



Ministry of Transport
and Mining

SECTORAL PRESENTATION 2023

TUESDAY
MAY 9, 2023



“THE FUTURE OF
TRANSPORT AND
MINING:
BALANCING
EFFICIENCY AND
SUSTAINABILITY”

Hon. Audley Shaw CD, MP
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND MINING



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**“The Future of Transport and Mining:
Balancing Efficiency and Sustainability”**

Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Gordon House

Introductory Remarks

Madam Speaker, it is indeed a blessing and a privilege to be able to once again stand before this Honourable House to report on the performance of the Ministry of Transport and Mining and present the plans of activities for the year ahead. This is my second year with this portfolio responsibility, and it has been a remarkable journey.

I must first give thanks to the Lord God Almighty, whose continued grace has allowed me to be here today, in representation of this country which I love so much. Assuredly, I do not take this task lightly, as I humbly continue to serve the people of Jamaica.

I must publicly express my absolute gratitude to my family who has been my constant support and rock; to my Cabinet and Parliamentary colleagues, led by the Most Honourable Prime Minister, I thank you for your support and confidence in my ability to lead this portfolio. I thank my Constituency Executive, my Councillors and the Constituents of North East Manchester, who I have now served consistently for 30 years as Member of Parliament.

I thank our Minister of State, Honourable J.C. Hutchinson, and my team at the Ministry of Transport and Mining, ably led by Permanent Secretary, Dr. Alwin Hales. To the Chairmen and Boards of Directors, as well as the management and staff of our agencies, I see your contributions and remain eternally grateful for you.

Madam Speaker, it would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge the strength and resilience of our Jamaican people, who have shown me love and support throughout the years. I keep pushing because of you.

Madam Speaker, this presentation is being delivered under the theme, *“The Future of Transport and Mining: Balancing Efficiency and Sustainability”* and focuses on the transport and mining sectors over the past year and the plans to move ahead, as we strive for a country with a world-class transportation system and a vibrant mining sector that serve the people and sensitive to the environment.

Repositioning Our Public Transport Sector

Madam Speaker, the public transport sector is a critical aspect of our economy and this Government continues to work to reposition this sector to ensure reform and sustainability, in spite of challenges faced by this and past administrations.

I will now highlight some of the positive outcomes.

The Montego Bay Metro (MBM) experienced an approximate 35% increase in revenue and a 45% increase in ridership over the previous year.

Madam Speaker, in improving its service offerings, Mo-Bay Metro has been focusing on customer service training for staff and has established a Commuter HelpDesk, under their “Outtah Road” initiative to facilitate the receipt of videos and pictures via WhatsApp. This number is **876-821-9708** and I encourage commuters to utilise this service.

Additionally, WIFI service has been introduced on all buses, which has influenced the increase in ridership; and using the FleetFactz tracking app, commuters in Western Jamaica can now track or monitor the location of the Montego Bay Metro’s buses.

Madam Speaker, we now turn our attention to the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited (JUTC), which provides a vital service for persons without access to private transport and the most vulnerable members of society.

The JUTC has been affected by an aging fleet and reduced bus numbers, with an average daily bus runout of 163. This Government remains committed to providing the necessary support to not only augment the fleet, but also to modernize its operations, using a mix of energy sources, including electric and natural gas units.

Acquisition of New Buses

Madam Speaker, as we speak, fifty (50) buses, 45 diesel and 5 electric, are on their way and should arrive by the end of the month! Additionally, twenty (20) CNG-fueled units will be added to the fleet under a joint arrangement with private sector partners. These units are expected by September.

BATTERY ELECTRIC BUS PILOT

We are currently engaged in a Battery Electric Bus pilot project for the testing of six electric buses, which will evaluate the performance of these electric buses, and form the basis for comparison to the Diesel and Compressed Natural Gas buses. As a matter of fact, **Madam Speaker**, one electric bus is already in operation – you will recall it was here for us to see and we are assessing its performance on our roads.



FIRST ELECTRIC BUS FOR JUTC

Want to know where your bus is:

- ▶ Download "FleetFactz" from Google play store
- ▶ Enter username "MBMCommuter@60961"
- ▶ Enter password: "Metro"
- ▶ Find your bus and route

Mobay Metro Company Ltd
@montegobaymetro
1975-821-9706

FLEETFACTZ APP FOR MO-BAY METRO BUSES

As we take steps to address the number of seats needed to transport commuters, we are expecting to procure 200 electric buses over the next two years, among other initiatives being explored.

ONLINE PORTAL

Madam Speaker, the JUTC has digitized its processes for the application for charters and sub-franchise licences, an online portal was launched by the company in February this year. This is a major step towards making the services more accessible and the processes more user-friendly. Persons who are interested in applying for charters or sub-franchise licence may visit the JUTC's website at www.jutc.gov.jm and make the necessary arrangements and pay for the service online.

