

Enhanced Security Measures Act Coming Soon

THE ENHANCED Security Measures Act will be brought before Parliament shortly.

This was announced by Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Little London Police Station in Westmoreland on April 7.

He said the special emergency powers are required as part of the crime fighting strategy and plan.

"I do hope that a wise position will prevail on the use of the emergency powers. It is an important tool to give communities at war a sense of peace," Prime Minister Holness said.

He stressed that there is an emergency in the country and the Government and



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addresses the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Little London Police Station in Westmoreland on April 7.

Judiciary must be cognizant of same.

The Prime Minister said generally, the perpetrators

and victims of crime are young men between the ages of 16 and 24, while adding that the proposed Enhanced Security Measures Act will place specific focus on this area.

Mr. Holness said the Government has taken a comprehensive approach to crime-fighting through Plan Secure Jamaica. He noted that this involves the use of emergency powers to address situations that are over and above the capacity of regular law enforcement.

"As we pursue the use of emergency measures, our police force, our military understand that any power they have, must be used within the law and with respect for the citizens. I believe we have shown that and done that," he added.

PM Launches Finance Strategy for Climate Action

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness launched the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership's new finance strategy, on April 6 which is aimed at mobilising urgent funding for climate action.

The event took place at Hyatt Zilara Rose Hall Resort in Montego Bay, St. James.

The NDC Partnership, which Jamaica co-chairs with the United Kingdom (UK), has more than 200 members worldwide, including developed and developing countries, in addition to over 80 international institutions that all work together to fast-track climate change action.

NDC refers to each country's strategy to cut its own greenhouse gas emissions and build resiliency against the negative effects of a changing climate in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

The Partnership's new finance strategy demonstrates the partners' commitment to accelerating the processes necessary to access climate finance for developing countries at a greater scale in the fight against climate change.

The aim is to support the development of regulatory



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

frameworks to attract domestic and international investment, including through central banks; integrate climate plans into national budgets and post-coronavirus (COVID-19) economic recovery plans; and identify as well as develop bankable projects with member and private sector investment.

Prime Minister Holness said that approximately US\$1 billion has already been deployed through the Partnership to support countries in laying the groundwork for finance.

He indicated that the new finance strategy sends a stronger statement of the NDC Partnership's continued commitment and sense of urgency to provide even more support.

PM Hands Over Three-Bedroom House to Hanover Resident

MICHELLE CAMPBELL of Bessie Baker in Mount Peto, Hanover, now has a comfortable place to call home, after becoming the latest recipient of a dwelling under the Government's New Social Housing Programme (NSHP).

The three-bedroom unit, built at a cost of approximately \$5.8 million, was handed over to Ms. Campbell by Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, at ceremony in the community on Thursday (April 7).

The NSHP falls under the Housing Opportunity Production and Employment Programme (HOPE) in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

Ms. Campbell, along with six other relatives, lived in a dilapidated structure, which exposed them to harsh weather conditions.

Prime Minister Holness in his address said that the NSHP represents Government's commitment to providing



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) and Member of Parliament for Hanover Eastern, Dave Hume Brown (left), cut the ribbon to officially hand over a three-bedroom housing unit to New Social Housing Programme (NSHP) beneficiary, Michelle Campbell, in Bessie Baker, Mount Peto, Hanover on April 7.

decent habitation to as many as possible of the estimated 10,000 Jamaicans living in less-than-ideal conditions.

He noted that vulnerable Jamaicans should not have to live in a deplorable state

because of their socio-economic status.

"Your Government has a duty to find a way to assist. That is part of our social equity and social justice consideration," he said.

The Prime Minister said that another 315 housing units will be constructed under the NSHP during 2022/23. Five units will be delivered to indigent persons across each of the island's 63 constituencies.

Guy's Hill High School Receives Laptops



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (right), interacting with Head Girl of Guy's Hill High School, Shyanique Neil (2nd left); Principal, Cecil Donald (left); and grade-nine student at the institution, Ajani Murphy, following the presentation of laptops to Guy's Hill High School by the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) at the Commission's offices in Kingston on April 7.

Over US\$200 Million Infrastructure Upgrade for St. Thomas

THE GOVERNMENT will be spending more than US\$200 million to develop the infrastructure in St. Thomas to position the parish as a new prime tourism destination.

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, made the disclosure as he opened the 2022/23 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on April 5.

The works include developing Rocky Point Beach,

establishing wayfinding stations in Yallahs, rehabilitating the road to Bath Fountain Hotel, as well as leveraging strategic partnerships to develop heritage sites such as Fort Rocky and the Morant Bay Monument.

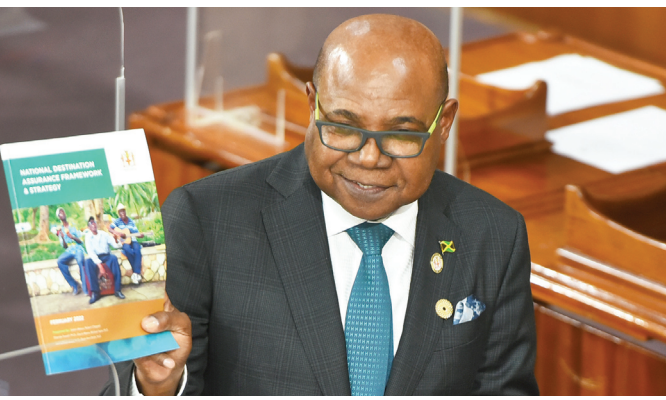
Other arms of Government are supporting this thrust by undertaking significant upgrades to the road and water pipeline networks.

Mr. Bartlett said the intention is to attract a new

demographic of visitors to the parish with high net worth who will be "big spenders".

The Tourism Minister said that by 2030, this initiative is projected to bring tremendous economic, infrastructure and investment benefits.

These include 4,170 new hotel rooms for St. Thomas, 230,000 overnight visitors, US\$244 million in visitor expenditure, US\$22 million in tax contribution, as well as



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, speaking in the House of Representatives on April 5.

13,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The initiative is also expected to result in tourism contributing US\$174 million to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), US\$508 million in private investments, and US\$33 million in public-private partnerships.

Criteria for Appointment of Principals to be Revised

THE CRITERIA for the appointment of principals are to be revised following Cabinet's approval for these changes to be made.

This will be facilitated through the amendment of section 43 (1) of the Education Act, 1965 and sections of the Education Regulations, 1980, which relate to the criteria for the appointment of principals.

Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with responsibility for Information, Hon. Robert Morgan, made the announcement during a post-Cabinet press briefing on April 6.

The proposed amendments are to ensure that principals possess the requisite educational qualifications and training, in line with current international standards.

These changes are geared towards improving the quality of leadership and the general management of educational institutions.

In the meantime, Cabinet also gave approval for the National Council on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET) to operate under the Ministry of Education and Youth.



Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with responsibility for Information, Hon. Robert Morgan

However, exceptions were provided where the NCTVET would transfer its quality assurance function, that is, its ability to approve and accredit institutions that offer technical and vocational training, and its registers to the University Council of Jamaica.

Additionally, the Overseas Examinations Commission will now have the statutory responsibility of administering tests that have been developed by NCTVET. To facilitate these changes, the requisite amendments will be made to the relevant Acts of Parliament.