

Increased Salary to Attract and Increase Accountability

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says with the salary adjustments announced for the political directorate under the new public sector compensation regime, there will be greater interest in the political field.

“Everyone who is occupying a political office ought to be thinking very carefully that I need to increase my political performance, because there are many young people out there now who have started to look at entering the political field with higher educational qualifications, higher skill level, and higher competencies,” he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a floral tribute ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the late former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer’s birth, on May 18, at National Heroes Park in Kingston.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addresses the audience at a floral tribute for the late former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer, held at National Heroes Park on May 18.

“You are going to see, as a result of this increase, an improvement in the level of entrants coming into the political field. You’re also going to see an improvement in the existing occupants of the posts, because they have to

now step up their game,” Mr. Holness said.

now step up their game,” Mr. Holness said.

“You are going to see, as a result of this increase, an improvement in the level of entrants coming into the political field. You’re also going to see an improvement in the existing occupants of the posts, because they have to now step up their game.”

The Prime Minister reiterated the Government’s stance that the adjustments are necessary to attract and retain talent.

“We continue to lose the potential that this country produces every year because the wage level is low. This Administration recognised that, and we have taken a decision to increase by over \$100 billion the wage bill, and everybody is lifted,” Mr. Holness noted.

PM Pays Tribute to Hugh Shearer



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness places flowers on the grave of late former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer. Occasion was a floral tribute held at National Heroes Park on May 18, to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth. As Prime Minister from 1967-1972, Mr. Shearer made significant investments in education and infrastructure.

Prime Minister Calls for Increased Support for Haiti

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness and United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres have issued a joint call for increased support from the international community for Haiti.

Speaking at a joint press briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister on May 15, Prime Minister Holness said CARICOM has been doing its part within its resources to assist.

“We lamented that there has not been more action to address the situation in Haiti and as we do have this platform... we repeat our call for greater attention to be paid by the international community to the very urgent security and humanitarian situation in Haiti,” he said.

He informed that he led a CARICOM mission to Haiti, where meaningful discussions were had with the stakeholders there.

“That process is advancing. I take the view that with greater effort, we can see a breakthrough towards a better and broader consensus towards a solution in Haiti. The inescapable fact is that Haiti needs security support,” Mr. Holness said.

For his part, Mr. Guterres noted that the country is in a tragic situation, with dramatic humanitarian needs, a political system that is paralysed, and “you have levels of violence by gangs that are absolutely appalling”.

“We need to bring the different stakeholders together to find the political way for a legitimate government recognised by all, and we need to address the violence of the gangs,” he argued.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) gives remarks at a press conference held at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kingston on May 15. At left is United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres.

Multi-Stakeholder Participation Invited for National Labour Day Projects

GROUPS FROM corporate Jamaica, as well as civil society organisations and schools, among others, are being invited to participate in the National Labour Day Project on Tuesday, May 23.

This will entail the planting of trees along Highway 2000 in the vicinity of Hartlands Road, St. Catherine. The target is 10,000 trees.

Labour Day will be observed under the theme ‘Plant a Tree for Life – Promoting Climate Change Mitigation, Food Security and Road Safety’.

Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, extended the invitation in a statement delivered in the House of Representatives on May 17.



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange

She noted that entry to the work site will be via Hartlands Road, from Old Harbour Road, with no access from the Highway.

“The National Project will, again, be led by the Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, and he will be joined by the Leader of the Opposition, Mark Golding, and other portfolio Ministers,” Ms. Grange said.

She indicated that the projects are being arranged in plots of approximately half hectare in size.

Corporate entities with large groups comprising 50 persons will be assigned a plot for the day, which they will be able to brand and provide hospitality for their volunteers planting trees.

The Forestry Department as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will provide thousands of trees to organisations and the public across Jamaica.

Cabinet Approves New Post Codes for Education Sector

CABINET HAS approved the establishment of 5,045 post codes for the education sector, which will result in security of tenure for persons working in the positions.

Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams, made the disclosure during her contribution to the 2023/24 Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on May 17.

Mrs. Williams said this includes classroom teachers, senior teachers, master teachers, health and family life education teachers, numeracy specialists, teachers’ aides, teachers’ assistants, and non-academic staff who have been teaching or working in the education system for many years without security of tenure, some for five, ten or more years.

“This is a major clean-up for the education sector. In the past, it has only

been that on getting to retirement that a teacher may find out that they have been working in a job without a post code. To regularise at that time is most time-consuming and frustrating,” the Minister said.

She further informed that the Ministry is doing a finalisation of the data, and then letters will be prepared.

Meanwhile, the Government has provided almost \$9 billion towards the school-feeding programme for this 2023/24 fiscal year.

Mrs. Williams said, for this year, the aim is to feed 180,171 students, including those attending Early Childhood Commission institutions and Brain Builders centres; children up to grade 3; primary and junior high schools up to grade 9; secondary schools; and wards of the State.

19 Additional Post Offices to be Modified for NIDS Access

THE GOVERNMENT is to go to tender this calendar year to select contractors to commence the modification of an additional 19 post offices to expand access to the national identification card.

Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Floyd Green, made the disclosure during his contribution to the Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives on May 16.

“We are presently finishing the enrolment centre at the Post Office Mall in Liguanea and will break ground for Mona and Constant Spring. What we are going to do at Mona... we are going to create an almost brand-new facility, because we believe that there will be a lot of interest from the students on campus to get their national identification,” he said.

The Minister also informed that the Government has hired a consultant and has identified at least 100 Government services that heavily use identification “that we are going to seek to digitise, using the NIDS (National Identification System) to make life easier for Jamaicans”.

He said that services such as the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH), and the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) are to benefit from this initiative.

Mr. Green also informed that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with 10 deposit-taking institutions, adding that four workshops have been held to see how they can leverage the National Identification System to make life better for all.

UN Secretary-General Tours Bob Marley Museum



United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, His Excellency António Guterres (right), and State Minister in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Alando Terrelonge, look at memorabilia about iconic reggae group Bob Marley and the Wailers during a tour of the Bob Marley Museum on Hope Road, St. Andrew, on May 15.

For more JIS News visit www.jis.gov.jm