GOING CASHLESS WITH FARE COLLECTION SYSTEM

Madam Speaker, the current fare collection system used by the JUTC has become obsolete. The procurement process for an upgraded Cashless Fare Collection System was significantly advanced, however, it was redirected for consideration by the Public Investment Appraisal Branch. A pilot project where the system operating on all the JUTC's buses, at no cost to the people of Jamaica, is to be implemented. The outcome of this pilot will assist the process of review by the PIAB and further guide the way forward.

MANAGING FUEL PILFERAGE

For more than two decades, fuel pilferage has been an issue for the JUTC. **Madam Speaker**, we are pursuing new methods to combat the innovative means by which thieves have been pilfering fuel. Without divulging too much, due to the sensitivity and security issues around this matter, we are working with a local company to introduce a technology-based solution that will assist us in detecting, locating, and tracking fuel theft where it occurs.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE JUTC AND HEART/NSTA TRUST

Furthermore, the JUTC and HEART/NSTA Trust have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, to provide Motor Vehicle Mechanics training for some 44 employees who will participate in work-based training across four (4) depots. This is expected to begin this month and will be monitored by a governance committee to be formed consisting of JUTC and HEART/NSTA Trust members.

JAMAICA ULTIMATE TYRE CO., LTD

Madam Speaker, the Jamaica Ultimate Tyre Company continues to work towards its objectives to provide service delivery to its customers. The Company has expanded its product offerings from its vital focus of producing retread tyres for the JUTC and other commercial entities to include the sale of new tyres, batteries, and the provision of tyre services, front end alignment, wheel balancing and nitrogen inflation. This has resulted in the Company growing its customer base and reducing its dependency on the JUTC for business continuity.

MODERNIZATION OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORTATION

Madam Speaker, modernization of the Legislative Framework for Public Land Transportation is a precursor for the implementation of several technological solutions to improve efficiency in the licensing and regulation of public transport. Work to amend to the Transport Authority Act & Regulations continues. Significantly, the Transport Authority Act (2022) has been completed however, work on the Regulations is ongoing. The legislation will provide greater protection for both operators and regulators and pave the way for the implementation of initiatives such as Varied Expiration Dates and Digital Licences.

IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES FOR ADHERENCE TO THE RULE OF LAW GOVERNING THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

Despite the challenges experienced over the past few years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Authority surpassed the licence production target of 86,000 road licences, including Hackney, Rural Stage, Contract Carriage,

Route Taxi, JUTC Sub-franchise, Private and Public Carriers Licences, to record a landmark 88,000 licences—6,000 more licences than processed in the previous period.

Monitoring of public transportation services in Kingston was also enhanced with the re-establishment and relocation of the Operations Department to the Half Way Tree Transport Centre from its previous location at Maxfield Avenue. This strategic positioning of the enforcement arm of the Authority closer to the hub of transport activity fostered better monitoring within the Half Way Tree area and other key corridors in the metropolis.

UPGRADE/EXPAND EXISTING FACILITIES AND INCREASE ACCESS TO TA SERVICES

The Authority also retrofitted a number of key customer service areas to enhance service delivery. Customer centric services are now provided in one location at 107 Maxfield Ave., which houses the Licensing Department and Motor Vehicle Release Unit, while the Corporate Office remains at 119 Maxfield Ave.

Furthermore, customers in the parish of St. Catherine are now benefitting from the commissioning of the Transport Authority's Linstead Satellite Office. Since its establishment there has been marked improvement in public order within the public transportation services in the bustling township of Linstead.

OTHER PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Transport Authority is also targeting other initiatives for the 2023/24 fiscal year including:

- Implementation of an islandwide camera network infrastructure with other agencies to improve monitoring capabilities within the transport sector.
- The relocation of the Transport Authority Lakes Pen Pound facility temporarily to Water Lane in Kingston.
- Implementation of the Transport Authority Digital Transformation Project which will focus on digitizing all processes associated with Licensing, Operations and the Legislative framework governing the Authority.
- The establishment of a Satellite office in St. Elizabeth.
- The roll out of an Electronic Ticketing System to replace written summons.

Advancement Of Railway Services

Madam Speaker, as this Honourable House is aware, Jamaica Railway Corporation commenced the operations of a student-passenger rail service on January 10, 2022, and currently provides safe and cost-effective transportation for students from Old Harbour and Linstead who travel to Spanish Town. The JUTC and the Jamaica Railway Corporation continue to partner with the Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY) to provide this transportation service to students of six (6) schools located in and around the environs of Spanish Town, namely:

- Innswood High School
- Jonathan Grant High School
- Spanish Town High School
- St. Catherine High School
- St. Jago High School
- Jose Marti High School

A total of seventy-eight thousand nine hundred forty-three (78,943) students have been transported since the start of the service, with peak total ridership of approximately six hundred (600) students per day. Further, since the introduction of the Pilot Student Service commuter trains, an additional \$3.67M in earnings has been generated from the offering of train excursions to various schools across the Island.



