

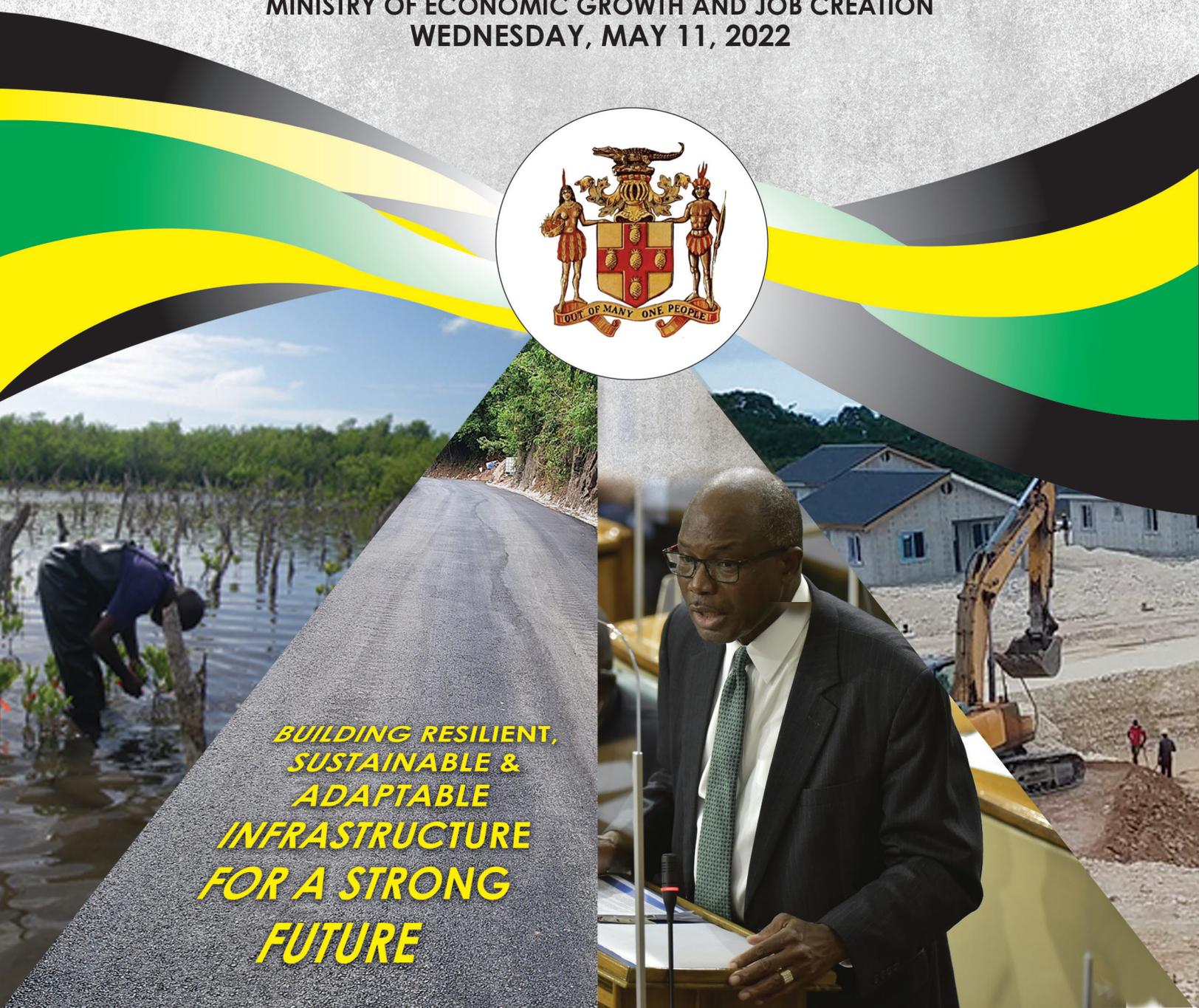
SECTORAL *Presentation*

by **HON. CLIFFORD EVERALD WARMINGTON**

MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022



***BUILDING RESILIENT,
SUSTAINABLE &
ADAPTABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR A STRONG
FUTURE***



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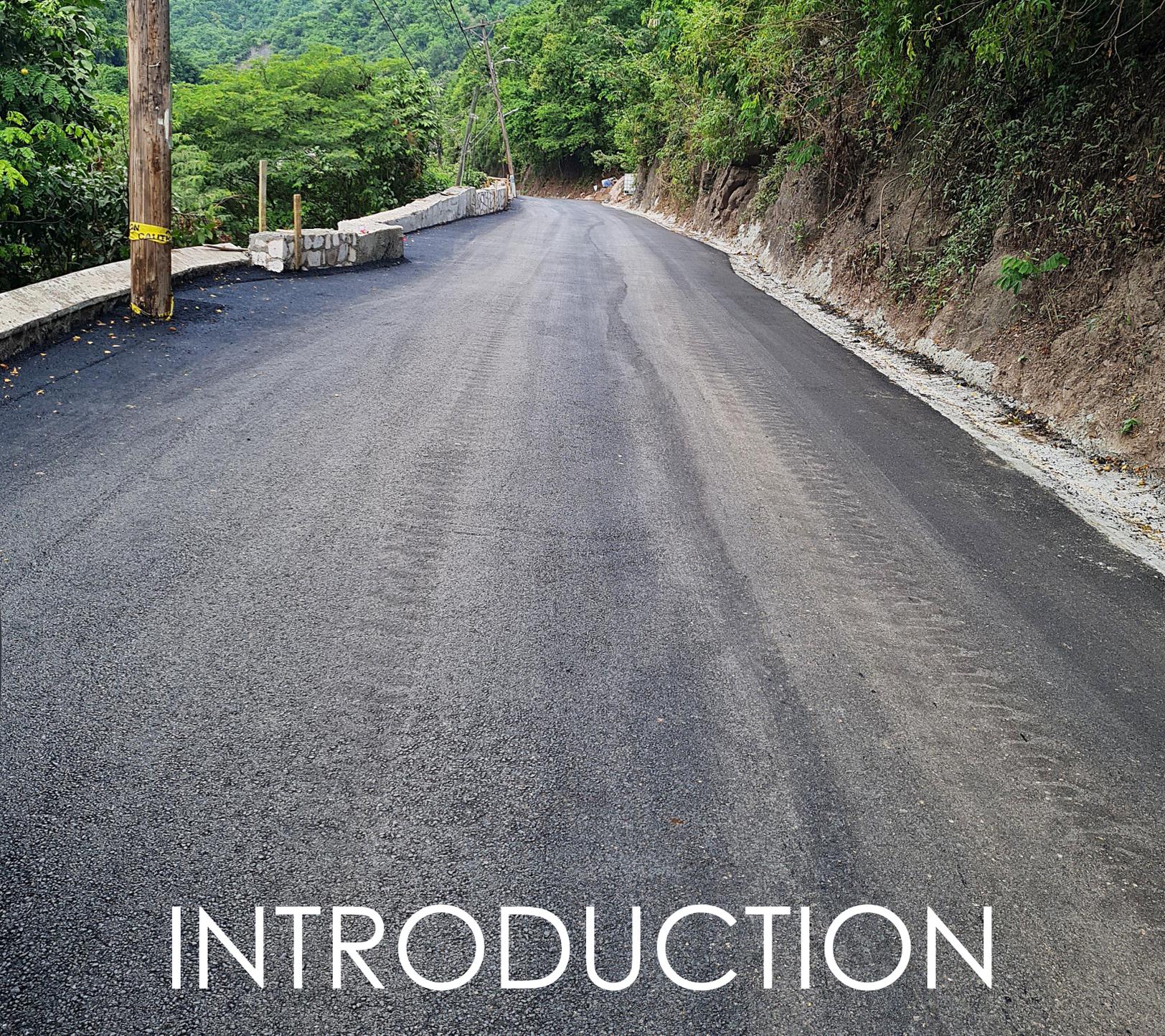
SECTORAL PRESENTATION

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND JOB CREATION



INTRODUCTION

MADAM SPEAKER, I rise to make my presentation in this Honourable House, on behalf of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation. The Ministry is charged with drafting the blueprint to drive economic growth and sustainable development in Jamaica and has responsibility for six (6) critical portfolio areas that are extremely important to the present and future sustainability of our beloved island Jamaica and the welfare of the people whom we serve as representatives in this Honourable House. As such, we are very aware that we have our work cut out for us.

Madam Speaker, it is no secret that we have endured much as a nation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am optimistic and indeed, it is my firm belief that together we will overcome the challenges and continue the thrust towards sustainable development with a renewed sense of purpose, and increased focus.

Top photo: Reconnected - Gordon Town Road

WORKS PORTFOLIO

When the Prime Minister spoke earlier in the Budget Debate, he would have laid the foundation for what I call the macro plan where infrastructure works were concerned. Infrastructure, in particular the works portfolio is wide and encompasses much more than what the Most Honourable Prime Minister would have touched on. I want to therefore speak to some of the other critical road related works that the Government through the National Works Agency (NWA) has been giving attention.

COVID-19 and its impact on Works Programmes

Madam Speaker, the country is still facing serious challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has caused hardships in many respects. From our perspective, we have seen where the Government had to shift resources away from road work activities to the health sector, which no one can deny needed this support. I would have loved to have been in a position to see more roads, bridges, retaining walls and road markings done across Jamaica, but COVID has prevented this reality.

Madam Speaker, I note the recent uptick in demonstrations across the island on account of poor road conditions. I truly share some of the concerns and frustrations of the people. I want to assure them however, that we will be doing all that is possible to improve the condition of roads into the many communities. Some of the demonstrations have been in respect of works now underway, I have instructed that the NWA directly or through its consultants ramps up its supervision of these works to monitor the activities that are likely to cause public unrest.

Madam Speaker, while I understand some of the basis of the public protest, there can be no excuse for persons to block roads, set fire to the debris, which then cause further damage to roads. I wish to restate here that blocking of a road won't necessarily result in it being fixed shortly thereafter. If anything, this sometimes lead to an even longer time as further damage is done to already bad surfaces and drainage features compromised, which then makes it necessary to increase the sums required for making such a corridor good.

Restoration of the Gordon Town Main Road

Madam Speaker, when the significant part of the Gordon Town Main Road in St. Andrew collapsed during heavy rainfall in November 2020, the Government pledged to have the roadway restored as quickly as possible. This pledge was based on the significant dislocation that this natural disaster caused to the thousands of residents of Gordon Town and other rural communities such as Mavis Bank, Dublin Castle, and Robertsville. When examined against the backdrop of the economic impact on our Jamaican Coffee, there is no way the Government could not have acted in the manner it did. Let me remind this House that much of our world famous Blue Mountain Coffee grows in the communities above Gordon Town and access to the port facilities also had to be weighed into the decision making process.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to report that the roadway was officially reopened in October 2021, with the project being delivered on time and under budget. However, we are not unaware of the need for additional works along the corridor. In fact, planned upgrade works on the Mahogany Vale bridge had to be suspended as a result of the embankment failure at Gordon Town. The heavy vehicles needed to execute the works at Mahogany Vale could not traverse the other corridors, hence the bridge project slowed significantly.

