

# PM Urges Jamaicans to Boost Productivity

**P**RIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is calling on Jamaicans to increase their productivity to boost the country's economic growth.

"Jamaica has one of the lowest productivity rates in this region and it can't continue. We can't grow the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) unless we increase productivity," he said, while addressing the National Labour Day project at Mandela Park in St. Andrew on May 23.

He called on unions and bargaining groups to work with the Government to "figure out how to get Jamaicans to produce more".

He noted that as the Government works to improve compensation, "the conversation about better pay, improved conditions and increasing the general income of the society is not only unidimensional... about increasing pay".



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness waters a tree he planted during Labour Day activities at Mandela Park in Half-Way Tree, St. Andrew, on May 23. Observing from right are Executive Director, National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), Audley Gordon; Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, and other stakeholders.**

"There is another dimension, as well, that labour must now contemplate, which is improving productivity, and this is... the next pivotal point in the development of the Jamaican society and economy," Mr. Holness said.

He noted that the observance of Labour Day

and Workers' Week provides an opportunity to recognise the evolution of the country's labour movement and the gains that have been made over the years.

Meanwhile, Mr. Holness said the improvements and repairs at Mandela Park will

improve the facility and experience for users.

He however noted that "the Park, where it is, is not necessarily in the best location and, in the reconfiguration, we may have to think about a relocation of the park".

## India Supports Jamaica's Candidature



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) with the Prime Minister of India, the Hon. Narendra Modi (centre), and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith. India is the latest country to fully endorse Senator Johnson Smith's candidature for the post of Secretary General of the Commonwealth. Other countries that have so far endorsed Sen. Johnson Smith are the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, Maldives and Singapore. Photo above shows the officials at the India-Caricom Leaders' meeting in New York in 2019.**

## Legislation to Facilitate Manufacturing and Export Up for Review

SEVERAL PIECES of legislation governing manufacturing and export are being targeted for review by the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce.

This is with a view to effecting changes, where needed, that will serve to spur increased activities in these areas, thereby contributing to Jamaica's attainment of higher levels of sustainable economic growth.

Portfolio Minister, Senator the Hon. Aubyn Hill, said that a special team has been assembled to work in tandem with officers at the

Ministry to identify the relevant documents for his perusal and action.

He said the overarching goal is to create the legislative framework and environment that facilitate heightened levels of investments in manufacturing, particularly by local interests, that translate into increased exports and earnings.

Senator Hill was speaking during the Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA) National Exporters' Month Breakfast Forum at the Terra Nova Hotel.

## 144 Housing Units for Public Servants

**P**RIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness broke ground for construction of 144 detached two-bedroom housing solutions at Union Acres in Irwin, St. James on May 20.

The housing development is being undertaken by the National Housing Trust (NHT) through a joint venture partnership with the Jamaica Civil Service Housing Company Limited and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU).

The units are expected to be constructed on 20 acres of land and projected to be handed over in batches to civil servants commencing March 2023.

Amenities and infrastructure will include paved roads with curbs, street names and traffic signs, storm water



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (third left) breaks ground for the construction of 144 detached two-bedroom housing solutions at Union Acres, Irwin, St. James on May 20. He is joined by Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett (second left) and other stakeholders.**

drainage system; centralised drainage system; centralised sewage collection and treatment systems, potable water distribution network with centralised storage and electrical distribution system and streetlights.

Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony, Prime Minister Holness

said the units, which will be "appropriately priced" are being constructed in response to the housing needs of public sector workers.

"From what I have seen, [they are] well designed two-bedroom units and, as is the mandate, every development must take into consideration the

wellness of persons who live there, so you will have amenities that will allow you to be able to walk if you can't run and run if you can," he said.

The Prime Minister added that the houses are being built to ensure durability and to withstand harsh weather phenomenon.

## Minister Vaz Launches Wi-Fi Hotspot in Port Maria



**Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz (third left), points to the free public Wi-Fi hotspot sign at the Claude Stuart Park in Port Maria, St. Mary recently. Others (from left) are Chief Executive Officer, Universal Service Fund (USF), Daniel Dawes; Member of Parliament, St. Mary Western, Robert Montague; and other stakeholders.**

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