BAUXITE TRAIN



SCHOOL TRAIN

Madam Speaker, it is important to note that there are several studies underway to assess the demand for a commuter service which will inform the development of a full-scale project, which will also include adult passengers. Discussions are currently underway to expand the commuter rail service to transport over 5000 workers daily from Old Harbour to Spanish Town, then on to Angels, and Linstead to Angels to support the Business Processing Outsourcing investment which is expected to come on stream shortly in Angels St. Catherine. The JRC is actively in dialogue with the investors and is quite optimistic that work will begin before the end of this fiscal year.

The JRC is also in discussions with the World Bank to utilize grant funding to undertake feasibility studies to build-out the project and revitalize **a Rail Service from Kingston to Spanish Town.** This will include a spur line interconnection for passenger and freight rail service between Spanish Town, Downtown Kingston and Portmore, in particular the expected Greater Bernard Lodge Development.

Madam Speaker, contrary to assertions made, the \$80 million loss quoted for the FY 2022/2023, was in fact a projected loss and not an actual loss. The actual loss suffered by the JRC amounted to approximately \$20.09 million, which was primarily due to the initial expenditure required to undertake the execution and operations of **a Pilot student-passenger rail service programme.**

Notwithstanding this, the JRC is strategically positioned to improve its financial performance given the number of exciting plans for the Railway over the coming months, including:

1. Transportation of aggregate
2. The re-establishment of a Tourist Train Service from Montego Bay to Appleton Estate
3. Expansion of the commuter train and the inclusion of a freight service

Madam Speaker, an agreement was recently signed with Mineral Agency for Retail and Logistics Limited (M.A.R.L.) to start transporting aggregates from Old Harbour to Linstead, and from Bog Walk to Port Esquivel, which will then be transported to other Caribbean islands. This is expected to ensure consistent revenue for the JRC by utilizing the approximately 30 miles of operating track within St. Catherine. The total aggregate to be moved is projected to be approximately 1 million tonnes per year, resulting in potential revenues in the region of approximately Ja \$480 million per annum.

Plans for the operation of a tourist train service from Montego Bay to Appleton by a private investor, under a track user agreement, is also at an advanced stage and will be presented to Cabinet in short order. The project will be implemented in two (2) main phases:

- Phase 1 – Montpelier to Appleton – construction/rehabilitation commencing 2023 and the start of rail operation from Montpelier to Appleton in 2026.
- Phase 2 – Montpelier to Montego Bay construction to commence 2026/2027.
- It is also to be noted that freight along the Spanish Town and Linstead rail section is high on the agenda for the FY 2022/2023.



JRC AND MARL AGGREGATE SIGNING



TOUR OF THE JAMAICA RAILWAY CORPORATION

Madam Speaker, rail services have further been expanded with the signing of an Agreement with Mineral Agency for Retail and Logistics Limited (M.A.R.L.), for the transporting of aggregates from Old Harbour to Linstead, and from Bog Walk to Port Esquivel, which will then be transported to other Caribbean islands.

ISLAND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Madam Speaker, the transformation of the Island Traffic Authority (ITA) continues apace. There is now approval for the executive positions and the recruitment process is underway. The system being used to facilitate the administration of motor vehicle registration and drivers licences is at the end of life. Consequently, the new Integrated Motor Vehicle and Driver’s Licence System (IMVDLS) concept was finalized and submitted for entry into the Public Investment Management System (PIMS). This system will accommodate the functions mentioned, as well as the new and expanded functions of the ITA, as legislated in the Eighth Schedule of the Road Traffic Act, 2018.

Additional technology to enhance the ITA’s ability to ensure the smooth execution of the Road Traffic Act and Regulations include the procurement of critical tools such as headlight aimers, tint meters and decibel meters, and Modern Crash Data Retrieval Kit.

We have moved to digitize the processes of setting appointments to sit the Road Code, driving and fitness tests. Persons are now able to sit these tests online at select locations and the intention is to have this facility implemented across all examination depots this year.

ROAD CODE TEST

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Transport and Mining has received numerous reports from schools regarding underage driving. With this in mind, the Road Safety Unit/Island Traffic Authority will increase road safety education in secondary schools. To this end, a Road Code Test Programme for secondary schools has been launched to ensure students are equipped to use the roads safely. So far, York Castle High School in St. Ann, Little London High School in Westmoreland, St. Jago High School and Johnathan Grant High School in St. Catherine have completed Road Code Test sensitization and training.



LITTLE LONDON HIGH ROAD CODE TEST



YORK CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL ROAD CODE TEST

JAMAICA ADOLESCENT LEARNER DRIVER CURRICULUM

The partnership with secondary schools will also see the introduction of a learner driver education programme called the Jamaica Adolescent Learner Driver Curriculum (JADC) is one of the strategic goals of the Pedestrian Safety Committee (PSC), to ensure that safe driving principles and practices are passed to prospective drivers and the younger generation to improve driving behaviour and decrease the risk to vulnerable road users, especially pedestrians. UNICEF is supporting the initiative and so far, seven schools have added the JADC to their offerings.