Madam Speaker, while we continue to look for additional funds to target other sections to the corridor, we are delighted that we were able to do some work based on the cost savings that we experienced from the execution of this project.

Rural Roads Rehabilitation Project II

Madam Speaker, I am also happy to announce that the long-awaited 4.8 km long stretch from Broadgate to Aqualta Vale (Junction Road) project in St. Mary will be completed this fiscal year. Many will recall that the project which started in November 2017 was delayed by, inter alia, geotechnical and performance challenges. The project is now complete. It was taken over in March and we are now into the defects liability period which is fifteen (15) months. What this means, Madam Speaker, is that should any defects manifest, the contractor will be liable to fix same at his cost.

Madam Speaker, this Government is not unmindful of the criticism that has been leveled at the implementation of the Junction Road Project. There are important lessons to be learnt. Some of the engineering assumptions proved overly ambitious. However, those familiar with the corridor, can attest that the Junction Road Project would always be a challenging one. And so, Madam Speaker we cannot let ourselves be overly discouraged by setbacks. We must hold fast to certain truths – the Junction Road project when complete represents a safer, faster, more convenient route for our farmers and industry to bring their produce to market and our ports for export.

Therefore, Madam. Speaker, while we will learn from these challenges, this Government remains resolute towards the future goal of modernizing the remainder of this important corridor. In fact, we see the current work to correct that fault along the corridor near Chovey or the Westmoreland Bridge as a major step in this thrust forward. This \$300–million project will put an end to what has existed for nearly 100 years with the ground forming the road embankment sinks, especially when we have continuous periods of heavy rain. To borrow a phrase, Madam Speaker, we expect the ground to no longer sink, when complete, but to “stand firm!”

Smaller Community Projects

Madam Speaker, while the Government is focused on realizing economic growth and development through several large-scale construction projects, we have not forgotten to invest in our communities. During the last fiscal year, the Government expended some J\$5.3 billion on road maintenance and repairs. Another J\$637 million was spent on flood mitigation works.

Madam Speaker, I am sure you will agree with me that these smaller projects have big impact on the communities in which they have been implemented. I could stand here and list the large number of communities that have benefitted, but that would take my entire presentation time and more! I believe though I should give everyone a reminder of some of those areas that have benefitted and the sums expended.

| PARISH | PROJECT LOCATION | PROJECT VALUE (J\$) |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| Kingston | Benson Fording | 11,320,456.02 |
| St. Andrew | Leas Flat, Red Hills | 7,314,141.70 |
| St. Andrew | Parl Road (Coopers Hill) | 10,208,000.00 |
| St. Catherine | Bartons Gully | 21,896,785.08 |
| St. Catherine | Vanity Fair - Tavern Hill - Seafield (Guys Hill) | 34,392,474.12 |
| St. Thomas | Hotmix Patching Eastern St. Thomas | 20,000,000.00 |
| St. Thomas | Hotmix Patching Western St. Thomas | 20,000,000.00 |
| Manchester | Williamsfield to Cumberland | 19,952,500.00 |
| Manchester | Mandeville to Rudds Corner | 19,983,000.00 |
| Clarendon | James Hill to Kellits, Clarendon | 27,997,220.00 |
| Clarendon | Freetown to Four Path | 20,000,055.00 |
| St. Elizabeth | Redgate - Washfoot Gully (Ginger Hill) | 37,163,300.00 |
| St. Elizabeth | Pepper Church Road | 18,701,800.00 |
| St. Mary | Richmond Bridge (repairs to bridge & River Training) | 20,552,700.00 |
| St. Mary | Esher Bridge (River Training) | 13,625,000.00 |
| St. Mary | Tiber River | 95,035,085.00 |
| Portland | Shrewsbury (Breakaway) Loser - Hope Bay | 25,610,196.17 |
| Portland | Wharf Lane (Road Rehab.) | 19,883,004.53 |
| St. Ann | Cuffie Ridge - Battersea (Road Rehab.) | 43,100,450.00 |
| St. Ann | Alexandria - Ballintoy (Road Rehab.) | 32,260,000.00 |
| St. James | Barnett Bush to Anchovy | 17,389,604.68 |
| St. James | Marchmount to Washfoot Gully | 18,961,400.00 |
| Hanover | Middlesex Bridge to McLaren Gate (Mount Carmel to McLaren Gate) | 15,371,540.00 |
| Hanover | Dias to Davis Cove | 15,330,660.00 |
| Westmoreland | Dunbar's River - Torrington | 27,148,400.00 |

Bridge Construction

Madam Speaker, ensuring the connectivity of our townships remain a top priority. For fiscal year 2021/22, the NWA undertook four (4) bridge projects, namely:

1. Tiber River Bridge (St. Mary) at a cost of \$95 Million. This project is now substantially complete.
2. Richmond River Bridge – Phase Two, St. Mary at a cost of \$20 Million. Works are now -95% complete with the road reopening to vehicular traffic.
3. Access Bridge to the Jamaica Defence Force outpost, Montego Bay, St. James. This structure has been completed and opened.
4. Esher River Bridge, St. Mary at a cost of \$13.6 Million

Support to GOJ ICT 100 Day Initiative

Madam Speaker, the Government has always had the NWA as a key entity for infrastructural development. If there were any doubts, Madam Speaker as to the importance of the NWA to nation building, the COVID-19 pandemic would have killed that thought.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the NWA has been at the forefront of building out a Public Safety Network for the Government and people of Jamaica. This is part of the Agency's push to deliver services in real time with tangible benefits to the travelling public. It is against this background that the Agency started and has continued its programme of building out its fibre optic network to connect key sections of its infrastructure such as the traffic signals and its Intelligent Traffic Management Centre.

Madam Speaker, other government Ministries, Departments and Agencies are benefitting! During the fiscal year 2021/22, the NWA in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology (MSET) provided broadband connectivity to nine Jamaican Courts. An additional 13 courts are now being connected. Similar to the build-out of the Parish Courts onto the NWA's Fibre Optic cable infrastructure, same was executed for the Municipal Corporations (MC) islandwide. To-date, nine (9) MCs are connected to the fibre backbone infrastructure.

Owing to the impact of COVID-19 on the education system the NWA has been integral in the build-out of fibre optic cable infrastructure to schools within Kingston and St. Andrew. This is in support of the Education Ministry's push to provide stable internet access to schools with the demand for high bandwidth usage due to large student populations.

Let us now turn to the matter of infrastructure development. It's no secret that investment in physical infrastructure – roads, bridges, ports, schools, health centres, etc. are essential ingredients to securing Jamaica's long-term economic growth and sustainable development.

In fact, Madam Speaker this Government's aim has been to deliver modern infrastructure that not only meet our present needs but also can catalyze future development.

To this end, the GOJ through the MEGJC is hard at work on several infrastructure projects, including the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project, which includes the extension of the East/West Toll Road from May Pen, Clarendon to Williamsfield, Manchester and the Montego Bay Perimeter Road.

Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project (SCHIP)

Madam Speaker, when I addressed this House last year, we had started roughly \$5.4-billion work under the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Programme (SCHIP). These works formed Tranche 1. We have since moved to a second tranche of works, under which we are spending another \$6.6 billion. We now have 10 of the 15 packages underway between St. Thomas and Portland. We are well underway to making the eastern side of Jamaica the newest side of Jamaica, buttressed by other seminal investments for growth and prosperity!

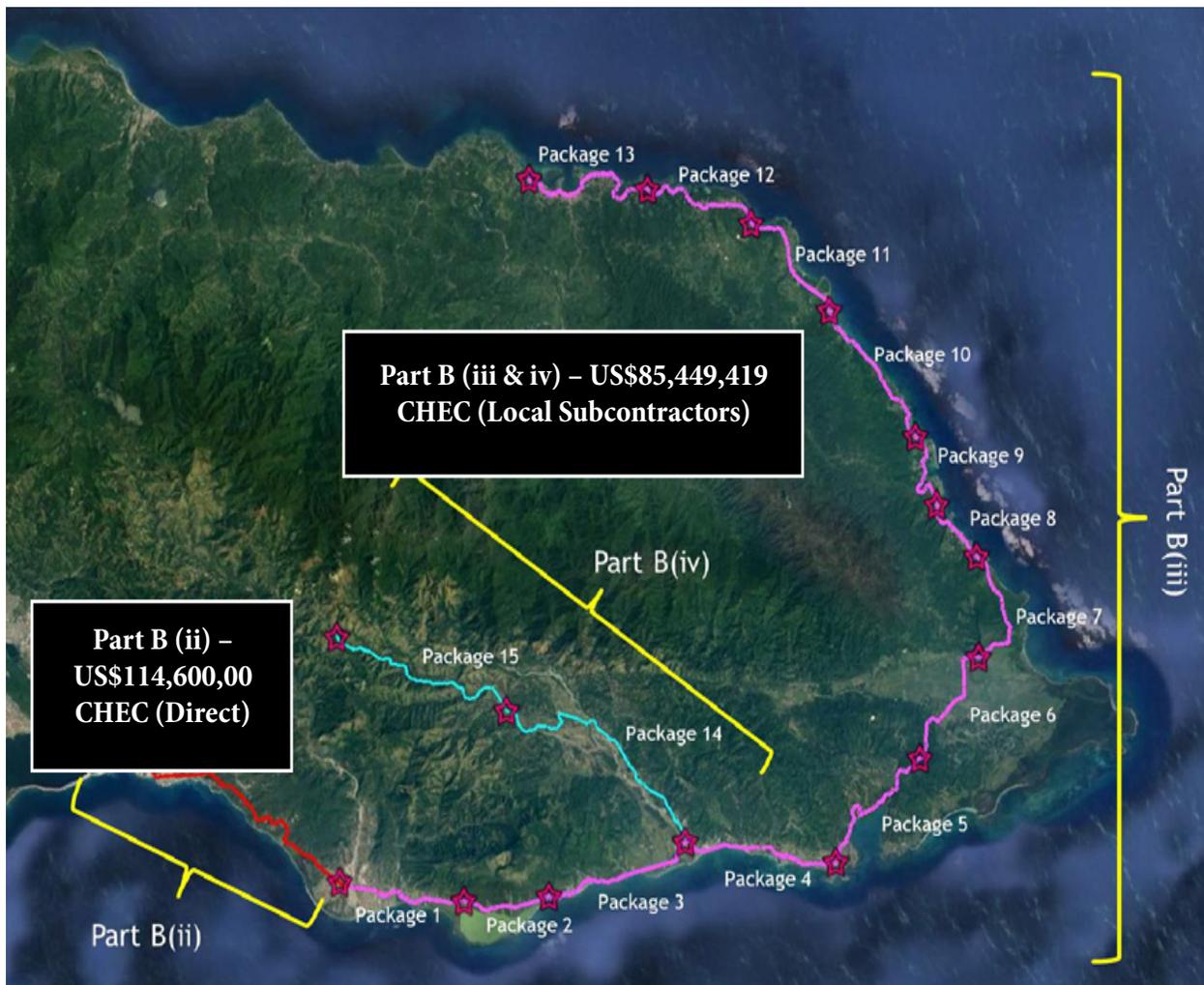
SCHIP works are being executed in three (3) Parts:

- Part A – May Pen to Williamsfield – 28 Km
- Part B (ii) – Harbour View to Yallahs Bridge – 17.4Km
- Part B (iii & iv) – Yallahs Bridge to Port Antonio & Morant Bay to Cedar Valley – 123.65Km.

