

PM Hands Over 50 New Trucks to NSWMA

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness officially handed over 50 new trucks and 10 motorcycles to the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), on November 30.

The vehicles, valued at approximately US\$6.9 million, will improve garbage collection islandwide and bolster the operations and capabilities of the agency.

They were handed over during a ceremony at the National Heroes Park, in Kingston.

Of the 50, a total of 12 trucks will be at the Western Parks and Markets Waste Management Limited; 10 for Metropolitan Parks and Market Waste Management Limited; 10 to Southern Parks and Markets Waste Management Limited; 10 for North Eastern Parks and Markets Waste Management Limited, while the remaining eight will form part of a roving team, dubbed Strategically Working to Enforce and Enhance Public Cleansing



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (fifth left) is joined by Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (sixth right), and Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (fourth left), in cutting the ribbon to officially hand over 50 new garbage trucks and 10 motorcycles to the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), at National Heroes Park in Kingston, on November 30.

Operations and Programmes (SWEEP COP).

The 10 motorcycles will be used by the NSWMA's enforcement team.

Addressing the ceremony, Prime Minister Holness said the acquisition represents a major achievement in building the capacity of the NSWMA.

"With the arrival of these 50 trucks, I am advised that

the total fleet now stands at 129 garbage trucks," he noted.

Mr. Holness indicated that the acquisition of the trucks and the motorcycles will improve the increasing demand for garbage collection in communities islandwide.

"We have said that as a Government, we are not sat-

isfied. We have tried with the resources that we have to maximise our ability to respond to the growing garbage-collection issue," he said.

He pointed to the need for a culture change to address littering and foster greater care for the environment.

Jamaica Poised for Top 10 Global Investment Ranking

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says that Jamaica is on a mission to attain top-10 ranking for places to invest in the world.

Mr. Holness argued that Jamaica's strong fiscal management and fiscal policies over the last decade have placed the country on track to achieving that goal.

"The Jamaican story of economic recovery started over a decade ago when the country came together as one. We made a decision that we will be, regardless of Administration, a fiscally responsible Government and we went about putting in the institutions to ensure that Jamaica was a fiscally responsible State," the Prime Minister said.

"So, if you are considering investing in Jamaica, you can rest assured that across

Administrations, regardless of changes in Government, the political economy of Jamaica has changed its DNA to a state that believes in strong fiscal management of our economic affairs," he added.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the Invest Jamaica 2022 Business Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James on November 29.

Mr. Holness said that Jamaica's "remarkable economic rebound" from the COVID-19 pandemic should also serve as another key indicator that "this is a good and exciting time to invest in Jamaica".

He identified tourism, agriculture/agro-business and logistics as areas of great investment opportunities in the island.



Prime Minister the Most Hon Andrew Holness speaks at the Invest Jamaica 2022 Business Conference, at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James, on November 29.

Revised Income Tax Relief Act to Facilitate US Billion-Dollar Investments

A revised Income Tax Relief (Large Scale Project and Pioneer Industries) Act, 2014, that incentivises investments of US\$1 billion or more, is expected to be tabled in Parliament by the end of fiscal year 2022/23, next March.

This was disclosed by Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, while speaking during the Invest Jamaica 2022 Business Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre on November 29.

He said the new regime is designed to create a transparent and automatic fiscal incentive framework, which will appeal to local or foreign investors.

"That [amended] Act will have some provisions in it that allow us to offer



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon Nigel Clarke

investors who are making that kind of commitment to Jamaica... with a minimum level of jobs created, certain benefits; but we're going to do it in a transparent way. [What] we are saying to you

[is], if you have US\$1 billion to invest, Jamaica is the place, and we're going to make you feel welcome," he told investors.

The Minister said the Act and the accompanying

Regulations outlines what the criteria are, adding that "anyone, Jamaican, or Latin American, European, African, Asian, North American, who meets those criteria will benefit".

Dr. Clarke advised that the Government already has, in the pipeline, investors who are committed to that level of investment.

Implementation of Education Transformation Recommendations Progressing

PROGRESS IS being made by the Government in implementing recommendations outlined in the 2021 'Reform of Education in Jamaica' Report.

This was disclosed by Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams, during a press conference at Jamaica House on December 1.

Mrs. Williams said gains have been made in five of the seven areas of the Professor Orlando Patterson-chaired Jamaica Education Transformation Commission (JETC) report.

These are: governance, administration leadership and legislation; early-childhood education; teaching curriculum, and teacher training; tertiary education; and infrastructure and technology.

The remaining areas are technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and finance.

Mrs. Williams said Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has requested that the JETC further explore the TVET area, while indicating the need for collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in relation to finance.

Implementation of the recommendations is being monitored by the Education Transformation and Oversight Committee (ETOC), chaired by Dr. Adrian Stokes.

Minister Williams indicated that the recommendation for secondary schools to be evaluated and ranked using the value-added procedure complementing the traditional evaluation of the National Education Inspectorate (NEI), was utilised in approximately 150 institutions during the 2021/22 and 2022/23 NEI inspection cycle.



Education and Youth Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams

Meanwhile, the Minister advised that funding has been obtained from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for consultancy, in relation to a strategic review of the Ministry's structure which is slated to be undertaken.

25 New Vehicles Added to JCF Fleet

THE JAMAICA Constabulary Force (JCF) has acquired 25 new vehicles valued at \$176 million, which will allow for quicker response to incidents and the patrolling of Jamaica's streets.

A total of 15 L200 Mitsubishi pickups and 10 Toyota Hilux pickups were handed over at the Police Commissioner's Office in Kingston on November 29.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr Horace Chang, said that "the investment will directly benefit police officers by enabling them to effectively carry out their duties on the front line".

Dr. Chang pointed out that for the first time in its history, the JCF's Planning Unit is leading the charge in executing a long-term sustainable development plan for the organisation.

"This long-term strategic planning, investment in and modernisation of the JCF, is being done in a sys-



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (left) along with Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Courtney Williams, view one of the newly acquired vehicles for the Jamaica Constabulary Force, during a ceremony at the Police Commissioner's Office in Kingston on November 29.

tematic and structured way and will enable the organisation to project and plan for its continued expansion and transformation," he noted.

Dr. Chang said that police officers across Jamaica have experienced improved conditions of service under this investment and modernisation strategy, adding that "these vehicles ensure better

mobility, reliability, and response of the police".

The Minister said that in addition to the 25 new vehicles and the 134 police facilities that have been renovated and constructed, to date, the significant improvement in police communication, technology, and training are the results of the Government's continued investment in the JCF.

JCF Strengthened by 323 New Constables



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, presents Woman Constable ShanaKay Walsham with the trophy for 'Highest Mark Obtained' during the passing out parade and awards ceremony for 323 new police recruits at the National Police College of Jamaica (NPCJ) in St. Catherine, on November 30.

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