Jamaica's Aviation Sector

Madam Speaker, I now draw your attention to the aviation sector. Jamaica has worked towards maintaining a strong aviation presence and continues to bolster our strengths and improve on international standards and best practices.

IAN FLEMING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (IFIA) & DOMESTIC AERODROMES

Madam Speaker, the Airports Authority of Jamaica's (AAJ) efforts to secure scheduled commercial air service at the Ian Fleming International Airport (IFIA) has reaped partial success, with two airlines- InterCaribbean and QCAS - launching services in June 2022.

However, the launch of American Airlines scheduled flights had to be deferred due to additional requirements. These are now being addressed and it is expected that a new start date will be announced by the end of this year.

There has also been a series of upgrades amounting to US\$9.23 million to facilitate scheduled international passenger airline service at IFIA over the next 3 years. These projects will boost efficiency, functionality, and enable a seamless and comfortable passenger experience.



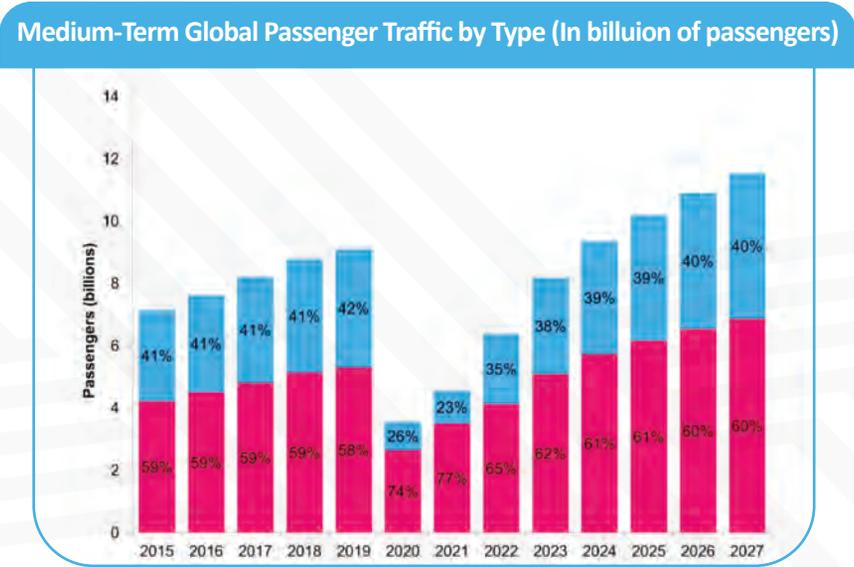
INTERCARIBBEAN AIRLINE AT IAN FLEMING INTL. AIRPORT

Work continues to improve the Domestic Aerodromes, and to grow domestic aviation services at these facilities, post the COVID-19 pandemic.

JAMAICA’S AVIATION TRAFFIC RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Madam Speaker, Jamaica’s aviation traffic took a serious hit in 2020 with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, falling by 67% or 2.2 million passengers, having previously stood at 6.5 million passengers between the Sangster International Airport (SIA) and the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA). Full recovery at that time was forecasted to take place by 2025/26. However, in 2022, after a sluggish first quarter growth, our aviation traffic, driven by tourism arrivals, catapulted to 6.0 million passengers, or 91% of the pre-COVID level by December of last year.

As I indicated, this remarkable recovery has taken place halfway through the projected six years! This Honourable House should note Jamaica also matches stride with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region as the World leader in air traffic recovery, with a rate of 91% as at the end of 2022! The overall world Air Traffic Recovery Rate as at 2022 is 72% as published by Airports Council International.



The rapid recovery of Jamaica’s aviation traffic is a welcome phenomenon for our economy but unfortunately, it is accompanied by some teething pains in our major airports, such as congestion at the Sangster International Airport. This is a matter that is being given full attention by the Government, and the responsible agencies.

As an immediate measure to ameliorate the prevailing issues, 15 additional Automated Border Control (ABC) kiosks are being procured through the Airport Improvement Fund this month. **Madam Speaker**, airports are by nature very capital-intensive facilities, with ongoing expansion and other programmes in response to traffic growth, industry and regulatory compliance, innovations for efficiency, and changes in the operational environment.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECTS

Among the AAJ, MBJ Airports Limited and PACKAL, there is a committed capital expenditure of over US\$100M to be executed over the period 2023 to 2026; US\$46M is slated to be spent in this financial year.