Madam Speaker, let me remind this House that Part A – May Pen to Williamsfield forms part of the extension of the East West Toll Road being managed by the National Road Operating and Construction Company (NROCC).

A map of the SCHIP Project is provided below.

Madam Speaker, I will take a few minutes to indicate to this House where we are with this very large programme of works at this time.



Regarding Tranche One, which has five distinct projects, we are between 65% and 75% completion at this time.

Madam Speaker, Tranche Three has not yet commenced. It is the Government's intention to have the road sections that comprise Tranche Three commencing this fiscal year. These sections are:

Tranche #1

| PACKAGE & LOCATION | ROAD LENGTH (KM) | CONTRACT SUM (J\$) | % COMPLETE |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Package #4 – Morant River Bridge to Prospect | 8.95 | 1,018,847,967.37 | 60 |
| Package #8 – Hordley to Long Road | 4.16 | 551,732,025.00 | 70 |
| Package #10 – Manchioneal to Fair Prospect | 8.80 | 1,093,302,513.65 | 70 |
| Package #14 – Morant Bay to Georgia | 14.70 | 1,165,415,219.67 | 61 |
| Package #15 – Georgia to Cedar Valley | 11.74 | 1,537,230,669.75 | 65 |

Tranche two projects are;

Tranche #2

| PACKAGE & LOCATION | ROAD LENGTH (KM) | CONTRACT SUM (J\$) | % COMPLETE |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Package #1 - Yallahs Bridge to Louden Hill (Salt Pond) | 6.72 | 1,380,032,789.09 | 22 |
| Package #2 - Louden Hill (Salt Pond) to Pomfret | 4.90 | 869,940,670.00 | 21 |
| Package #3 - Pomfret – Morant River Bridge | 9.55 | 1,934,769,632.00 | 16 |
| Package #12 - Boston Area – Drapers | 7.44 | 1,104,495,392.00 | 26 |
| Package #13 - Drapers – Port Antonio | 9.52 | 1,308,000,000.00 | 11 |

Madam Speaker, substantial completion for the first two tranches of SCHIP is anticipated by March 2023. The third tranche, we expect will be substantially completed by the end of 2023.

| PACKAGE & LOCATION | ROAD LENGTH (KM) |
|---|-------------------------|
| Package #3 – Prospect to Arcadia District | 9.05 |
| Package #3 – Arcadia District to Amity Hall | 7.40 |
| Package #3 – Amity Hall to Hordley | 6.98 |
| Package #3 – Fair Prospect to Boston Area | 6.86 |

Madam Speaker, while we celebrate the gains, I must also acknowledge the disruption to the daily life of citizens and the public generally. Construction activities such as that which is underway in these parishes do cause disruptions, but we endeavour to keep such impact to a minimum.

Even as we work, Madam Speaker to improve the lives of the people through the investment in these works, we know that discomfort does come sometimes, where prosperity is on the horizon. To the people being impacted negatively, I say, your patience, your fortitude, your faith and trust in the Government will be rewarded in a tangible way. This government will deliver a “once in a generation” integrated infrastructure that will deliver safe, reliable and quality roads, potable water supply and sanitation, as well as fibre optic ducts that will enable future economic development.

Madam Speaker, the prosperity that comes with this kind of infrastructural undertaking is about to shine through. We are making sure that this happen!



Partially completed section of stretch from Harbour View, St. Andrew to Yallahs, St. Thomas

RURAL ROADS REHABILITATION PROJECT II PHOTOS



Aerial photos of the completed section of road from Aguatala Vale to Broadgate (Junction), St. Mary

BRIDGE WORKS PHOTOS



Photo 1 - Tiber River St. Mary, Photo 2 – Gabion works constructed part of Esher Bridge project, Photo 3 - Esher Bridge & Gabion Works



BRIDGE WORKS PHOTOS



Parapet and retaining wall erected as part of the Richmond Bridge works in St. Mary



Anticipated Developments/Outlooks for FY 2022/23

Madam Speaker, for fiscal year 2022/23, the NWA will continue to execute its mandate to plan, build and maintain a safe, reliable, and quality main road network and flood control systems. The Agency's primary focus will be on improving the condition of the main road network, which was damaged by recent flood rains and improving the safety, mobility, and travel experience of road users. Investments in the maintenance of the nation's secondary road network will continue to be focused on pavement repair, cleaning and repair of drains and channels, de-bushing, among other routine activities.

The NWA's top three (3) priorities for fiscal year 2022/23 will be

1. Continuation of the SCHIP
2. Commencement of the Special Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) Programme
3. Continued Maintenance of Secondary Roads.

Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project

The Government's flagship road project for fiscal year 2022/2023, through the NWA, will remain the implementation of SCHIP. During the year, the Agency plans to complete works on the 10 construction packages currently active under the SCHIP Local Component– Yallahs Bridge to Port Antonio, and Morant Bay to Cedar Valley. In addition, construction will commence on the remaining five packages under the Local Component (Tranche #3).

CAPEX Programme

Madam Speaker, the Government plans to implement a J\$8-billion Special Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) Programme. The Programme, designed for ease of implementation, is intended to, inter alia, support GOJ's short to medium-term economic growth objectives, by creating additional employment; increasing mobility of people and goods; improving connectivity between major commercial centres; reducing time lost in traffic; and providing essential infrastructure that encourages and facilitates future development/re-development.

The Programme consists of six (6) strategic infrastructures projects, namely:

| PROJECT | PROJECTED | | |
|---|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| | START | FINISH | DURATION |
| Widening of Arthur Wint Drive (Mountain View to Tom Redcam) | April 2022 | August 2023 | 16 Months |
| Dualization of Grange Lane (I-95 to Madrid Avenue, includes Cumberland Gully Bridge) | April 2022 | January 2023 | 9 Months |
| Dualization of East Kings House Road and Lady Musgrave Road (Barbican Road to Hope Road to Trafalgar Road) | May 2022 | May 2024 | 24 Months |
| Widening of Braeton Road and Hellshire Main Road (from Naggo Head to the Texaco Gas Station to East Mid Street) | April 2023 | August 2024 | 16 Months |
| Widening of Sandy Gully Bridge on Washington Boulevard (north side) at Pembroke Hall part of Ken Hill Drive dualization | April 2023 | June 2024 | 14 Months |
| New Portmore Access (Mandela Entry into Portmore; Bridge over Rio Cobre) (Phase 1) | August 2023 | December 2024 | 16 Months |

The works under the CAPEX Programme comprise road and drainage improvements, potable water, and sewer line upgrades (as appropriate), traffic management and road safety improvements, installation of streetlighting, and provision of underground ducts for fibre optic cables to enable future broadband connectivity.

Of the six (6) projects, three (3) projects are targeted to commence construction in FY 2022/23, namely: Grange Lane, Arthur Wint Drive, and East Kings House Road and Lady Musgrave Road. The remaining projects are planned for implementation in FY 2023/24.

Public Call for Patience

Madam Speaker, it's important to reemphasize that while this implementation approach seeks to minimize disruption and public discomfort, these works will not be painless. Major earthworks and excavation will result in noise and dust pollution, while detours and construction activities will impact traffic. I have instructed our project team at the NWA to communicate openly and effectively with the public to mitigate the deleterious effect on public health and journeys. I again, humbly ask the public to bear with us as this Government seeks to delivery on our promise to provide integrated infrastructure that will improve mobility, road safety, potable water supply and sanitation.

St. James Community Road Improvement Project

The Agency will be implementing a J\$212 million community road improvement project in St. James with the aim to improve safety, reduce traffic congestion, travel-time, and improve accessibility to communities in and around the city of Montego Bay. The project will have several components:

- Improving 13km of road to 2 standard lane widths from Ironshore (Blue Diamond) to Fairfield Road to include junction improvements along the project.
- Installation of five (5) new traffic signals with pedestrian facilities:
- Installation of Road markings and signs

When completed Madam Speaker, the improved corridor will provide a temporary bypass to Montego Bay Town Centre from Ironshore (Blue Diamond) to Westgate.

Bridge Works

Our Bridge programme for fiscal 2022/2023 will include:

- Completion of the Mahogany Vale Bridge (St. Thomas).
- Construction of the Penfield Bridge #2 (St. Andrew).
- Reconstruction of the Southwood Bridge in Clarendon
- Reconstruction of the Craig Mill Bridge in Portland

Madam Speaker, repairs & rehabilitation works to other bridges will also be undertaken subject to funding availability.

We also intend to carryout de-silting works within the channels of several rivers as we seek to improve the hydraulic efficiency and reduce the likelihood and/or severity of fluvial flooding.

Other Areas of Focus

Madam Speaker, in addition to the above, the Government through the NWA will continue to pursue work in the following areas:

- Establishment of the Urban Traffic Management System for the Kingston Metropolitan Area.
- Collaboration on the development of the National Broadband Communications Network.
- Continue river training projects to safeguard vulnerable communities and townships.
- Continue ISO-led improvements to drive operational excellence and service delivery.
- Complete the Chovey Slope Stabilization Works, to complete this segment of the Junction corridor (Broadgate to Aqualta Vale)

Beyond fiscal 2022, Madam Speaker, Government through the NWA will continue preparatory work for the construction of several bypasses to both improve travel time and create a potential for expansion of several townships. These include:

- Lucea, Hanover
- Hopewell, Hanover
- Annotto Bay, St. Mary
- Port Maria, St. Mary
- Port Antonio, Portland
- Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth

Madam Speaker, I am also very aware of the seriousness of flooding in some areas of the country, including along Marcus Garvey Drive. I have directed that some works be done on mitigating the

impact of storm water flows in places such as:

- Marcus Garvey Drive, St. Andrew
- Maxfield Avenue, St. Andrew
- Falmouth Drag Line, Trelawny
- May Pen and Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth
- Port Maria, St. Mary and
- Montego Bay, St. James

Madam Speaker, I believe that with investments in these locations, the country will certainly be stronger and have a more resilient infrastructure to repel some of the shocks we receive from natural disasters.

