

Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago Strengthen Trade Ties

JAMAICA AND the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at providing businesses in both countries, with a transparent and predictable means of addressing export challenges.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness made the disclosure during a joint press conference held in the twin island Republic on August 29, with his counterpart Dr. the Hon. Keith Rowley.

Mr. Holness said the MoU follows on activities started in 2016 when Prime Minister Rowley made an official visit to Jamaica.

“As a result of that we were able to create a pathway to deal with trade complaints and today we signed a Memorandum of Understanding on that cooperation and that pathway I believe has been very useful to both our countries in improving trade relations,” he informed.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (standing left) and Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. the Hon. Keith Rowley (standing, right) observe, as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (seated left) and Minister of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago, Hon. Dr. Amery Browne, sign a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance trade relations between both countries during a brief ceremony held on August 29, in the twin island Republic.

Johnson Smith, explained that both countries have been working together for some time to address non-tariff barriers and this mechanism concretises the commitment.

“We look forward to working with private sector organisations to sensitise individuals and companies about the new and improved processes to address concerns,” Senator

Johnson Smith stated on Twitter.

She added that the bilateral agreement will complement the CARICOM Single Market and Economy arrangements.

Prime Minister Rowley said he hoped that his country, “will always view Jamaican investment in Trinidad and Tobago as...welcomed, as Jamaica welcomes

Trinidad and Tobago investment”.

Both leaders also spoke about enhancing bilateral cooperation for business registration, sports, violence prevention and the culture and creative industries.

Mr. Holness is in Trinidad and Tobago as a special guest for the country’s 60th Anniversary of Independence celebrations.

Tourism Recovering Faster Than Anticipated

MINISTER OF Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, says the sector is recovering at a faster-than-anticipated pace.

“We projected that we would recover to 2019 levels by 2023/24. We had a mid-year review in Ocho Rios this [past] weekend and I am very pleased to tell you that, to date, we have [had] 1.7 million visitors and they have spent just a little under US\$3 billion,” he disclosed.

The Minister was addressing a town hall meeting hosted by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), at the Altery Beach Club, at Priory Beach in St. Ann, on August 28.

Mr. Bartlett said based on the outturns for the year to date, “we are... trending 90 per cent against 2019”.

“When you look at what we are doing... you will see that in 2019, we earned US\$ 3.6 billion for the entire year, and we have [only] gone eight months [in this



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett

year] and we are now at the edge of US\$3 billion,” he pointed out.

The Minister noted 2022 predictions which indicated that visitors would spend over US\$4 billion, “and that would easily be a 15 to 20 per cent increase from 2019”.

Mr. Bartlett credited the people of Jamaica for being the “main attractions” and the reason visitors spend while on the island.

The town hall meeting was held to discuss works to be done at Priory Beach.

9,000 Residents in Westmoreland Get Improved Water Supply

APPROXIMATELY 9,000 residents in 12 communities across Westmoreland now have access to improved water supply, following the commissioning of the \$475 million Nonpareil/Retirement/Orange Hill Water System on August 25.

Among the beneficiary areas are White Hall, Mount Airy, Hog Haven, Orange Hill, Sections of West End, Good Hope, Retirement, Little Bay, Revival, Brighton, Negril, and Cherry Hill.

The project was executed by the National Water Commission (NWC) in collaboration with the Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL).

The system, which is outfitted with two pumping stations, two storage reservoirs, transmission and distribution pipelines, has the capacity to supply 500,000 gallons of water daily.



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda (fourth left), commissions into service the \$475 million Nonpareil/Retirement/Orange Hill Water System in Westmoreland on August 25. Sharing the moment (from left) are Mayor of Savanna-la-Mar, Councillor Bertel Moore and other dignitaries.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony at the White Hall pumping station in Negril, Minister without

Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, said the Government is

looking to ensure that all Jamaicans have access to potable piped water.

He pointed out that the Administration is “working around the clock”, by invest-

ing and seeking to identify financing for the National Water Commission (NWC), “to ensure that we get to [that] stage”.

The Minister noted that as Jamaica grapples with

the effects of climate change, the Government is putting the necessary water infrastructure in place to position the country to adapt to shifting climatic conditions.”

PEP Students Awarded



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (fifth left) and Cabinet Secretary, Ambassador Douglas Saunders (second right, background), with Primary Exit Profile (PEP) award recipients who will be attending high schools across the country. They were at a presentation ceremony held at Banquet Hall, Jamaica House, recently.

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