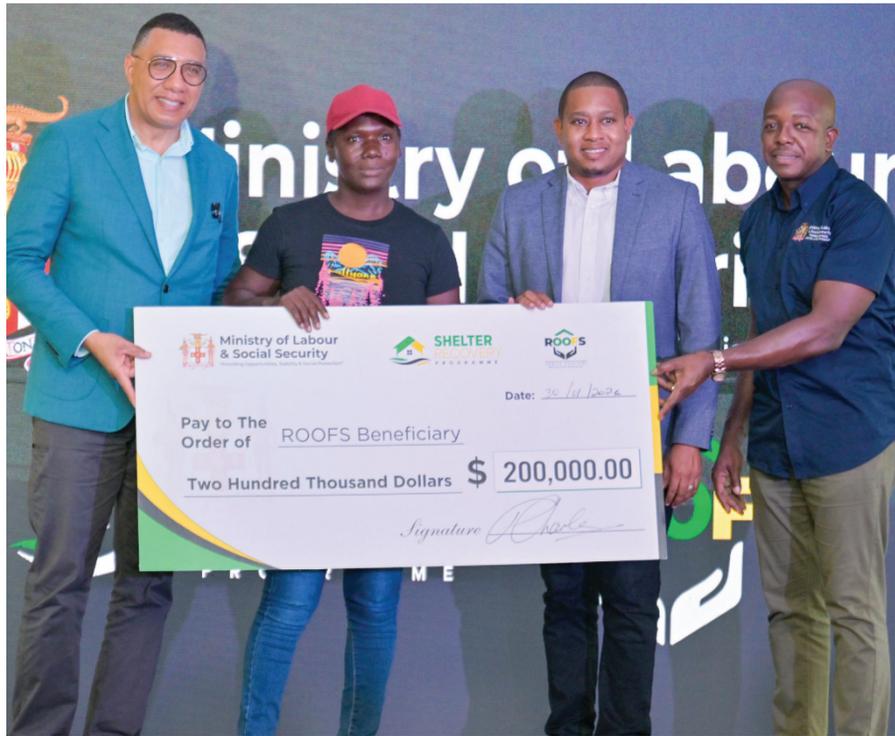


Gov't to Accelerate National Reconstruction in New Fiscal Year

THE GOVERNMENT will embark on activities to reconstruct buildings and structures damaged by Hurricane Melissa in the new financial year by making significant investment in modern and climate-resilient infrastructure.

\$2 billion in grants has been disbursed under the Restoration of Owner and Occupant Family Shelter (ROOFS) Programme.

Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, made the disclosure as he delivered the Throne Speech during the 2025/26 ceremonial opening of Parliament on February 12. He noted that National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority (NaRRA), which has been established to oversee



the rebuilding process, will convert unprecedented levels of international financing of US\$6.7 billion into bankable, resilient projects delivered with transparency, speed, discipline, and measurable impact.

“This Authority represents a new development architecture for Jamaica, one that embeds resilience into national planning, accelerates delivery, and ensures that reconstruction and resilience investments translate into lasting

economic opportunity and sustained national strength,” the Governor-General said. Giving an update on the country’s recovery efforts, the Governor-General informed that, to date, \$2 billion in grants has been disbursed

under the Restoration of Owner and Occupant Family Shelter (ROOFS) Programme. In addition, more than 90,000 damage assessments were completed up to the first week of February. Also, despite severe infrastructural damage from Hurricane Melissa, the educational sector demonstrated exceptional resilience.



Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, delivering the Throne Speech at the ceremonial opening of Parliament for the 2026/2027 legislative year at Gordon House in Kingston on February 12.

“All schools in affected parishes resumed teaching and learning within 90 days, an unprecedented national accomplishment that underscores strong leadership and the Government’s commitment that no child will be left behind. Reconstruction efforts are advancing at scale, and all priority one institutions will be fully repaired within this calendar year,” he stated.

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Critical Projects to Get Underway in New Fiscal Year

THE MINISTRY of Health and Wellness will prioritise the rehabilitation of 101 health centres, the Savanna-la-Mar hospital, as well as modernise 125 primary-care facilities, for the 2026/27 fiscal year.

Technical assessments will be undertaken to inform the reconstruction of the Noel Holmes, Falmouth and Black River Hospitals.

Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, made the disclosure, as he delivered the Throne Speech during the 2025/26 ceremonial opening of Parliament on February 12.

He also informed that preparatory works would commence for modernisation and redevelopment of the Kingston Public Hospital and a new Type C hospital at Bernard Lodge, positioning the health system for resilience, equity, and future demand.

10 technical high schools will receive state-of-the-art Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) labs in partnership with HEART/NSTA Trust.

Additionally, the Government will seek US\$20 million from the international Loss and Damage Fund to climate-proof water systems, advance rural water projects in Hampshire-Riversdale, St. Catherine, and Stepney, St. Ann, benefitting approximately



4,600 residents, and implement major e-mobility initiatives with international support. For agriculture, the Government plans to advance work to establish a national food reserve, as well as the Minerals Institute, greenhouse clusters and new agro-parks. Focus will also be placed on the rehabilitation of six fishing beaches and 70 farm roads, youth start-up incentives, quarry material depots, and national landslide-hazard mapping.

As it relates to education, 10 technical high schools will receive state-of-the-art Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) labs in partnership with HEART/NSTA Trust and science laboratories at 86 schools will be upgraded. By late 2026, ground will be

broken for the Bernard Lodge and Minard Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) schools. There will also be targeted repairs to hurricane-damaged roads, gullies, and drains including Sandy Gully in St. Andrew and the North and South Gullies in St. James, supported by an expanded national drain-cleaning programme. Meanwhile, more than \$17 billion in capital projects has been committed as the Government continues to invest in strengthening the physical infrastructure of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

“Despite the impact of Hurricane Melissa, 27 restoration projects valued at \$2 billion are already underway or scheduled to commence,” the Gov-

ernor-General said, noting that a specialised operations facility is among the priority projects for the new legislative year. He noted that technology development also continues apace, with the C5 (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Cyber) Business Solution to be implemented this fiscal year, as well as upgrades to JamaicaEye. Expansion of the Ticketing Information Management System (TIMS) will be undertaken to support improved public order. Also, for the 2026/27 fiscal year, the Government will negotiate a new all-island electricity licence, advance a Ride-Hailing Policy, procure 150 additional school buses, and finalise the National Emergency Telecommunications Plan.

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Strategic Roadmap for Tourism

THE GOVERNMENT has unveiled a strategic roadmap for the 2026/2027 fiscal year, aimed at significantly diversifying the country’s tourism source markets and positioning Jamaica to reach a historic milestone of eight million annual visitors and US\$10 billion in earnings by 2030.

Governor-General His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, said the Government plans to accelerate focus on Latin America, the Middle East, and India. “The goal is to raise the Latin American market share from two per cent, to 10 per cent by 2027,” he said.

The Government will also prioritise the Local First Initiative, a strategic move designed to boost domestic sourcing and strengthen ties with Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

Launched in October 2025, the initiative ensures that new tourism investments translate directly into jobs and contracts for Jamaicans. Regarding local government, the 2026/27 priorities include strengthening solid-waste systems, rebuilding climate-resilient municipal facilities, and upgrading shelters and social-care services to ensure safer, more resilient communities.

Through strategic funding partnerships, the Government will continue to increase the issuance of titles. More than 13,000 titles have been produced under the Systematic Land Registration Programme with over 10,000 delivered across the parishes of St. Elizabeth, Manchester, and St. Catherine. “To improve efficiency, the contract for the Electronic Titling System was signed and implementation is planned for 2027/2028. To improve our capacity, we are also advancing our partnership with the Koreans for our Surveyor Training programme,” the Governor-General said. As it relates to housing, the Governor-General informed that under the New Social Housing Programme, 314 units (720 rooms) have been completed, benefitting more than 1,100 Jamaicans. Delivery of more housing units through different modalities will be achieved by using new building methods and systems, giving an opportunity to more small contractors, especially to young people. On justice, priority will be given to rehabilitating damaged facilities, advancing constitutional reform toward a Republic, addressing judicial tenure, and undertaking major amendments to the Sexual Offences and Offences Against the Person Acts, including the introduction of new offences such as stalking.

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Cruise ship passengers from Carnival Sunrise, which docked at the Ocho Rios Port in St. Ann in November.

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