Maintenance Standards and Quality

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that all who sit here in this Honourable House and the thousands of Jamaicans listening or watching us at this time share concerns about the maintenance standards and the quality of work we receive at times. The Government is not just concerned about this area of operations, it is deeply concerned!

It is widely known that the majority of our main road infrastructure is dire need of attention. The NWA estimates that we need somewhere in the region of \$100 billion to start to make a dent in this problem faced by many Jamaicans.

So Madam Speaker, when we make the sacrifice to fix corridors across the country, the least we are expecting is that we get the maximum life from the works undertaken, as per the designs. I am referring here specifically to roads that we rehabilitate. A road that is rehabilitated and expected to last for a minimum 10 years should not show signs of failure at the first shower of rain. The Government is very uncomfortable with this situation.

In some cases, Madam Speaker, it is the lack of proper supervision of contractors by the NWA staff, while the contractors are performing maintenance or rehabilitation works that cause the failure and deterioration of these roads very shortly after completion. Therefore, proper supervision by our staff will be a critical factor in maintaining the performance standards. Closer supervision will have to be done and must be done by the responsible staff of the NWA to ensure that the quality of work, meets the required standards.

Madam Speaker, I have engaged the CEO of the NWA on the subject and have pledged the support of the Government in having this matter receiving serious attention as we simply cannot continue along the same road, where we spend to rehabilitate, only to be back at square one shortly thereafter.

Madam Speaker, Enforcement of our Performance Standard will be a key aspect of the way we perform going forward. For Performance Standard, the most effective team size, equipment, methods and procedure for performing the works will be defined for each significant maintenance work item to be utilized.

I have said before and wish to say again, that we will have to establish the updated condition of each road. This will have to be done using Geographic Information System (GIS) and other suitable methods to audit the conditions of the roads.

The Planning Department through its Road Planning Unit will now urgently commence CONDITION SURVEYS on all the roads under Central Government Control. This has to be done before we can put in place a realistic maintenance programme and will allow for the necessary funding to be sourced.

We are now putting in place, a National Road Service Improvement Programme, which will guide our routine maintenance programme.

We will have regular training sessions for Contractors involved in our road maintenance programme. Madam Speaker, this Government is unwavering in its stance that the methods and procedures developed by the NWA for the effective maintenance of our roads, must be fully understood before projects are assigned to these contractor.

Enforcement of our Performance Standard will be a key aspect of the way we perform going forward. In some cases, it is the lack of proper supervision of contractors by the NWA staff, while the contractors are performing maintenance or rehabilitation works that cause the failure and deterioration of these roads very shortly after completion. Therefore, proper supervision by our staff will be a critical factor in maintaining our performance standard. Closer supervision will be done and must be done by the responsible staff of the NWA to ensure that the quality of work done meets the required standard.



A section of the newly rehabilitated Broadgate to Aqualta Vale roadway, St. Mary

Montego Bay Perimeter Road

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation has signed a US\$274.5-million contract with the China Harbour Engineering Company for the Montego Bay Perimeter Road Project. I am pleased to state that this will be the first major highway development that is financed with Jamaica’s own resources and not linked to a loan.

NROCC is the Implementing Agency for the Project, which includes:

1. The design and construction of a 15Km perimeter road from Ironshore to Bogue
2. The design and construction of the 11Km Longhill Bypass Road
3. Upgrades to Westgreen Avenue and Barnett Street
4. A comprehensive drainage study of the Perimeter Road area.

The design phase is expected to last approximately one (1) year which will then be immediately followed by the construction phase. The total project duration is estimated to be three and a half years.

Madam Speaker, in an effort to ensure that this major infrastructure development is done in the most sustainable manner possible, NROCC and the Forestry Department have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement is intended to mitigate against the possible impact on the 62.5 hectares of forest due to the road construction, through phased reforestation. NROCC will secure lands for replanting while the Forestry Department will provide tree seedlings and technical expertise to guide the planting and maintenance activities.

Northern Coastal Highway Improvement Project

Madam Speaker, NROCC has commenced project planning activities for the upgrade of approximately 60 Km of roadway from Seacastles in St. James to Mammee Bay in St. Ann from 2 lanes to 4 lanes, for the constrained towns in St. Ann.

This is also in line with the Government of Jamaica's Urban Development Strategy which includes relieving the traffic flow through coastal towns thereby pushing townships and urban development further inland.

PORT AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA

Commercial Complex – Montego Bay Free Zone

Madam Speaker, I turn now to the work of the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ). The PAJ is proposing to develop the 11.8 acres of land it owns at the Montego Bay Free Zone into a commercial and logistics complex.

The procurement process has begun to engage a consultant to undertake the geotechnical studies, as well as the design through to development stage for facilitation of a demand analysis study by the second quarter of 2022/23. A financial feasibility study will also be undertaken.

Completion of Kingston Logistics Park Development (Phase 0)

Madam Speaker, the Jamaica Global Logistics Hub (JGLH) initiative is designed to position Jamaica to attract businesses which are a part of the global supply and value chains. The ultimate goal of the Initiative is to further integrate Jamaica into the global supply and value chains and the logistics hub is intended to deepen this participation.

In support of this Initiative, the PAJ completed construction of a 200,000 square-foot logistics facility built to international logistics specifications on a section of lands contiguous to the Kingston Container Terminal known as the Kingston Logistics Park (KLP). This development is expected to boost economic activities and lead to economic growth for Jamaica.

The project involved the construction of a 16,200 square metre steel frame structure, with height up to 10.8 metres to be used as a warehouse building. In addition, a 1,500 square metre building was constructed to accommodate the operations of the Container Security Initiative and Jamaica Customs Agency

The PAJ has been actively pursuing partnerships with private sector companies and in November 2021, 75% of the available space at the KLP was leased to a local company. Discussions are underway with entities operating in Global space, that have indicated strong interest in the remaining space.

Falmouth East Masterplan – Trelawny – 50 Acres

Madam Speaker, the Port Authority of Jamaica owns 50 acres of land in Falmouth near to the Cruise Ship Port and the Town of Falmouth. The PAJ is seeking to develop and monetize its investment by way of Public Private Partnership (PPP). It will include collaboration and support from other government agencies. It is anticipated that the development will include commercial and civic buildings and amenities and will be developed in an economic and environmentally friendly manner. It will also seek to preserve the history and authentic appeal of Falmouth. The technical due diligence has commenced, and a consultant will be engaged through the GOJ procurement process to work with the PAJ to develop and provide the preliminary estimate for development early during the financial year 2022/23.

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF JAMAICA (DBJ)

Madam Speaker, I now turn to the projects, of the Development Bank of Jamaica. Madam Speaker, under the Greater Bernard Lodge Development Phase 1, sale agreements for three (3) residential blocks were finalized and a ten percent deposit was paid. Sale proceeds amount to J\$648 million, with Proposed Investments at J\$8.9 billion.

Under the Greater Bernard Lodge Development - Phase 1 (Light Industrial), sale agreements for 2 Light Industrial blocks were finalized and 10% deposit paid. Sale proceeds amount to J\$720M with Proposed Investments at J\$10.3 billion.

The Greater Bernard Lodge Development (Phase 1) anticipates 800 jobs annually during construction.

Greater Bernard Lodge Development- Phase II (Residential)

Madam Speaker, the tender for the Greater Bernard Lodge Development – Phase II, was launched on December 8, 2021. Bid Submission deadline was March 1, 2022. Thirteen (13) proposals were received from five (5) entities, and the bid evaluation process is now underway.

The identification and approval of recommended preferred bidders and commercial close is expected by the end of June 2022.

Urban Development Corporation

Madam Speaker, the role of the UDC is to plan, design and develop urban environments in

designated and other assigned areas, and also to undertake large-scale projects as a catalyst for both the public and private sectors to facilitate urban development, renewal and revitalization.

Government Campus/Houses of Parliament

Over the past financial year, the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) advanced the process for construction of Jamaica's new Houses of Parliament and the development of National Heroes Park, which will see the commencement of work during Jamaica's 60th year of Independence. Phase 1 of the procurement of a contractor is advanced, and the Procurement tender for works is expected to close June 28, 2022 for evaluation.



*Architect's rendition
of the proposed New
Parliament Building*

Portmore Town Centre Park

Another UDC initiative, namely the development of a world-class park on a 26-acre lot in Portmore will provide a much-needed green space for the residents of the area. The concept includes hard and soft landscaping, walkable promenades and plazas; jogging trail; great lawn with amphitheatre; sports facilities; artistic features; commercial spaces; and parking facilities.

The Public Investment Advisory Board (PIAB) submission for the Portmore Town Centre Park was completed and submitted on March 31st, 2022 for review and approval.

Caymanas Commercial and Housing Development

Madam Speaker, in addition to the continuation of the projects I mentioned, the UDC for this financial year will continue to prioritize the creation of a design concept for a sustainable community

model. This model, the Caymanas Commercial and Housing Development, will define densities, unit composition, commercial services, and designation of public/green spaces. The Caymanas model will entail the development of more than 200 acres of land over a five-year period for mixed use activities including the provision of housing solutions and commercial spaces. The expectation for this financial year, is that the designs will be completed and procurement advanced.

HOUSING

Madam Speaker, the Housing Portfolio was established to facilitate the provision of affordable housing solutions and security of tenure. Since 1987 this mandate has been undertaken within the framework of the National Shelter Sector Strategy which saw the Government assuming a facilitatory role, thus working in partnership with the private sector to increase the delivery of housing solutions to the market.

Despite the policy shift housing supply has, however, lagged behind demand resulting in a major deficit, which must be urgently addressed. So, the current political administration led by the Most Hon. Prime Minister, in pursuit of the goal to increase access to affordable housing solutions, has articulated a target to provide seventy thousand (70,000) affordable housing solutions within a five-year period.

The Ministry and its implementing agencies are moving apace to achieve this target and to provide the necessary enabling framework within which the Government of Jamaica can realize its goals to safe, legal and affordable housing solutions for all Jamaicans by 2030.

Development of a National Housing Policy and Implementation Plan

Madam Speaker, having received cabinet's approval as a Green Paper (2019), the Draft National Housing Policy and Implementation Plan has undergone several rounds of consultation. The draft document is currently being revised in keeping with the feedback obtained from the consultative process. For the 2021/2022 Financial Year the activities undertaken to advance the process included: -

- Updating of the draft document in keeping with the comments of Attorney General's Chambers (AGC), Ministry of Finance and Public Service (MoFPS) and updating the statistical data included in the policy
- Circulating the updated Policy to over 20 Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs) for review and comments
- Incorporating comments received, and the
- Revision of updated policy document by a Technical Review Committee.