The initiatives include the MBJ Phase 3 Runway Extension project, comprising runway and apron expansion, shoreline protection and enabling (external) works, budgeted at US\$70M. **Madam Speaker**, this Project will increase the declared take-off run by 398 metres, moving from 2,662 metres to 3,060 metres, and will provide Runway End Safety Areas at both ends of the runway as mandated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

MBJ is also investing its own funds to continue the improvement and expansion of the facilities at SIA. **Madam Speaker**, implementation of these Master Plan projects commenced in 2022 to include:

- Departures Terminal expansion costing US\$12.6M
- Further terminal expansions to address congestion and increase passenger comfort US\$100M
- A Solar Implementation project to the tune of US\$7M
- In the meantime, **Madam Speaker**, PACKAL is in the process of implementing several projects including:
 - A 5 MW Solar Power Project (US\$7.8M) which will provide 75% of energy requirement of the NMIA, and
 - Runway Pavement Improvements/Rehabilitation (US\$4.5M) which is to be implemented in 2023.

AAJ'S MAJOR PROJECTS BEING EXECUTED

While these impressive projects are taking place at our international airports, the AAJ continues to advance its own projects including the NMIA/Port Royal Road Shoreline Protection Project at a value of J\$555M which will protect NMIA and its runway from destruction by wave action from hurricanes.



AAJ UPGRADE BUILDINGS

IFIA is getting a new fire station valued at J\$140M, as well as an additional Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle (ARFFV), which brings the airport firefighting to a Category 6 rating. The terminal building and office facilities at IFIA are being modified to accommodate increased scheduled international traffic.

Aerodrome plans continue in respect of Vernamfield in Clarendon, Lionel Densham in Treasure Beach, the Holland Bamboo airstrip, Tinson Pen and Negril.

AVIATION SAFETY - OUR PRIORITY

Madam Speaker, buoyed by the air transport industry’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) efforts to promote the safe, secure, and efficient rebound of civil aviation were supported by activities compliant with legislative and regulatory requirements and obligations under the Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT NATIONAL AVIATION SAFETY PLAN

Madam Speaker, the JCAA, in partnership with the ICAO and the MTM, has drafted a National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) which encapsulates Jamaica’s aviation safety strategy through to 2025. By the Safety Enhancement Initiatives identified in the NASP, Jamaica will continue to mitigate against the risk of aviation occurrences, even as it seeks to develop additional capabilities. The NASP promotes the effective implementation of Jamaica’s aviation safety oversight system; a risk-based approach to managing aviation safety, and a coordinated approach to cooperating with other states, regions, and industry participants.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES AND REGULATORY ACTIVITY

Madam Speaker, the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) has updated its critical communication, navigation, and surveillance (CNS) systems to improve business continuity and efficiency of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) system. The Authority will also implement a ground-based Automatic Dependent Surveillance- Broadcast (ADS-B) and a Low-Level Wind Shear Alert System (LLWAS) to enhance surveillance and provide accurate and reliable operations in local weather conditions.

The JCAA has also acquired a Node III of the MEVA (Mejoras a los Enlaces de Voz ATS), meaning “Improvement to ATS Voice Link”, a backup component in communication networks to ensure safety and regularity of operations. This activity will also impact a common telecommunications network to be implemented across the Caribbean region.

AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY GROWTH - ICAO COUNCIL SEAT

Madam Speaker, Jamaica continues to demonstrate leadership within the region on civil aviation matters, as we have done for decades. Members of this House will recall that Jamaica launched its candidature for a seat on the ICAO Council for the 2022-2025 triennium on May 26, 2022. Following elections at the 41st ICAO Assembly in Montreal, Canada, on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, Jamaica successfully secured a seat on Part III of the ICAO Council for the three-year term. Securing the ICAO Council seat is a progression towards closer collaboration, advocacy, influence, and harmonisation at the highest levels of the aviation industry.



JAMAICAN DELEGATION TO ICAO



LAUNCH OF JAMAICA’S CANDIDATURE FOR ICAO COUNCIL

AEROTEL

Madam Speaker, AEROTEL is responsible for providing technical support and engineering operations for Jamaica's air traffic management systems and communications navigation surveillance facilities, which are relied upon by various stakeholders in the aviation industry. Over the past year, AEROTEL has improved the capacity of its Network Operations & Control Centre by introducing the capability to remotely monitor conditions at remote aeronautical sites, in addition to monitoring the performance of core aeronautical systems. AEROTEL has also established a Learning Research and Development Centre (LRDC) to provide a safe, simulated environment for the technical team to develop and practice their skills, as well as to keep AEROTEL at the cutting edge of service delivery.

Madam Speaker, we all know that KOOL 97FM is the commercial radio station that provides music, lifestyle programming, and aviation and travel information. The station has exceeded the \$100M revenue mark for the first time and will continue to focus on improving its non-traditional media portfolio. Given the link to the information portfolio, the station is in transition to the Office of the Prime Minister. Discussions continue and you can expect to hear more details as the presentations continue.

