

Prime Minister Calls for Political Consensus on Crime

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness is calling for political consensus in dealing with crime in Jamaica.

Speaking at the public presentation of the National Commission on Violence Prevention held at the Banquet Hall, Jamaica House, on August 11, Prime Minister Holness noted that “we haven’t been able to get to political consensus”.

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Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness emphasises a point, as he addresses the public presentation of the National Commission on Violence Prevention, at Jamaica House, on August 11.

but we haven’t reached genuine consensus on how to tackle crime,” he said.

Mr. Holness said it is hoped that once the political class is confronted with factual data, recommendations, and conclusions from the Commission, which is an independent body, they “would then have to look

at it and come to a reasonable understanding as to what we need to implement”.

The Prime Minister noted that reaching an agreement is important in ensuring continuity of policy measures when administrations change.

“So, I am using this platform to say to our counterparts in

the Opposition, let us create a space in which the treatment of violence is not contested politically and that we share in the victory of overcoming violence. That is going to be a signal achievement for the country, and it doesn’t have to be anybody getting political benefit off it,” he added.

2022 Population and Housing Census Launched

CITIZENS AND other eligible persons resident in Jamaica are being encouraged to participate in the 2022 Population and Housing Census, which was launched on August 10, by Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness.

The three-month exercise, which is the country’s 15th, is being spearheaded by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) under the theme ‘Yuh Count, Mi Count – All A Wi Count’, and will cost the Government approximately \$2.4 billion.

It commences on Census Day, Monday, September 12, which will serve as the reference

date for the data collated. More than 7,500 field workers have been recruited to conduct the exercise.

Speaking at the launch held at the AC Marriott Kingston Hotel, Prime Minister Holness said the census is one of the most important statistical exercises to be undertaken, noting that the data collated is crucial in the Government’s policy decisions.

“If we’re going to make policies on behalf of the people, we can’t just make policies on emotion [or] what we feel is popular. We have to make policies on the facts. So, it is important that when the census



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addresses the launch of the 2022 Population and Housing Census at the AC Marriott Kingston Hotel, on August 10.

takers come to your community, that you embrace them and that you cooperate with them and give the necessary information,” he said.

Mr. Holness assured that personal information provided will be treated confidentially as mandated under the Statistics Act.

First NIDS Registration Centre Opening Soon

THE FIRST pilot enrolment site where citizens will be able to register for the new National Identification System (NIDS), will be completed in approximately two weeks.

The location is at the Central Sorting Office on South Camp Road in Kingston and is the first of five sites that will be activated across Kingston and St. Andrew by early October.

Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Floyd Green, disclosed the details after touring the site with the Productive Business Solutions (PBS) consortium on August 11.

“I’m really happy to see the progress and that we’re moving in the right direction. We had



Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Floyd Green (right), listens to Programme Director of the National Identification System (NIDS), Dr. Warren Vernon as they tour the first pilot enrolment site at the Central Sorting Office on South Camp Road on August 11.

indicated that we wanted to have our first enrolment site up and ready by August and, based on the trajectory, it

should be completed in two weeks or so,” he stated.

Works currently being finalised include the installation

of electrical ports, equipment testing, and infrastructure fine-tuning.

The site will feature workstations designed to accommodate privacy and equipment for biometric captures such as fingerprint scanners, document scanners, a camera and a signature pad.

Collected information will be stored directly in the Government’s primary and secondary data centres.

“I think Jamaicans must rest assured that we are taking the highest level of security cautions in the preparations of these cards and the process that we will go through in terms of inputting the information,” he emphasised.



PM Hands Over Three-Bedroom House to Delano Tucker and Family

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (second right) cuts the ribbon to celebrate the official handover of a new three-bedroom house to Delano Tucker (third right) and his family in Guy’s Hill, St. Catherine, on August 11. The house was built under the New Social Housing Programme (NSHP). Joining in the occasion (from third left) are Member of Parliament for St. Catherine Northeast, Kerensia Morrison; Chairperson, Oversight Committee for NSHP, Judith Robb Walters, and other family members.

\$700 Million Loan Support for Entertainment and Transport Operators



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), greets Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) Managing Director, Anthony Shaw (right), during the launch of the entity’s Entertainment and Transport Sector Loan products at the AC Marriott Kingston Hotel on August 11.

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) has unveiled two loan facilities valued at \$700 million to benefit entertainment and transport industry stakeholders, whose livelihoods have been impacted by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A sum of \$500 million is earmarked for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the Entertainment Restart Loan Facility, while \$200 million has been provided for public passenger vehicle (PPV) operators.

The funds will be provided through the DBJ’s micro finance institutions (MFIs) and approved financial institutions (AFIs).

Dr. Clarke, who addressed the launch on August 11, said that the “dedicated loan facility to persons who

operate at all levels of the entertainment industry, will allow those who are not yet back on their feet, to have access to financing to go on the road again.”

As it relates to the loan provision for transport operators, Minister Clarke noted that “this can be used to make your business more attractive to customers”.

He said that the interventions “must be seen as the Government putting its money where its mouth is and stepping up and providing support”.

“So, the Government is responding to the people of Jamaica and leading the recovery from the pandemic in a way that is inclusive and making sure that financing, which is the oxygen of business, is available to all who have been affected,” he added.

Major Clean-up Exercise Along Dyke Road



A worker uses a weed wacker to remove overgrown shrubs along a section of Dyke Road in St. Catherine, during a clean-up exercise on August 11.

A MAJOR clean-up exercise has begun along Dyke Road in St. Catherine as part of the national ‘Clean Jamaica’ campaign being implemented by the Government.

The exercise, which commenced on August 11, is expected to last for one week and will see the removal of overgrown vegetation in the area. The work will focus on both sides of the road from the Ackee Village up to the train line.

“This area is what is deemed the critical area of the Dyke Road that needs immediate response and that is what we are offering right now,” said Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, who observed the exercise.

He informed that the clean-up is in response to a

request from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) regarding the condition of the area, which, in recent times, has been used as a hideout for criminals and where illegal weapons have been discovered.

“The work is being coordinated by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), working closely with the Member of Parliament and Councillor for the area and getting the support from the security forces,” said Minister McKenzie.

Meanwhile, he added that the national clean-up campaign, which began prior to the Independence celebrations, will continue across other parts of the country.

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