The Draft National Housing Policy and Implementation Plan was also subjected to a gender-proofing exercise. The assessment funded by the Caribbean Development Bank sought to ensure that the provisions are in keeping with Sustainable Development Goal # 5 which promotes, equal access to housing and the protection of women and girls from discriminatory policies and practices in relation to housing and land rights. The draft policy was amended considering this assessment.

Madam Speaker, the draft Policy and the attendant Cabinet Submission are being finalized for the consideration and approval by Cabinet to facilitate tabling in the Houses of Parliament as a White Paper within the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Amendment of the Rent Restriction Act (1983)

Madam Speaker, it has long been recognized that access to housing cannot only be attained by ownership, but other pathways, such as rental, must be provided to get there. Consequently, the Ministry has taken steps to amend the Rent Restriction Act of 1983 to strengthen the outdated provisions, in order to address the current challenges in the rental industry being faced by landlords and tenants.

For the 2021/2022 Financial Year the Ministry conducted several activities towards the amendment of the legislation. In February 2022, the 5th Draft Bill was received from the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC), and a review was conducted with multiple stakeholders in March. The Ministry is currently preparing further drafting instructions for submission to the CPC. It should be noted Madam Speaker, that it is the intention of the Ministry to settle the Draft Bill with CPC and prepare required Cabinet Submission for approval for tabling in the Houses of Parliament in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

Housing Agency of Jamaica Limited

Madam Speaker, the housing agencies falling under the remit of the Ministry have a critical role to play in the delivery of the targeted 70, 000 housing solutions articulated by this administration. The Housing Agency of Jamaica Limited (HAJ) is responsible for the provision of 14,000 of the 70,000 housing starts under this Programme. The Agency identified approximately 15 projects which will account for a total of 6,861 housing starts, with the balance being realized by way of the Agency's Land Bank.

| | PROJECTS | NO OF SOLUTIONS | STARTS TO 2020/22 | STARTS 2022/23 |
|----|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Mona (Section1) | 51 | 51 | |
| 2 | Catherine Estates | 1,650 | 1650 | |
| 3 | Edmund Ridge Estate | 772 | 772 | |
| 4 | Hellshire View | 623 | | 623 |
| 5 | Grange Pen (BF) | 535 | 535 | |
| 6 | Reid's Pen | 148 | | 148 |
| 7 | Luana Gardens 4 Phase 3 | 250 | | 250 |
| 8 | Grange Pen (Greenfield) | 1,500 | | |
| 9 | Alexandria | 116 | | |
| 10 | Clarkes Town | 600 | | 600 |
| 11 | Green Pond Phase 2 | 109 | | 109 |
| 12 | Luana Gardens 4 Phase 4 | 300 | | |
| 13 | St Paul's Lane | 97 | | 97 |
| 14 | 81 Bay Farm Road | 72 | | 72 |
| 15 | Penwood Road | 38 | | 38 |
| 16 | Land Bank | 7,139 | | 700 |
| | Total | 14,000 | 3,008 | 1,937 |

Madam Speaker, the Land Bank assumes the acquisition of properties by HAJ as well as transfers from other government entities. The Sugar Company of Jamaica has made available two blocks, a total of 41.2 hectares (101.7 acres), in the Greater Bernard Lodge Development to be developed jointly with the National Housing Trust that should yield approximately 550 low-income housing solutions starts in the 2022/23 FY.



The Agency is also pursuing steps to acquire 27.5 hectares (68 acres) in Trelawny and is actively seeking suitable lands, particularly in parishes where the demand for housing has been increased exponentially in relation to the growth in the tourism and as a consequence of national infrastructure developments such as, the construction of the various legs of the Southern Coastal Improvement Highway (the SCHIP) and the Montego Bay By-Pass.

The HAJ is also looking at the regularization of informal settlements, categorized under social/subsidized housing solutions. The regularization of tenure and infrastructure in these communities will contribute significantly to the National Housing Programme. There are plans to transfer approximately 3,000 certificates of title.

Jamaica Mortgage Bank

Madam Speaker, I now turn to the Jamaica Mortgage Bank (JMB with the good news that despite the impact of the COVID pandemic, the Bank performed admirably under the circumstances and in some instances, exceeded expectations. In fact, for the first time, the JMB has generated over \$500M of total income.

The Bank currently manages and funds 20 housing projects islandwide valuing \$8.8 billion and completed 5 projects during the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Active Loans – March 2022

| PROJECT NAME | DESCRIPTION | VALUE |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Units | \$'M |
| Genesis 28 | 24 | 708.5 |
| Genesis Manor | 30 | 449.6 |
| Forrest Gates | 30 | 512.1 |
| Harmony Court | 9 | 82.3 |
| Kensington Apartments | 46 | 717.9 |
| Kings Landing | 33 | 562.9 |
| Palais de la Richesse | 25 | 654.6 |
| Jewels of Sinclair | 12 | 237.0 |
| Mayfair Close Apartment | 14 | 178.7 |
| Belgrade (Highlands) | 40 | 740.0 |
| The Edbury | 9 | 170.6 |
| West Lake | 9 | 86.0 |
| Hellshire Green | 69 | 526.4 |
| Dulwich Apt | 24 | 374.7 |
| Sanctum | 24 | 384.0 |
| | 398 | 6,385.3 |

Committed (Not yet Disbursed) – March 2022

| PROJECT NAME | DESCRIPTION | VALUE |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Units | \$'M |
| Comfort Apartments | 80 | 918.9 |
| Nitram of Waterloo | 48 | 827.5 |
| Linvale Estates (Lots) | 61 | 130.0 |
| The London | 8 | 66.2 |
| Aqueducts of Vineyards | 52 | 512.8 |
| | 249 | 2,455.4 |

Madam Speaker, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is seeking to privatize the JMB to provide funds to the GOJ, deepen the financial mortgage market, widen the base of the ownership of JMB, and assist JMB to better achieve its strategic objectives which may lead to eventual expansion of its current product offerings. A Cabinet Submission has been drafted and consultation has been undertaken with the Attorney General's Chambers, the Ministry of Finance and other stakeholders in a bid to finalize the recommendations. It is anticipated that the Cabinet Submission will be finalized in the 2022/2023 Financial Year.



For the 2022/2023 Financial Year, the Bank will seek to diversify its offering to developers, including facilitating low-income houses for tourism workers.

Work being undertaken by the Projects and Technical Services Unit in the MEGJC

Madam Speaker, in tandem with the work being done by the housing agencies to increase the housing stock, the Projects and Technical Services Branch of the Ministry is also undertaking construction as well as the installation of infrastructure via infills, settlement regularization, relocation and new build outs in several areas . These include:-

The installation of infrastructure for 26 serviced lots at **Pemberton Valley, Oracabessa, St. Mary** at a cost of \$55 million. The project was completed in the 2021/2022 financial year and the lots are to be sold on the open market.



Building and Infrastructure Works and the Construction of 130 units at Rasta City Housing Development, Tivoli Gardens, Kingston. The project, which is funded and managed by the NHT, is to commence in the last quarter of the 2022/23 financial year with a duration of 30 months, and is currently at tender stage.



The Canterbury Relocation Project includes Construction of Eighty- Six (86) two-bedroom apartments with related infrastructure at Albion, St. James. The project is set to commence in the last quarter of the 2022/23 financial year with a duration of 36 months. The project is funded by the NHT with some \$186 million committed for the 2022/2023 Financial year. The informal occupants of lands at Canterbury are to be relocated on completion of the development.

In the meantime Madam Speaker, the Ministry is moving to regularize, the occupants of over 120 such households in Kingston and St. Andrew and St. James. As such, the Land Administration Management Branch of the Ministry will be taking steps to acquire six (6) properties in Sandy Park Road, Kingston 6 area which were declared under the Local Improvements (Community Amenities) Act. The properties are 2, 4, 6, 8, 8B and 10 Sandy Park Road.

Steps will also be taken to acquire twelve (12) properties in Stanville, Kingston 6 which were upgraded by the Minister of Housing, in order to regularize the occupation of over 300 households and seven (7) properties in Bottom Pen, Montego Bay, St. James which were partially upgraded, to regularize over 500 households.

Madam Speaker, approximately 30 surveys will be contracted at a cost of \$38M. and 23 of these are subdivision surveys which will facilitate the issuing of 735 new certificates of title.

Land Surveys

| PROPERTIES | LOTS | PROPERTIES | LOTS |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Land Top, St. Thomas | 58 | Burke Rd, Old Har-bour | 80 |
| Seaview Gardens Ph 2 | 57 | Lluidas Vale | 13 |
| 130-132 Red Hills Rd | 32 | Canaan Heights | 85 |
| Elletson Flats | 9 | Galleon Beach | 80 |
| 84-90 Maxfield Ave | 15 | York Hill | 12 |
| 95 Mountain View | 15 | Meyler's Ave | 18 |
| Jacques Rd | 43 | Paul Island | 50 |
| Stanville | 20 | Vanzie Lands | 15 |
| Clarence Villa | 9 | Mt. Edgecombe | 9 |
| Roaring River | 85 | Heywood Hall, St. Mary | 30 |

In the meantime, Madam Speaker, the Social Services Branch of the Ministry has taken steps to divest two hundred and forty-one (241) solutions comprising both brownfield and greenfield developments with the largest number, 188 at Vanzieland in Trelawny.

- Divestment of two hundred and forty-one (241) solutions (Brownfields and Greenfields).

The list is as follow:

1. Vanzieland, Trelawny -188
2. Windsor Heights, St. Catherine -21
3. Culloden, Westmoreland -2
4. West Albion, St. Thomas- 6
5. York Hill, Hanover -3
6. Seville Estate, St. Ann -1
7. Wallens, St. Catherine - 2
8. Old Harbour Glades -2
9. Chippenham, St. Ann-1
10. Curatoe Hill, Clarendon- 1
11. Arnett Gardens, St. Andrew-1
12. Flankers, St. James-2
13. Ebony Park, Clarendon-1
14. Tredegar Park, St. Catherine -1
15. Hopewell, Portland-1
16. Tawes Pen, St. Catherine-1
17. Meylers Piece, Westmoreland-1
18. Seivwright, St. Catherine-1
19. Darlingford, Portland-1
20. Hague, Trelawny- 1

The Unit also collected more than \$109 million dollars from both reflows and inflows.

Madam Speaker, this Ministry continues to meet the most vulnerable of the population with housing assistance.