Jamaica's Maritime Space

Madam Speaker, the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) has been taking steps to position Jamaica as a shipping centre, expanding the cluster of services provided to ships operating in Jamaican waters, including bunkering, ship repair and crewing. In March 2023, the MAJ gave approval for Shell LNG to commence operations in Jamaica, as the fourth bunkering operator. This was a significant milestone, as it was the first bunkering operation involving LNG, in keeping with the GOJ's position to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is expected that Jamaica will become a LNG bunkering hub and increase our competitiveness as a shipping centre.

Madam Speaker, a floating drydock, which will be used to repair mainly commercial vessels, including container ships, bulk carriers and tankers, will arrive in Jamaica by the end of this year. You may recall that in January this year, the Honourable Prime Minister broke ground for this facility, which will result employment of skilled and unskilled labour and provide foreign exchange earnings.

JOBS FOR SEAFARERS

Madam Speaker, a Reciprocal Agreement was signed between the MAJ and the Maritime Administration of Norway to facilitate the placement of Jamaican seafarers on a Norwegian registered Floating Storage Regassification Unit (FSRU) the HOEGH Gallant, currently stationed in Portland Bight and which supplies gas to the Bauxite companies. The reciprocal agreement facilitated the placement of Jamaican seafarers on this Unit and other vessels flying the Norwegian Flag.

Additionally, through a similar reciprocal arrangement concluded with the Netherlands and Jamaica, seafarers were employed on the LNG tanker CORAL ANTHELIA, which transfers fuel from the FSRU in Portland Bight to the Bogue JPS plant in Montego Bay.

REGISTRATION OF MEGAYACHTS

Registration of megayachts continues to be a major source of revenue for the MAJ and over the period 109 such vessels were registered. The registrations are primarily from overseas owners. Currently there are **588** yachts on the register.

ELECTION TO IMO COUNCIL

Madam Speaker, I am happy to announce that Jamaica will be pursuing re-election to Category C of the IMO Council in December 2023 for the 2024-2025 biennium. We are optimistic about this re-election as Jamaica has consistently been a leader in Maritime activities, representing the interests of other Small Island Developing States and the region.



JAMAICA FOR RE-ELECTION TO IMO COUNCIL

performance, and ultimately enhance service delivery, as its operations are vital to the safety and security of our island's ports.

PORTS SECURITY CORPS

Madam Speaker, during the year 2022/2023, the Ports Security Corps Limited continued to contribute to border security, through screening services for outgoing passengers and their luggage at Jamaica's ports of entry and exit. The vigilance exercised has resulted in the detection of drugs, firearms, ammunition and other contraband. These finds help to stem the illicit transshipment and have contributed positively to the relationship with international partners and have helped to protect Jamaica's image.

The Corps continues to recruit, train and deploy the necessary personnel, in an effort to improve

Regulating Jamaica's Mineral Wealth/Promoting A Sustainable And Reliable Minerals Sector

Madam Speaker, Jamaica's Minerals industry has served us well over the decades. We have, particularly in recent years, been faced with the reality that the industry is dynamic and requires us to be adaptive and resilient. To this end, the Ministry of Transport and Mining and its agencies continue to work with other government and private partners to manage this industry and secure the future of Jamaica's minerals sector.



JAMALCO



WINDALCO

Madam Speaker, the Bauxite and Alumina Industry remains an important part of the country's industrial fabric. It is the largest segment of our Minerals Sector, accounting for approximately 80% of its earnings and over 75% of the value of the country's traditional exports.

The industry is mature and has provided significant economic and developmental benefits to the Jamaican economy for over sixty (60) years. Despite the challenges faced over the last four (4) years, the industry still has much to offer. The use of aluminium is projected to play a major role in combating climate change, improving energy efficiency in the transportation sector, and in reducing the sector's carbon footprint.

LIMESTONE

Madam Speaker, Jamaica possesses some of the best quality limestone in the Americas, which accounts for over 75% of our surface geology. Current estimates indicate minable resources exceeding 40 billion tonnes. The total quantity of limestone is significantly greater.

Under its research mandate, the Mines and Geology Division (MGD) continues its exploration for high purity limestone - that is limestone having nearly 100% calcium carbonate content which is used in various high-value industrial applications. Surface geological studies conducted at Redgate and Fort Charles in St. Elizabeth, identified several tens of million tonnes of high purity limestone deposits. Given the findings, subsurface exploration will be done by drilling that deposit at Fort Charles to determine the characteristics of the material at depth.

These limestone deposits have the potential for rapid economic development and are used for the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals like antacids and excipients for tablets, and products used widely in the Construction Sector such as paints, cultured marble, and adhesives, caulks, and sealants. Limestone is a versatile raw material, and the local manufacturing sector should capitalize on our natural endowment.



