

PM Thanks US President for Pfizer Vaccines

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has expressed gratitude to United States President Joe Biden, for his government's second donation of 204,750 doses of Pfizer vaccines to Jamaica.

Jamaica received its second shipment of the vaccines on November 3, at the Norman Manley International Airport.

"These vaccines, as previously announced, will be used to vaccinate members of the population who are awaiting their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Priority is given to children 12-17 years old," Mr. Holness said.

"I wish to express our sincere gratitude to President Biden and the people of the United States of America who made this shipment possible," he added.

Persons for second dose of the Pfizer vaccines must schedule an appointment via the online portal at www.moh.gov.jm or call the



Jamaica received 204,750 doses of the Pfizer vaccines which were donated by the United States Government.

Vaccination Centre at 888-ONE-LOVE (888-663-5683).

They will be able to choose their preferred date, time and vaccination centre. Members of the public should take a Government-issued

identification (school ID for students) or a letter from a Justice of the Peace and their vaccination card to their appointments.

Meanwhile, some 369,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines arrived in the island on

November 1 at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness said these vaccines are a gift from the Government and People of Canada.

PM Welcomes Support for SIDS to Address Climate Change

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has welcomed the launch of the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) facility, which will provide critical support to small island developing states (SIDS) in building resilience to climate crises.

IRIS will support small island states to develop resilient, sustainable infrastructure that can withstand climate shocks, protecting lives and livelihoods.

"The initiative... rightly focuses attention on SIDS, as we are on the front line of this climate crisis. As we all know, a single disaster can derail the entire budget of a small island and set its economy back by years, reducing fiscal space to finance climate adaptation and resilience efforts. We, therefore, welcome this much-needed initiative that reflects our own thinking around the pivotal role played by infrastructure in building resilience," Mr. Holness said.

India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was joined



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

by United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, in launching the initiative on November 2, at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Mr. Holness, who was invited by Prime Minister Modi to address the launch, stated that Jamaica's commitment to strengthening its resilience-building efforts, will shortly be boosted by a US\$1-million grant from the Government of India to support the construction of facilities for sustainable agriculture.

Financial Commitments Must Be Kept for Climate Change Response

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says countries that have profited the most from carbon over decades, have a responsibility to make resources and technology available to others to adapt and transition to low-carbon economies.

"This was the basis of the 2009 \$100 billion per year pledge, which still needs to be met if the developing world is to achieve our resilience and low carbon emission goals," Mr. Holness said while stressing that equity is critical to the climate change response.

He was addressing the World Leaders Summit of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on November 1.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addressing the World Leaders Summit of the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on November 1.

The Prime Minister further stressed that if developing countries are to have any real-

istic chance of meeting their climate ambitions, "we need financing that is predictable,

less fragmented, and easier to access."

Meanwhile, Mr. Holness pointed out that there are creative funding solutions through which Jamaica has benefited.

He noted, for example, that with grant support from development partners, Jamaica became the first small island state in the world to independently sponsor a catastrophe bond which will provide financial protection against losses from hurricanes.

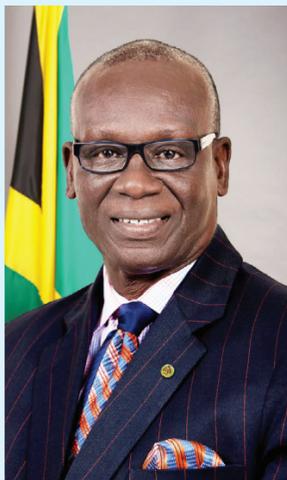
"Also, with Green Climate Fund (GCF) support we have launched a Green Bond Project with our stock exchange towards mobilising domestic and regional capital to finance resilient infrastructure projects," he said.

Jamaica now has a National Tsunami Response Plan

THE OFFICE of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) has developed a National Tsunami Response Plan and Standing Order Procedure for Jamaica.

This was disclosed by Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, who indicated that the plan is awaiting the National Disaster Risk Management Council's approval.

"This vital aspect of our disaster risk reduction programme was made possible by a wide range of partners



Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie

that have assisted us in making [it] a reality," he said.

Mr. McKenzie said that they include the governments of the Republics of Chile and Costa Rica, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

He was speaking during the closing ceremony for the seventh semi-virtual Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21), at the Jamaica Conference in downtown Kingston on November 4.

Mr. McKenzie also announced that Old Harbour

Bay in St. Catherine is in the final stage of receiving its tsunami-ready community designation under UNESCO's tsunami-ready programme.

"The community, which is one of our largest fishing villages, will become the first Jamaican tsunami-ready community in short order," he further stated.

Mr. McKenzie, who noted that tsunamis claimed over 250,000 lives between 1998 and 2017, said the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction "stands in solidarity and offers condolences to families globally who have lost loved ones".

Mandeville Regional Hospital Receives Ambulance



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), exchanges greetings with Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, His Excellency Masaya Fujiwara (centre), in front of a new ambulance, which was handed over by the Japanese Ambassador during a brief ceremony at the Ministry's New Kingston location on November 1. At right is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mandeville Regional Hospital, Alwyn Miller. The ambulance was procured through grant-funding of US\$84,158 under the Government of Japan's Grassroots and Human Security Grant Programme.

PEP High Achievers Receive Scholarships



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Fayval Williams (left), presents Adrianna McDougall with a symbolic cheque for \$180,000, during the virtual Primary Exit Profile (PEP) scholarship awards ceremony held on November 2.

THIRTY-TWO STUDENTS were awarded Government scholarships for outstanding performance in the 2021 grade six Primary Exit Profile (PEP).

Four pupils, who are the island's highest achievers from a primary, all-age, or primary and junior high school, received scholarships valued at \$180,000 each.

The JAG Smith and Marcus Garvey scholarships, awarded to the top girl and top boy went to Adrianna McDougall, formerly of Ocho Rios Primary School in St. Ann, and Oshane Ellis, who attended Half-Way Tree Primary, respectively.

Former student of the Jessie Ripoll Primary School in Kingston, Kayla Callum, received the George William Gordon Scholarship for being the second highest ranked girl, and Lyssons Primary graduate, Dajanique Hylton, was awarded the Paul Bogle Scholarship for being the highest ranked student from a primary school in St. Thomas.

The remaining 28 students – 14 girls and 14 boys – were awarded scholarships valued at \$100,000 each.

Education, Youth and Information Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams, in her address at the virtual awards ceremony on November 2, said, "we know that success does not come easy for many students, but it is exactly through our students' successes that we learn that nothing is impossible."

Minister Williams said that the Ministry will continue to implement measures that will enable students to perform at a higher level of excellence with the implementation of the primary specialist teacher model.

"Having specialist teachers in our primary schools aims to improve student performance across the board by reorganising the delivery of instruction in the core areas of Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies," she noted.

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