue of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

It will augment the US\$50-million Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) investment loan for the programme, which will see the upgrading and development of 13 health facilities – three hospitals and

10 health centres – to benefit some 800,000 Jamaicans.

The non-reimbursable support from the EU is for the work to be done on the health centres.

The programme, which has the objective of improving the management, quality and efficiency of health services, also entails the introduction and implementation of an information system for health, including remote patient monitoring, e-prescription and electronic health record.

At a visibility ceremony for the Non-Reimbursable Grant Financing, held at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in Kingston on July 7, portfolio Minister, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, said that the funds from the EU will help make the objectives of the health hybrid programme a reality.

Damage Caused by Heavy Rains Estimated at \$803 Million

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has informed that the damage caused by the heavy rains from Tropical Storm Elsa is estimated at \$803 million.

He made the disclosure during a statement in the House of Representatives on July 6.

A preliminary assessment by the National Works Agency (NWA) is that approximately 177 roads islandwide were affected by Tropical Storm Elsa.

Mr. Holness informed that the assessment, to date, is divided into two categories – cost to clean and clear roadways and drains of silt and debris and cost to make the roads accessible.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

Regarding the cost to clean and clear roadways and drains of silt and debris, the preliminary cost has been put at \$443 mil-

lion. Another \$360 million will be required to make affected corridors accessible.

"The cost to make the roads accessible, speaks to

the filling of holes, grading and using shingles and minimum patching to improve drivability on the roads. We expect that this activity will be carried out within the next two weeks," he noted.

The Prime Minister said the NWA will continue to assess the damage, including inspection of all structures in areas where the intensity of rainfall was highest.

Meanwhile, Mr. Holness urged members of the Lower House to move quickly in assisting the NWA in having the first phase of its mitigation programme completed.

The Government has made \$100 million available for this purpose.

Jamaica Receives Donation of Medical Refrigeration Units



Member of Parliament for East Rural St. Andrew, the Most Hon. Juliet Holness (left), looks at pharmaceutical drugs stored inside a new medical refrigeration unit at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), which is among 20 units donated by Direct Relief to the public health system. She is assisted by Senior Director for Pharmacy Services, National Health Fund (NHF), Keron Maise (centre), while Direct Relief's Director of Program Operations, Genevieve Bitter, observes. The units were officially handed over on July 8, during a ceremony at the NHF in St. Andrew.

Ground Broken for Child Therapeutic Centre

EDUCATION, Youth and Information Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams, on July 6, broke ground for the construction of a Child Therapeutic Centre at the Maxfield Park Children's Home in Kingston, at a cost of more than \$117 million.

Construction of the centre is being undertaken through funding in the amount of \$30 million provided by the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) and just over \$87 million by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF)-implemented Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF), which is financed by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The undertaking will entail the construction of four consultation rooms, four treatment rooms, one screening area, one waiting area, two

guardrooms, one reception area, two bathroom facilities, one officer lounge, driveway/parking area, an administrative area, four counselling rooms, three behavioural therapy rooms, three physical therapy rooms, three courtyards and fencing.

Construction of the therapeutic centre is expected to be completed within six months. It will provide residential inpatient programmes, a day treatment programme and outpatient counselling and psychotherapy services for children and their families.

In her address, Minister Williams said the centre is an important development in the provision of psychosocial support for children in State care.



Education, Youth and Information Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams (left), along with Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Omar Sweeney, views an artist's impression of the \$117-million Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) Child Therapeutic Centre, at the ground-breaking ceremony held at the Maxfield Park Children's Home on July 6.

Homeless Shelter to be Constructed In Falmouth

LOCAL GOVERNMENT and Rural Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, broke ground for the construction of a state-of-the-art homeless shelter in Falmouth, Trelawny, on July 8.

The facility, which will be built at a cost of \$25 million, will have the capacity to house 20 persons.

The shelter, the first of its kind outside the Corporate

Area, will provide temporary shelter, meals, and bathroom amenities for the approximately 25 homeless persons in the parish. It is slated for completion by the end of 2021.

In his address, Mr. McKenzie reaffirmed Government's commitment to the homeless population, through the continued provision of holistic care and development of

appropriate infrastructure to accommodate them.

"We are doing this because it is our responsibility. Many of these persons have contributed significantly to the growth and development of Jamaica, but something went wrong along the way," he said.

"Our response to the homeless population has been wide. We have part-

nered with Red Stripe, Lasco, GraceKennedy and we will continue to partner with the churches and the private sector to provide a basis for these people to survive," Mr. McKenzie added.

He announced that an additional eight homeless shelters will be built across the island within the next two years.



Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (fourth left), breaks ground for the construction of a homeless shelter on Victoria Street, Falmouth, Trelawny, on July 8. Also participating (from left) are: Deputy Mayor of Falmouth, Councillor Donovan White; Member of Parliament for Trelawny South, Marisa Dalrymple-Philibert; Councillor for the Falmouth Division, Garth Wilkinson, and His Worship the Mayor of Falmouth, Councillor Colin Gager.

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