LIMESTONE MINING AT LYDFORD



DONALD M. JAMES CARRIER VESSEL AT LYDFORD



DONALD M. JAMES CARRIER VESSEL AT REYNOLD'S PIER

Madam Speaker, in the coming years, the increased exploitation of our limestone resources and reserves will become a more important part of the country's Minerals Sector. As the country moves to exact the best return from these resources, significant value addition must be a major component of our Limestone Industry.

JISCO ALPART

Madam Speaker, the 1.65 million tonnes per annum alumina refinery at Nain, St. Elizabeth is the country’s largest and only high-temperature facility. Operated by Jiuquan Iron and Steel (Group) Company Limited (JISCO), the plant has been closed for modernization and expansion since October 2019. At the time of closure, JISCO indicated that the proposed modernization and capacity expansion to 2 million tonnes per annum would have been completed within eighteen months. Total investment, upon completion, was projected at US\$1.1 Billion.

Madam Speaker, this proposal for the transformation of the alumina refinery, made in 2016, was part of a broader investment, including a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which would have been significantly larger than the US\$1.1 billion mentioned.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues, have disrupted the company’s plans. While COVID-19 is still present, the world has declared the pandemic over and is back to business. **Madam Speaker,** I want to extend an invitation to JISCO to meet with me to allow us to forge the way forward with this proposed investment. I wish all to know that the Bauxite and Alumina Industry remains open for business.

METALLIC MINERAL EXPLORATION

Madam Speaker, the exploration for copper, gold, silver, rare earth metals and other metallic minerals continues. We expect that these activities will lead to the discovery of commercial quantities of some of these metals, which would represent a major first step in our efforts to diversify the country’s Minerals Sector.

Madam Speaker, I am particularly hopeful about the exploration for rare earth metals. Many of these metals command high prices and play increasingly important roles in various areas of industry, including transportation, telecommunications and renewable energy, globally.

THE MINES AND GEOLOGY DIVISION (MGD)

The MGD of the Ministry, continues to fulfil its mandate of regulating the Mining and Quarrying Sector, conducting geological research and guiding physical development through the provision of engineering geological advice.



MINERALS CRAFTS AND ARTISANS

QUARRY TAXES AND ROYALTIES

The MGD, ensures that all taxes and royalties payable to the Government are collected within the specified periods. For the 2022/2023 financial year, Quarry taxes amounting to \$124 million were collected from quarrying operations. This represented a 10% increase over the amount collected in 2021/2022. Quarry tax projection for 2023/2024 are approximately \$110 million, based on the continuous growth of the Construction Sector, among other factors.

The collection of royalties from bauxite mining was impacted by the operational challenges experienced across the Bauxite/Alumina sub-sector. For 2022/2023, \$360 million was collected; representing a 37% decrease when compared to 2021/2022. Approximately \$350 million in royalty collection is forecasted for 2023/2024 in consideration of the current operating climate of the sub-sector.

LAND REHABILITATION

In addition to financial collections, the MGD ensures that mined-out lands are properly rehabilitated according to established standards for environmental management. In 2022/2023 approximately 258 hectares, or about 638 acres of mined-out bauxite ore bodies were certified as rehabilitated. Since the start of Jamaica's Bauxite industry, 10,541 hectares of land have been allocated for mining. Of this amount, 7,725 hectares have been rehabilitated. The remainder represents lands that are either currently being mined or are in the process of being rehabilitated.

BASELINE ENGINEERING GEOLOGICAL ADVICE

The MGD further continues to provide baseline engineering geological advice to inform development planning, land use policies, sustainable land development strategies, and civil engineering works across Jamaica. In 2022/2023, the Division conducted a Geohazard Mapping Survey at Shooters Hill, St. Andrew, the site where two people lost their lives when their house was destroyed by a landslide in October 2020. The survey showed that approximately 40% of the area can be classified as having high, to very high landslide susceptibility, which means that there is an extremely high probability of landslides occurring. It also showed that some residential development can be considered in some sensitive areas, but should be guided by sound technical information which includes recommendations for suitable mitigation measures. Intuitively, the areas of very high landslide susceptibility were not suitable for any development and as such were recommended for demarcation as "No Build" zones.

SUPPORT UNDER THE ACP-EU DEVELOPMENT MINERALS PROGRAMME

Madam Speaker, we are grateful to the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme, implemented through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for their immense support towards institutional strengthening and capacity building. The UNDP, in collaboration with the MGD developed, installed, and commissioned a digital mining cadastre called "JAMINCAD" which I had the honour of launching last year. This system when fully implemented will serve as a digital information tool for both regulators and the public, providing easy access to the details on mineral tenements across the country.