Prime Minister, Most Hon. Andrew Holness at the ribbon cutting for beneficiary under the Social Housing Programme

Approximately one hundred and fifty-five (155) housing assistance requests were investigated by the Branch during the 2021-2022 FY and building grants allocations were awarded in the sum of over twenty-eight million dollars (\$28,023,799.82)

Squatter Management

Madam Speaker, no discussion on housing could be complete without addressing the incidence of informal settlement/squatting in Jamaica. The Squatter Management Unit (SMU) of the Ministry has continued its work to quantify the number of squatter settlements in Jamaica under a 'National Squatter Survey'.

The National Squatter Survey

This initiative is funded by the National Housing Trust (NHT), which has committed over \$37.8 million (\$37,861,638.84) thus far to the survey. However, Madam Speaker, it must be noted that the initial budget of \$37M is insufficient to complete the survey. As such, the SMU is requesting an additional sum from the NHT.

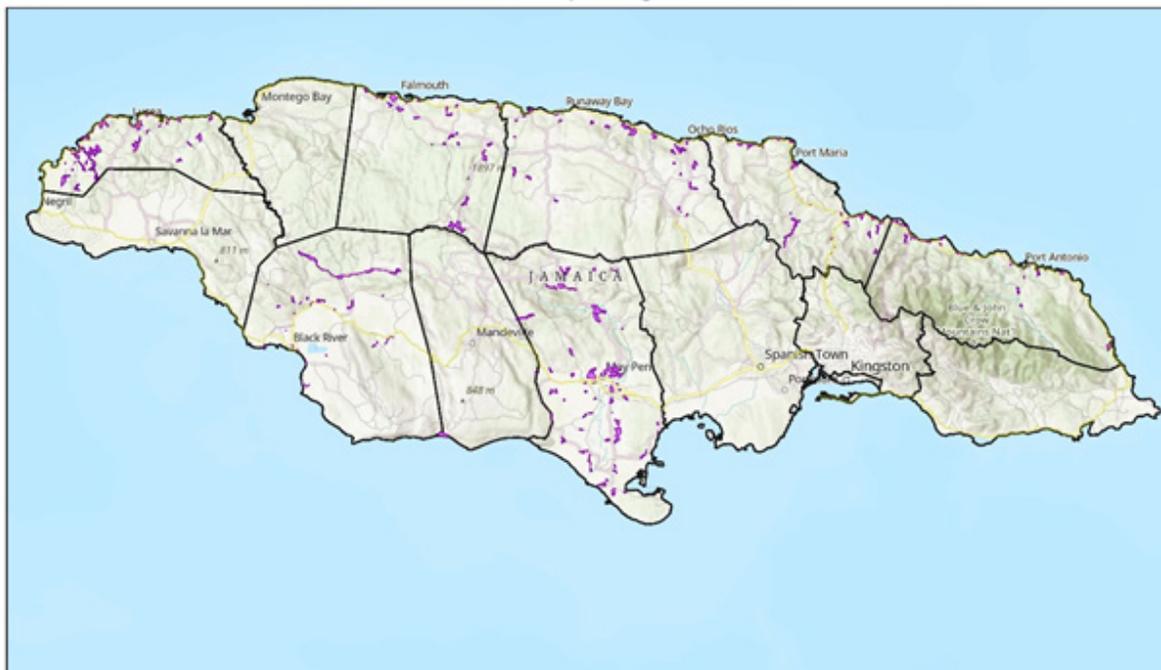
The National Squatter Survey aims to support the classification of squatter settlements in tiers to

better assist in planning for the settlements; establish a geodatabase using settlement boundary and household data; and inform the National Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan.

The gathering of household and other data relating to all squatter settlements across the island commenced in July 2019 and encountered several unforeseen challenges ranging from administrative glitches, adverse weather conditions and most major of all, COVID-19. Nonetheless, the SMU has surveyed 269 settlements in eight (8) parishes.

- Clarendon (70)
- Manchester (3)
- St. Ann (40)
- Trelawny (26)
- Hanover (43)
- St. Mary (29)
- Portland (31) and
- St. Elizabeth (27).

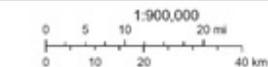
The Extent of Squatting in Jamaica



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- Squatter Settlement
- Parish Boundary

To date, the SMU has surveyed 269 settlements in eight (8) parishes, namely, Clarendon (70), Manchester (3), St. Ann (40), Trelawny (26), Hanover (43), St. Mary (29), Portland (31) and St. Elizabeth (27).



Sources: Esri, Airbyte DS, USGS, NOAA, NASA, IGN, N. Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, 18MA, Geodan/Geodan, Rijswijk/RSB, GSA, Geonorge, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community. Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Squatter Management Unit
Ministry of Economic Growth and Job-Creation

Madam Speaker the total number of people living in these settlements is estimated to be over 83,000.

Madam Speaker, to date the database is fully populated based on the existing settlement data and provides detailed information on the 269 squatter settlements and will be useful in assisting Jamaica in dealing with squatting issues. The database contains a wide range of demographic information, housing conditions, access to services and utilities, proximity to hazards, and environmental features.



Squatter homes at Spring Piece

The SMU is also working on a National Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan with the overarching goal of facilitating the gradual reduction and eventual elimination of all forms of squatting throughout Jamaica. The policy aims to promote the optimal use of land and land resources, meet the need for shelter and other uses in a structured, coordinated, and sustainable manner, and respond to the diverse needs of society's most vulnerable members.

Consultations on the policy have taken place with seven (7) groups, including the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC), ministries, departments and agencies, municipal corporations and planning authorities, landowners (private and public), and legal and service providers.

Rent Assessment Board

The Most Honourable Prime, who is the Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation via Cabinet Decision 52/20, dated November 23, 2020, approved the appointment of the Rent Assessment Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from November 23, 2020 to November 20, 2023. The Board comprises of a Chairman, six (6) Deputy Chairmen and nine (9) Members.

During the period of January to December 2021, eleven (11) hearings were conducted with a total of sixty (60) cases brought before the Tribunal.

Complaints/Queries for 2021

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Illegal Increase | 143 |
| Increase | 151 |
| Arrears of Rent | 596 |
| Security Deposit | 382 |
| Harassment | 716 |
| Notices to Quit | 1252 |
| Total | 3240 |

WATER PORTFOLIO

Madam Speaker, I turn now to another critical portfolio under the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, namely, Water.

National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan 2019

During the FY2021/22, the MEGJC through its Water Policy & Monitoring Branch (WPMB) undertook several initiatives aimed at highlighting the measures outlined in the National Water Sector Policy & Implementation Plan 2019 (NWSP), as well as increasing and maintaining communication with the public on issues affecting the water sector.

The Ministry in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) completed the consultancy to update the NWSP Implementation Plan and the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the NWSP.

Madam Speaker, implementation of the Policy will continue in earnest during the 2022/2023 financial year. The activities to be undertaken include implementation of the activities outlined in the Public Relations Strategy, continued meetings of the Integrated Water Resources Management Council (IWRMC), and the development of the proposal for the provision of Social Water. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will also be implemented in collaboration with key water stakeholders.

Priority Legislation

Amendment of the Flood Water Control Act (1958) and Water Resources Act (1995)

Madam Speaker, in order to address some of the legislative gaps which exist within the administration of flood water control, the Ministry has proposed legislative changes to both the Flood Water Control Act and Water Resources Act, which aim to assign regulatory functions for flood water control to the Water Resources Authority (WRA) while the National Works Agency (NWA) would be responsible for the implementation of flood water control.

A revised draft Cabinet Submission was prepared and circulated to the Attorney General's Chambers, the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, the Water Resources Authority, and the National Works Agency. Comments received to date are currently under review by the Ministry.

National Water Commission (NWC)

Madam Speaker, the island's major water supplier, the National Water Commission, has substantially completed the transmission main from Six Miles to Downtown Kingston, which is one of the major transmission mains serving Kingston and St. Andrew, at cost of over \$3.4 billion. The entity also rehabilitated the 5-million gallon Treated Water Storage Reservoirs at Constant Spring. The completion of both projects will result in improved service and reliability to over 500,000 persons in Residential, Commercial and Socially Challenged Areas across the Corporate Area. The NWC also completed and commissioned Potable Water Supply Upgrading Works in the rural communities of Luana / Middle Quarters and New Buildings / Nain in St Elizabeth Macka Hill, George Lue, Spot Road and Hamilton Mountain in St Mary; Patton Park, Richard Hall and Mount Dawson in St Catherine as well as Baron Hill to Samuel Prospect in Trelawny. It is estimated that over 50,000 customers have benefited from these improvement works.

Rehabilitation of Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Improvement in Sewerage Services

The NWC rehabilitated and upgraded three (3) Wastewater Treatment Plants that serve the communities of Greater Portmore, Eltham Park, Horizon Park, Sydenham and Tawes Pen in St Catherine, providing over 250,000 persons with improved sewerage services and improving Effluent Standards compliance. Additionally, the NWC has extended the sewage collection network in Kingston and St Andrew to provide centralized service and facilitate land development projects in sections of Mona Heights, Upper Hope Road, Millsborough and Barbican, benefitting approximately 200 properties / households.



Martha Brae Water Treatment Plant



Artificial Groundwater Recharge System in Innswood, St. Catherine

Outlook for the 2022/2023 Financial Year

Madam Speaker, this financial year, NWC will be undertaking key projects aimed at improving coverage of Water Supply Projects and facilitating Residential and Commercial Developments. These include the replacement of aged infrastructure in Mandeville through the Greater Mandeville Water Supply Improvement Project and the transmission main replacement and installation along the south coast main roads in St Thomas. These projects will be undertaken with the National Housing Trust and the National Works Agency, respectively. The budgeted capital expenditure for both projects is in excess of \$1B.

Additionally, the NWC will be undertaking projects aimed at improving access to Potable Water Supply Services in the Rural Communities of Black River in St Elizabeth; Morant Bay and Seaforth in St Thomas; Highgate, Nutfield & Islington in St Mary; Linstead, Ewarton, Orangefield and York Street in St Catherine.

The intended outcome of these projects, is improved services to approximately 70,000 persons. Improvement projects are also intended for the Urban Communities of Jacks Hill and Port Royal in St Andrew and Kingston, respectively.



Constant Spring Water Treatment Plant, St. Andrew - Emergency Reconstruction Works of the Clear Storage Water Reservoir Tank No. 1

The Non-Revenue Water Reduction Co-Management Programme has been expanded to Portmore in St. Catherine, the objective of the programme is to increase the revenue of the NWC by reducing losses of non-revenue water and regularising consumers in Socially Challenged Areas. Additionally, the organisation will be implementing programmes and initiatives aimed at reducing Energy Consumption from Non-renewable Energy sources by 2% and replacing aged and inefficient electrical equipment at key high energy consuming facilities.

Water Resources Authority (WRA)

Madam Speaker, the Water Resources Authority (WRA) is responsible for the Management, Protection and controlled allocation and use of Jamaica's water resources. The WRA is continuing its work on the Updated Water Resources Development Master Plan (2021) which is aimed at providing a framework for rational decision-making in the development of Jamaica's water resources.

