

# Government Committed to Safeguarding Lives

**T**HE GOVERNMENT remains committed to safeguarding Jamaicans against the upsurge in crime and violence.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Office of the Prime Minister on June 17, Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness said the Government will not sit by and allow innocent Jamaicans to live in fear for their lives.

"The Government has to act and...we, of course, must act within the boundaries of our laws and Constitution, and we rely on our courts to give us guidance and interpretation. We will always dutifully follow the guidance of the courts as they interpret the law," Mr. Holness said.

"As we see the law and we go through our interpretation as well, we make the best policies that we can until the courts pronounce. But it must



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addresses a virtual press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister on June 17.**

never be said that the Government did not act. As Prime Minister, you elected me to discharge my duties

fully in support of the defence of the first and most important right, which is right to life," he added.

On the recommendation of the Chief of Defence Staff and the Commissioner of Police, a State of Public Emergency has been declared for the entire parish of St. Catherine. This is as a result of the high level of crime in the parish, particularly murders, over the past months.

**"We will always dutifully, follow the guidance of the Courts as they interpret the law."**

Since the beginning of the year, 82 persons have been arrested for illegal possession of firearm, ammunition or both, with 59 illegal guns seized, which is an increase of 28 per cent compared to 2021.

## Jamaicans in the Diaspora Eligible for NIDS Card

ALL JAMAICAN citizens, locally and in the diaspora, will be eligible for the National Identification Card, which will be issued with the rollout of the National Identification System (NIDS).

This was disclosed by Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Floyd Green, during a special 'Riverside Chat' segment of the Jamaica 60 Diaspora Conference, on June 14 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade headquarters downtown Kingston.

"It doesn't matter if you are a Jamaican living in New York, the United Kingdom (UK) or wherever in the world. Once you are a Jamaican citizen, you can get a national identification card. Additionally, those who are resident in Jamaica for six months or more will also qualify for the NIDS card," the Minister said.

Mr. Green noted that while Jamaicans in the diaspora will be able to go online and pre-enrol for NIDS, they will be required to visit an enrolment site in Jamaica to provide their biometric information.



**Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Floyd Green**

The procedure for enrolment into NIDS will be simple and easy to follow. Persons must submit documents such as birth certificate, proof of address or marriage certificate.

The first step involves the collection of applicants' biometric data and supporting documents. At the next stage, a reference number will be given for the applicant to track the application online. In the final stage, once the verification is done, a notification will be sent to the applicant to collect, pin, and activate the national ID card that will be issued.

## Jamaica Being Positioned as Global Logistics Hub

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has stated that Jamaica is being strategically positioned as a globally competitive logistics hub, and an efficient investment destination,

According to the Prime Minister, there is a new wave of US multibillion-dollar investments projected for the Caribbean region, which will create myriad opportunities for economic growth and development.

Addressing the Eighth Annual International Conference and Exhibition (AICE), at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in Rose Hall, St. James, on June 14, Mr. Holness noted that the country, by way of investments in several key sectors, is on course to capitalise on the projected investments.

"I met with most of the world leaders of this hemisphere and heard from the Inter-American Development Bank how nearshoring and friendly shoring will attract more than US\$78 billion of new investments and exports,



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (3rd left) peruses a copy of the World Investment Report 2022 presented to him by Director, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland, James Zhan (left), at the Eighth Annual International Conference and Exhibition (AICE), held at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James, on June 14. Observing (from left) are Chairperson, World Free Zones Organization, United Arab Emirates, Dr. Mohammed Al Zarooni, and Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Senator the Hon. Aubyn Hill.**

which will create more than four million direct jobs," the Prime Minister said.

"Jamaica is ideally located at the intersection of the east-west and north-south trade routes. Kingston Harbour is the seventh largest natural harbour in the world. Our

mission is to leverage these natural assets and position Jamaica as the fourth global logistics mode, comparable to Singapore, Dubai and Rotterdam," he added.

The Prime Minister said significant investments have been made to improve the

transportation and telecommunications infrastructure.

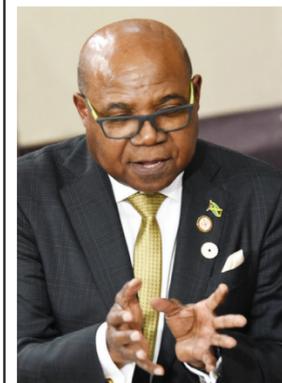
He added that the Kingston Logistics Park and the Flagship Caymanas Special Economic Zone in St. Catherine are key projects that will further advance Jamaica's global competitiveness.

## Tourism Projections on Track

JAMAICA IS well on its way to achieving its 2022 projections of total visitor arrivals of 3.2 million and total revenue of US\$3.3 billion.

2024, we will have 4.5 million visitors and we will earn US\$4.7 billion," he noted.

**"If we intend to maintain any semblance of the momentum, and you know we always do, we can safely say that well before 2024, we will have 4.5 million visitors and we will earn US\$4.7 billion."**



**Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett**

Closing the 2022/23 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on June 14, Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, said the arrival figures from the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) signal that the sector is proving its resilience and a return to pre-pandemic performance, which is on the horizon.

"Which means, by early 2023 we would have been back to 2019 [figures] and going beyond 2019 at the end of 2023. If we intend to maintain any semblance of the momentum, and you know we always do, we can safely say that well before

The latest Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) economic performance update for January to March 2022 indicates that the real value added for hotels & restaurants increased by an estimated 105.7 per cent.

Preliminary data revealed that stopover arrivals increased by 230.1 per cent to 475,805 visitors, and cruise passenger arrivals totalled 99,798.

In addition, based on PIOJ data for January to February 2022, total visitor expenditure increased to US\$485.6 million, when compared to US\$169.2 million during the corresponding period in 2021.

## West Gate Hills Community Gets New Water Tank



**Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda (2nd left), commissions into service the \$30 million West Gate Hills number two storage replacement tank, during an official ceremony, held in St. James, on June 16. He is joined by Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Marlene Malahoo-Forte (centre), and other stakeholders.**

## Billions to be Spent on Hard Infrastructure to Support Climate Resilience

THE GOVERNMENT is to spend \$31 billion on hard infrastructure this year, in a bid to boost climate resilience on the island.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda made the announcement at the Regional Ministers of Tourism Summit 2022, held at the Montego

Bay Convention Centre in St. James, on June 15.

The summit formed part of the World Free Zones Organization (World FZO) AICE Conference 2022, staged under the theme 'Zones: 2022 Your Partner for Resilience, Sustainability and Prosperity'.

"We are going to ensure that the roads that connect us to our transport hubs are

the sort of roads that can withstand significant climatic and weather events that will allow the sector to get back up much faster," Senator Samuda emphasised.

He said that focus will also be placed on "nature-based solutions that we know are critical to our survival".

"We have an assessment, which is going on now,



**Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda**

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for things like our mangrove population right across the island, to ensure that we do

protect our coastline, not just for tourists but certainly for our residents," Senator Samuda said.

He added that the Government is taking a systematic approach to building the country's resilience and protecting the island.

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