The Programme had also provided several small grants to support various activities in the Mining Sector. These included the upgrade of the spatial data infrastructure of MGD, promotion of the Certificate course in Mines and Quarry Management offered at Excelsior Community College, and the Bachelor of Science in Mines and Quarry Management at UTech. There is also support to clay and stone-craft artisans for their products, such as online marketing. I must also inform this Honourable House that the programme has also lent support to development of a Cost-of-Production mobile app to aid quarry operators in managing their businesses. This year, the Programme has invested in developing another mobile app to aid in the reporting and speedy resolution of conflicts in the Mining Sector. We express appreciation to the ACP-EU and the UNDP for their support.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINERALS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Transport and Mining, in its programme to transform the Minerals Sector, announced last year that we would be establishing an entity with a core focus on the development of minerals. This entity will be responsible for leading research and piloting the development of Jamaica's mineral wealth, excluding oil and gas, and water. The Institute will be a merger of the bauxite-related research functions of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute and the Geological Survey functions of the Mines and Geology Division. The entity will have no regulatory functions.

We are grateful to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for their contribution to this project as it relates to the business process review to guide development.

JAMAICA BAUXITE INSTITUTE

Madam Speaker, the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) continues to provide research services to the bauxite and minerals industry and is involved in several community engagement projects such as the renovation of the Black River Hospital frontage through the JBI/BCDP in partnership with the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA).

The JBI is also furthering its partnership with the Jamaica Social Investment Fund on the Rural Economic Development Programme (REDI II), which will erect Greenhouse/Water Harvesting sites across the 5 bauxite bearing parishes. Lastly, the JBI is working towards ISO accreditation of selected laboratory testing methods, with the expectation of becoming the first such certified bauxite laboratory in Jamaica.

JAMAICA BAUXITE MINING LIMITED

Madam Speaker, the Jamaica Bauxite Mining (JBM) has broadened its strategic thrust with developments in its operational structure for diversified income streams. Four strategic business units- Land Development, Commercial Property, Port Management and Custodial Management-have been established for increased efficiency and have enabled sustainable income-generating opportunities.

Expansion and Development of Port

There has been significant growth at the Reynold’s Pier, with improvements in operational processes, talent management, and skills development resulting in a 100% increase in aggregate exports and a progressive increase in cruise vessels berthed. **Madam Speaker,** there has also been progress in a Port Development Plan to maximize cargo export, responding to demand in the US and Guyana.

Madam Speaker, I recently witnessed the largest cargo ship to berth on the island, the MV Donald M. James, loaded with 55,000 tons of chemical-grade limestone from Lydford Mining operations, marking a series of shipments that are set to triple the company’s exports this year.



JBM RENDER-VIEWS

Articulation of Transformational Vision: Reclamation, Restoration and Repurposing Initiatives

JBM has proposed a number of projects that are currently awaiting approval from PIAB. One of these projects is the Spring Water Bottling Plant, which aims to produce high-quality bottled spring water for export to the wholesale market, generating over US\$1.5 million per annum in revenue. Another project is the Mixed-Use Commercial Project, a rural development project that will provide over 300,000 square feet of rentable space for clients in the Knowledge

Process Outsourcing (KPO) sector, businesses, and industrial warehouses. The project will create high-quality jobs for tertiary graduates in St. Ann, thereby retaining local talent and improving residents' quality of life.

Future Initiatives and Commitments for FY2023/24

Madam Speaker, JBM's focus for 2023/2024 will be on operational improvements, human capital development, compliance systems, and technological upgrades aligned with Vision 2030 outcomes.

The plan is to increase aggregate exports by developing Reynold's Port for limestone exports, forging strategic partnerships and joint ventures, and increasing annual capacity from 2.5 million to 4.5 million tonnes. They will also create an industrial park with 80,000 sq. ft. of rentable space and deliver 500 units of affordable housing in Orange Park. JBM aims to optimize social and financial returns while promoting sector expansion in a sustainable manner.

Conclusion

Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Transport and Mining has come a far way over the past year. Despite the challenges, opportunities abound, and we remain committed to ensuring that this Ministry makes a lasting impact on the lives of the Jamaican people.

As it is with every other Ministry, there are challenges, but we will not be daunted by the enormity of the task. We have an obligation to the people of Jamaica to do what we must in the nation's best interest and remain steadfast in our commitment to do just that.

Madam Speaker, my team at the Ministry and its Agencies has been a tremendous support and I am confident that these servants of the people who have dedicated their lives to creating a better Jamaica have what it takes to get the job done.

The Ministry of Transport and Mining remains committed to being the driving force behind a sustainable and reliable transportation system, as well as for a responsible and profitable mining industry. Only then can we rest assured that the future of Transport and Mining is indeed balanced in Efficiency and Sustainability.

Highlights



JAMAICA BAUXITE INSTITUTE OPENING OF THE BLACK RIVER HOSPITAL ENTRANCE



GOJ EV PROJECT LAUNCH



MOTORCYCLISTS TRAINING



UNDP EU ARTISAN



ARTISAN DISPLAY



RIO TINTO SCHOLARSHIP



JUTC - FIRE SUPPRESSION



JUTC BUSES AT THE ROCKFORT DEPOT



ROAD SAFETY UNIT TEAM