Other objectives include a strategy for meeting the current and future demands for water; guidelines for the location of new industries, new agricultural development areas as well as siting new housing, agricultural and industrial developments and guidelines for environmental protection.

The updated WRDMP (2021) will enhance the capacity of the WRA to effectively plan and manage the development and use of the island's water resources by:

- (i) incorporating climate change projection data for temperature, rainfall and sea level rise in assessment of the water resources availability and demands up to year 2050
- (ii) accounting for harvested rainfall in the water balance determination and hence improve estimates of the exploitable resource types
- (iii) synchronizing the planning cycle of the WRDMP with that of the Vision 2030 planning horizon.

The draft WRDMP (2021) has been completed and is being prepared for publication.

Surface/Subsurface Water Flow Dynamics

The WRA has also commenced the study of surface/subsurface flow in the Rio Bueno Catchment Basin. The agency has partnered with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to use Isotope Hydrology to characterize the flow dynamics of the Rio Bueno Catchment Basin.

The project aims to identify the flow contributions of sinking rivers, rising rivers, rising springs and groundwater in the basin, to confirm and identify the various contributions of rainfall and other flow dynamics in the basin in order to better protect the source water quality, building upon the dye tracing work previously done in the Sub-Water Management Unit.

Monitoring of The Essex Valley Agricultural Development Project (EVADP)

Madam Speaker, the Essex Valley Agricultural Development Project is a major government initiative supported by grant funding from the UK aimed at increasing agricultural development and resilience in the Essex Valley regions (encompassing southwest Manchester and southeast St. Elizabeth) by developing irrigation infrastructure.

The WRA is monitoring groundwater levels and groundwater quality in the Essex Valley, due to the observed challenges of groundwater accessibility and impact of saline intrusion on groundwater quality, as well as the potential impact of bauxite waste on groundwater quality in the region. This 2020 project began with the construction of new wells in the area, and will be an on-going project for the life of the EVADP.



Aquifer Recharge Surface Flow

Central Wastewater Treatment Company (CWTC)

Madam Speaker, operations of the Central Wastewater Treatment Company (CWTC) continued uninterrupted despite challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The efficiency and storage capacity of the CWTC facility has been significantly improved due to the procurement of desludging equipment and there has been an increase in inflows to the CWTC facility which is attributable to repairs to the trunk sewers that supply one of the transfer stations.

During the 2022/2023 financial year, the CTWC will continue to carry out desludging at the CWTC facility as part of ongoing maintenance (this will enable the facility to return to full design capacity); and completion repairs to the metering system and leaks to improve revenue.

Professional Engineers Registration Board (PERB)

Madam Speaker, our engineers play a critical role in the development of our infrastructure. The Professional Engineers Registration Board (PERB) which falls under the Ministry, continues its work to strengthen the enforcement and disciplinary process by targeting developers who utilize unregistered engineers in their projects.

PERB is also continuing its work to strengthen the legislative amendments to the Professional Engineers Registration Act (PERA), and this is carried over into the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

The amendment to the PERA is being sought to change the term 'engineer' to 'professional engineer' throughout the Act to be consistent with the designation in many parts of the world and change the period of practical experience required for registration as a professional engineer from two (2) to four (4) years among other initiatives, with a view to making them current and appropriate to the impact that improper engineering can have on public safety.

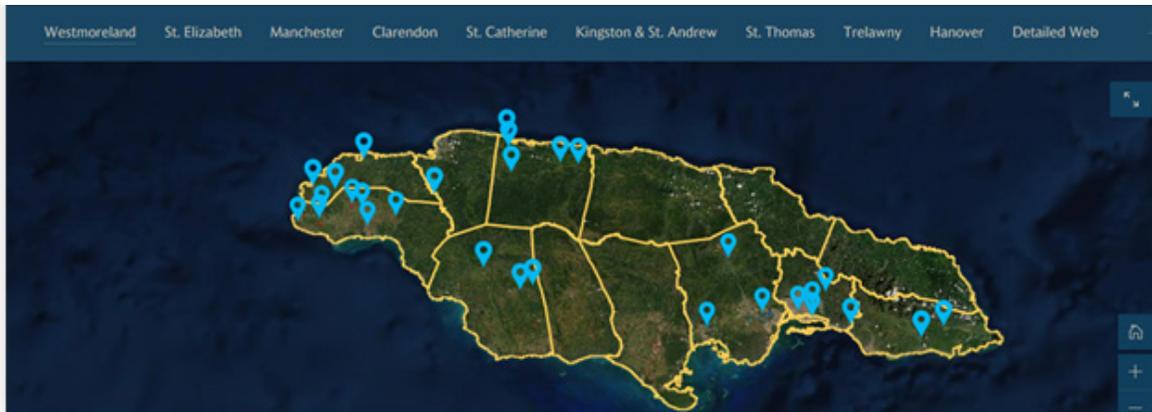
National Spatial Data Management Branch (NSDMB)

Madam Speaker, the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and its related technologies has been increasing over the last five years and indeed, provides the basis for many of our projects, not just within my Ministry, but throughout the government service. The entity that is the primary supplier of this service is the National Spatial Data Management Branch/Land Information Council of Jamaica.

PM's Low Income Housing Verification Project

The NSDMB has supported the identification and ground verification of three phases of the Prime Minister's Low Income Housing project in tandem with the National Land Agency.

A total of 6,529 parcels were identified and field ground verification conducted in conjunction with NLA in Westmoreland, St. Catherine, Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Hanover, and Trelawny during July to November 2021. A total of 971 suitable parcels were selected.



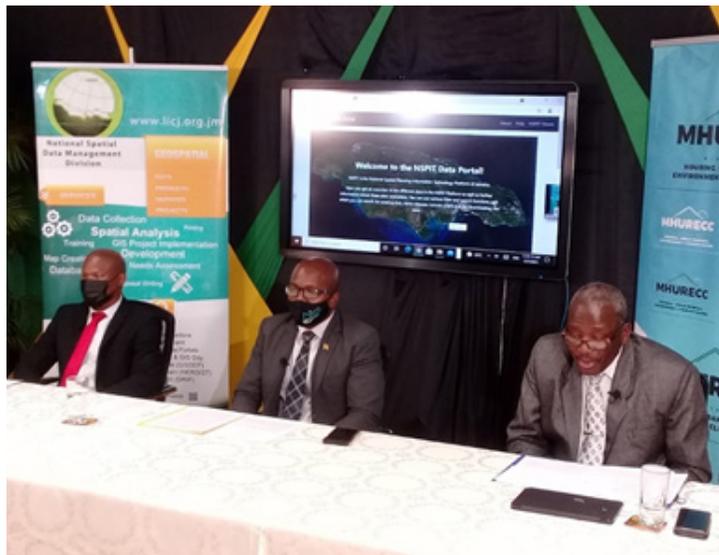
GIS map of lands suitable for Housing Development

The NSDMB also provided support to coordinate and execute the field ground verification exercises, spatial data analysis and development of ArcGIS web-based applications to support the data collection and the communication of project results on a community and parish level. Phase 4 will be conducted in St. Ann, St. Mary, Portland, and St. James.

National Spatial Planning Information Technology (NSPIT) Platform Launch

The National Spatial Planning Information Technology platform was successfully developed under a joint project between JAMPRO and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Foundations for Competitiveness and Growth Programme (FCGP) via geoSYS Consultants.

The NSPIT Platform was successfully launched on July 21, 2021. The launch was pivotal to support the implementation and commencement of utilization of the platform as a key support, spatial analysis and decision making tool for the National Spatial Plan and its implementation to support national development and planning efforts.



Launch of the National Spatial Planning Information Technology (NSPIT) Platform

The NSDMB will be working to increase sensitization, training and utilization of the platform by Municipal Corporations, planners, investors, developers, etc.

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Group of Experts

Jamaica continues to excel in leading representation, decision making and direction within the geospatial arena regionally and internationally, as a small island developing state (SIDS). The island successfully achieved its first representation on the Board of Directors to UN-GGIM: Americas regional body as the new Caribbean Vocal amongst seven (7) newly nominated Directors for the next four years (2021 - 2025).



Ms. Simone Lloyd, member of the Board of Directors to UN-GGIM

Ms. Simone Lloyd (Jamaica's Focal Point) was elected to serve in this role of leading the Caribbean's voice on regional geospatial matters.

GOJ/ESRI GIS Enterprise Agreement (EA) Administration and Maximization

Madam Speaker, for this year, the NSDMB will effectively manage, administer and maximize on the utilization of products and services secured under the new GOJ/ESRI GIS Enterprise Agreement to address three priority areas, namely crime mapping and prevention, economic growth, and health services improvement for COVID-19 and other health issues. Additionally, the resources will be employed to solve other national issues and support more informed decision making towards advancing national development through Vision 2030.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam Speaker, I move now to the protection of Jamaica's Environment and our efforts to adapt to, and mitigate the threat of climate change.

30x30 Coalition



Jamaica is a member of the 30x30 coalition, which means that the country is moving apace to protect 30% of its landmass as well as 30% of its fresh and sea water resources by 2030.

This work is being undertaken by the teams at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), and the Forestry Department, under the coordination of the Environment and Risk Management Branch of MEGJC.

Madam Speaker, two major achievements of the Government over the last fiscal year were the Black River Protected Area in St. Elizabeth, as highlighted by the Most Hon. Prime Minister in his Budget Presentation, and the completion of the work to declare the Cockpit Country a protected area.

Madam Speaker, 78,024 hectares are now protected which makes the Cockpit Country the island's largest terrestrial protected area, and second largest protected area after the Portland Bight Protected Area.

One of the major areas of focus for the Government in this financial year is the declaration of the Pedro Cays and the surrounding waters as a protected area under the NRCA Act. The work in this area is far advanced and will protect 88,200 hectares of land and sea.

Plastic Pollution

Madam Speaker, on January 1st, 2019, Jamaica commenced the implementation process of a phased ban on some single use plastic packaging items. Recently, in Nairobi, Kenya, a resolution was passed by UN Environment Assembly with 175 Nations supporting the establishment of an International Negotiating Committee to help develop a globally binding treaty on the issue.

Madam Speaker, this treaty could have major implications to our manufacturing sector as it seeks to re-order our consumption patterns and change our management of plastic waste and in this regard, the Private Sector will be formally engaged, to ensure that they are prepared for the changes to come.

Air Quality Monitoring Programme

Madam Speaker, the NEPA administers a shared responsibility approach for the ambient air quality monitoring, which is between the Government and major private and industrial facilities. Air pollution is now considered the "single biggest risk to environmental health", according to the World Health Organization.

