

# Gov't Committed to Efficient Garbage Collection Service

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Government is committed to ensuring there is an efficient waste management and garbage collection service in all communities.

He said this is critical to prevent garbage build-up, which leads to the breeding of disease-carrying vectors such as mosquitoes and rodents.

Mr. Holness was addressing a gathering at the Olympic Gardens Civic Centre in his West Central St. Andrew constituency, on June 10, to kick-start clean-up activities in the area.

The five-day exercise forms part of a national clean-up programme, being spearheaded by the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development.

Residents in West Central St. Andrew are the first to benefit in the Corporate Area, which includes the removal of garbage and bulk waste,



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) and Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, help load old furniture and other refuse on to a truck in Olympic Gardens on June 10, as part of clean-up activities in the Prime Minister's West Central St. Andrew constituency.**

such as old cars, furniture and appliances and sensitising citizens on issues such as the Zika virus.

Mr. Holness said the clean-up programme is part of strategies to change how waste disposal is handled.

"We want to mark it as a

new day in Jamaica; that we are changing the way in which we dispose of waste. Not just because we want cleanliness and an aesthetically appealing environment, but also for our health," he emphasised.

The Prime Minister further reiterated the call for

Jamaicans to rid their environment of mosquito breeding sites.

"It is very important that each and every Jamaican take the protection of their health as their personal responsibility," he urged.

## Swift and Sure Justice a Priority of Government

**MINISTER OF National Security, Hon. Robert Montague,** says the Government is focused on ensuring the delivery of swift and sure justice as part of measures to tackle crime in the country.

He noted that persons, who are insistent on committing serious offences, must become convinced that there are consequences for their actions and that "justice will be served swiftly, justly and surely."

"Delays in apprehension, prolonged prosecutions and diluted punishment increase the pain of the victims and their loved ones, discourage law enforcers, give comfort to offenders and embolden the criminally inclined," he contended.

Mr. Montague was addressing a Jamaica Defence Force 'passing out' parade at the Moneague Training Camp in St. Ann on June 4.

He informed that discussions are under way on



**Minister of National Security, Hon. Robert Montague**

measures to improve the conditions of service of judges and prosecutors; fast-track court cases and clear backlogs; repair courthouses and address the underutilisation of facilities; and improve the use of technology.

Swift and sure justice is part of a five-pillar crime strategy announced by Mr. Montague earlier this year.

The other elements are crime prevention through social development; situational prevention; effective policing; and reducing reoffending.

## Gov't Implements US\$35 Million Public Investment Management System

**THE GOVERNMENT** is undertaking a US\$35 million programme to improve the management of public-sector projects and ensure greater accountability and transparency.

The Public Investment Management System (PIMS), which is funded by the World Bank, falls under the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

The web-based system will strengthen the capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to streamline the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of Government programmes. It will also serve as a storehouse for information on public investment projects.

Speaking at the JIS Think Tank on June 7, Executive



**Executive Director of the Public Investment Management Secretariat (PIMSEC), Douglas Levermore, speaks at a JIS Think Tank on June 7.**

Director of the Public Investment Management Secretariat (PIMSEC), Douglas Levermore, said the system is designed to

maximise efficiency, create transparency and control spending on each project.

"MDAs and public bodies will be required to submit proposals for potential projects to the Public Investment Management Committee (PIMC) for initial screening to...ensure consistency with Government strategic priorities and feasibility," he noted.

Project proposals that pass the initial screening will be subject to detailed appraisal and evaluation to establish their economic and social value, cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness.

The PIMS will also ensure that the Government gets value for money for its investments, and ensure that projects are

completed on time and within budget.

## JDF Receives Boats From United States



**Chief of Defence Staff, Major General Antony Anderson (centre), inspects one of two vessels at the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Coast Guard, Port Royal, on June 9. The occasion was the handing over ceremony of the vessels by the United States to the JDF in support of counter-narcotics operations. At left is United States Ambassador to Jamaica, Luis G. Moreno.**

## Gov't Commits to Reducing Taxes on Land Transactions

**THE GOVERNMENT** has committed to reducing stamp duties and transfer taxes on land transactions.

Transfer tax is a payment to the Commissioner of Stamp Duty at the rate of five per cent of the sale price or value for which the property is transferred.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, said this reduction would provide a boost in the housing market and reduce the transaction costs to potential homeowners.

"On the last occasion that this was done, we knew that the market had started to see some increased activity," he said.

The Minister was addressing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium of the

Realtors Association of Jamaica at the Knutsford Court Hotel on June 7.

Other initiatives by the Government to boost the housing industry include the implementation of more public-private partnerships to build housing solutions, and the intro-

duction of more cost-effective building technology to reduce housing costs.

The Government is also committed to the promotion of longer term mortgages to bring down recurrent costs to home ownership.



**Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (left), engages in discussion with President of the Realtors Association of Jamaica, Edwin Wint, at the Knutsford Court Hotel on June 7.**

## Revenue Inflows Above Target in April

**THE GOVERNMENT'S** revenue inflows for April totalled \$34 billion, approximately \$2 million above target.

Tax revenues accounted for \$33 billion of this sum, which was \$3 million more than budgeted, said Economic Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC) Co-Chair, Richard Byles.

He was addressing EPOC's monthly media briefing at Sagcor Life's offices in New Kingston on Thursday, June 9.

Mr. Byles indicated that the out-turn enabled the Government to generate a \$6 billion primary surplus for April, which was \$2.4 billion more than budgeted.



**Co-Chair of the Economic Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC), Richard Byles**

The primary surplus is one of the two key performance indicators for Jamaica under the Administration's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mr. Byles said the other indicator, the net international reserves (NIR), stood at US\$2.3 billion at the end of May, noting that this was ahead of the US\$1.8 billion target for June.

Other notable economic indicators which Mr. Byles highlighted include: an eight per cent increase in bank credit to the private sector; a decrease in unemployment to 13.3 per cent as at January 2016; and a 0.7 per cent economic growth during the fourth quarter of 2015.

"I think it is (safe) to say that Jamaica remains on track with the IMF programme, and this is excellent news," Mr. Byles said.

### PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

It's Everybody's Responsibility

**DISPOSE OF GARBAGE PROPERLY**

**COVER ALL CONTAINERS**

**PUNCH HOLES IN TINS**

ADVT.