The current ambient air quality monitoring network, consists of seventy five (75) air quality monitoring stations distributed across the island. Industry owns and operates at least 90% of the network established for estimating compliance monitoring and population exposure.

The ambient air quality monitoring network monitors for six (6) pollutants listed as criteria air pollutants in the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (Air Quality) Regulations, 2006: They are:-

- Total Suspended Particulates (TSP)
- Particulate Matter 10 Microns or less (PM10)
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Ozone (O₃)

In recent years, NEPA has expanded the air quality monitoring network to include the monitoring of Particulate Matter of 2.5 Microns (PM_{2.5}) or less, in urban areas. Studies have shown that this pollutant is linked to a number of adverse health outcomes due to its relatively small size, being 20-30 times smaller than a strand of human hair and its lifetime in the atmosphere.

The Government provided funding to support NEPA's capacity to establish and operates PM_{2.5} monitors in: Montego Bay, Spanish Town, Portmore, Constant Spring, Mandeville and Crossroads. In terms of monitoring objectives, these locations have been prioritized for assessment of population exposure, as a higher density of people live, work or commute to and from these areas. The Agency will seek to further expand the monitoring objectives by establishing additional monitors other major urban centres to continue to evaluate population exposure and in kerbside locations to assess the impact of vehicular emissions which is now known globally through combustion to be a major source of fine particulates.

E-Mobility Project

The Ministry, will commence implementation, in earnest, on the GoJ/UNDP/GEF E-mobility Project. This Project will assist the Government's efforts to transition to the country's fleet to electric vehicles. The Project is also aligned with the Strategic Framework on E-mobility developed by the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology.

Work to support the rehabilitation of the Hellshire Beach

The development of a master plan for the Hellshire Beach is being undertaken to promote and facilitate the orderly development and rehabilitation of coastal resources, foster economic growth and maintain a recreational space for public use and enjoyment. The socio-economic and environmental assessment is presently being undertaken by a consultancy team of engineers and architects and is being done in close consultation with key stakeholders including the Hellshire Bay Fishermen Co-operative Society.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is supporting the GOJ through NEPA with the construction of a Video Monitoring Tower to capture coastal and wave climate data to support the design of beach rehabilitation works to be undertaken at the beach.

Ecosystems Restoration

Madam Speaker, approximately 0.3 acres (0.12 ha) of mangrove forest/islets along Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area roadway will be restored by 2025. The restoration area is divided into three islets, approximately 0.1 acres (0.05ha) each. The project commenced on 4 June 2021. The University of the West Indies Centre for Marine Sciences is implementing the project under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agency. The project cost is \$3,602,332.80.

Across the Rio Minho and Rio Cobre Watershed Management Units (WMU), a total of four hundred

and twenty seven (427) trees were planted in various locations, namely Crooked River, Rock River and Colonel's Ridge in the Rio Minho WMU and Glengoffe in the Rio Cobre WMU. Of the 427 trees donated, 112 were timber, 102 of which were donated to the Agency from the Forestry Department under their National Tree Planting Initiative.



Mangrove Replanting – Palisadoes

Environmental Policy and Legislative Agenda

Madam Speaker, in the 2022/23FY, the Environment and Risk Management Branch will be pursuing several national policies, including a new Protected Areas Policy which will replace the 1997 Protected Areas Policy for Jamaica. Additionally, on the completion of this Policy, the Branch will focus on the enactment of omnibus Protected Areas legislation to govern the over 300 protected areas in the country.

The Branch will also advance work on a Watersheds Policy for Jamaica. Madam Speaker, my colleagues are reminded that the entire island is designated as a watershed.

Two important policies that we are seeking to complete are the Emissions Policy, and the Climate Change Policy. The updated Climate Change Policy Framework seeks to address the detrimental effects of climate change, whereas the Emissions Policy Framework puts forward several objectives, strategies and actions to improve the mechanisms that govern air quality management.

With respect to the environmental legislative agenda, work will be advanced on the amendments to key pieces of legislation, including the Forest Act, the Wildlife Protection Act, and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act. Under the NRCA Act, work will be undertaken in this financial year on the enactment of regulations to govern Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), the assessments are requirement for specific types of development and activities within the country.

Forestry Department

Madam Speaker, despite the tremendous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Forestry Department has achieved the distribution and/or planting of one million trees in the National Tree Planting Initiative (NTPI).

The Forestry Department has been improving its processes and facilities to produce the required seedlings and remains committed to providing every Jamaican with up to 10 free seedlings to plant.

The agency also recently launched its tree tracking mobile GIS application which enables Jamaicans to track and share the progress of their trees as well as to get information and advice on the care of seedlings.

European Union's Budget Support Programme

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to note that under the European Union's Budget Support Programme for the forest sector titled, Improved Forest Management for Jamaica (IFMJ), the Forestry Department achieved all its targets under the eight programme indicators. This resulted in the approval for the payment of the third tranche of funds under the four year (2018-2022) Budget Support Programme to the Government of Jamaica.

The IFMJ is being financed under the 11th European Development Fund with a total value of 16.69 million Euros. The majority of this sum, 14 million Euros, is allocated for execution of targets under the eight programme indicators.



Forest in Jamaica

Among the targets under the programme is Indicator 4 which speaks to upscaling gender sensitive alternative livelihoods to support the sustainable utilization of forest resources for local communities. During the past financial year 26 of the 46 projects approved were completed with the remaining 20 on track for completion by the deadline of June 2022.

Under the projects, a total disbursement of \$212 million has, so far, been made to groups implementing projects in forest adjacent communities. Over 1,000 persons have benefitted

directly/indirectly from the project activities. The balance of \$17 million (bringing the total spend for this Indicator to \$240 million) will be used to complete the remaining project activities. Community groups have engaged in a variety of livelihood activities such as rainwater harvesting, agroforestry, apiculture, nutraceuticals and craft production.

Climate Change

Madam Speaker, I turn now to Climate Change. Jamaica ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in January 1995, making this year the 27th anniversary of our full commitment to advance climate action. Climate change has therefore long transitioned from being merely an environmental issue to a development and an economic challenge and has the power to reverse any progress on poverty alleviation and sustained economic growth.

Small Island Developing States like ours are disproportionately affected by the associated threats, but face great difficulty in accessing the capital required for the transformation of our economies as we target carbon neutrality and the necessary resilience.

Following the submission of its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in June 2020, and development of a corresponding Implementation Plan, Jamaica is now developing its Long-Term Emission Reduction and Climate Resilience Development Strategy (LTS). The LTS will detail the approach that the country will take to enhancing its resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, and its short- and long-term strategy for decarbonisation.

Preliminary analysis to the date shows that without climate mitigation policy interventions, Jamaica's efforts to reduce emissions since 2006 will reverse and emissions could grow by up to 50% between 2020 and 2050.

Madam Speaker, we expect Jamaica's 2050 LTS to be completed this fiscal year.

National Adaptation Plan

Madam Speaker, the preparation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to be led by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) has commenced. The overall impact anticipated is that by 2025, Jamaica has an inclusive, systematic and participatory adaptation planning and implementation framework that supports resilience building.

Madam Speaker, we are happy to announce that for the first time, Jamaica launched, in July 2021, its National Research and Technological Development Agenda for climate change. A research agenda was needed to consolidate, streamline, expand on work previously conducted, highlight the knowledge gaps, and encourage new knowledge and innovations.

Increasing Access to Climate Finance has been the primary focus of the Government of Jamaica both from the perspective of the replenishment of the Global Climate Fund, and accessing funds through the varying Global Funds which exist.

Madam Speaker, the CCD remains in active & ongoing discussions with our development partners to secure additional financing for Jamaica.

In the coming fiscal year, we will continue the work of Advancing Jamaica's International Positioning as a Reliable Country to Implement Projects & Mobilize Investments.

This work will continue through Partnerships such as the NDC Partnership for which Jamaica assumed the Co-Chair along with the UK for 2021/2022. Madam speaker, Jamaica has also been selected as a Pioneer country to test the access to finance mechanism developed as an outcome of COP26.

In looking ahead in FY22/23 Jamaica will focus its attention for climate action on the commencement of actions under the Access to Finance Taskforce to crowd in additional finance for climate action.

With respect to the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL), work has commenced to improve fiduciary systems and capabilities to integrate climate change in local development planning for 2-4 pilot Municipal Corporations.

Meteorological Services Division

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to emphasize the important role that the Meteorological Services plays in delivering weather and climate products and services with the aim of preparing Jamaicans for whatever meteorological hazards may come our way, thereby safeguarding and securing lives, property and our critical infrastructure.

For the 2021/22 Financial Year, the Meteorological Service improved the Surface Weather Observation Network, with the installation and performance of operational testing of the Doppler weather surveillance Radar, along with the expansion in the number of automatic weather stations. Tide gauges and lightning sensors were also procured for later implementation.

The Division also developed a Bush Fire Warning Index that will assist in proactively providing early warning to the population and the Jamaica Fire Brigade about the risk of breakout of wildfires across the island based on data about specific climate, vegetation and soil parameters.

This Financial Year, the Met Service will concentrate on the continued expansion of the Surface Weather Observation Network with the installation of additional data-collection platforms, including automatic weather stations (AWS) and sea-level monitoring gauges, as well as testing of lightning sensors.

The AWS will also be further equipped to transfer data in real-time to the monitoring centre within the Forecast Centre, allowing for them to contribute effectively to the national Early Warning System and allow for collection of a larger suite of meteorological parameters islandwide.

The development of Impact-Based Forecasting to enhance the Meteorological Service's capacity to provide "people-centred" early warnings for hydro-meteorological hazards is another important deliverable for this financial year.

This creates a shift from forecasts that indicate what the weather will be to what the weather will do and will facilitate the provision of information on impacts of severe weather hazards, thereby allowing the public and critical decision makers to better prepare for these events.



Launch of the Bush Fire Warning Index

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, I know I have said a lot this afternoon. That I have, is because we have plenty of things to say, and as we say in Jamaica nuff tings a gwaan! From new road projects to water, to the environment and climate change, we are on the path to building resilient, sustainable and adaptable infrastructure for a strong future! In the construction of new and modern houses, establishment of new and improved communities and creation of commercial space for businesses to flourish, we are on a path to building resilient, sustainable and adaptable infrastructure for a strong future!

I urge all of my fellow Jamaicans to seek out the opportunities being provided through this Ministry as we partner with you to build stronger for better!

I thank you!



National Pledge

*Before God and all mankind,
I pledge the love and loyalty of my heart,
the wisdom and courage of my mind,
the strength and vigour of my body
in the service of my fellow citizens;
I promise to stand up for Justice,
Brotherhood and Peace,
to work diligently and creatively,
to think generously and honestly,
so that Jamaica may, under God,
increase in beauty, fellowship and prosperity,
and play her part in advancing
the welfare of the whole human race.*

