

# Cabinet Decisions Must be in Jamaica's Interest – PM

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says all the decisions of the Cabinet must have at the forefront, the interest of the Jamaican people.

He also encouraged the Ministers to have the most vulnerable members of the society uppermost in their minds.

**“Place on the table innovative, out-of-the box thinking.”**

The Prime Minister was giving his opening remarks at the first official meeting of the Cabinet held on March 15 at the Office of the Prime Minister, 1 Devon Road.

Mr. Holness further told the Ministers that decisions must be taken quickly, while “examining all the perspectives of the matters before us.”



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (5<sup>th</sup> left) addresses Members of the Cabinet at the first official meeting, on March 15, at the Office of the Prime Minister.**

“We must be the cascading example for efficiency in the public sector. I encourage all Members, that when we deliberate, place on the table innovative out-of-the-box thinking, because it is through this infusion of creative thinking, that we will bring solutions to the

challenges and the problems of Jamaica,” he stated.

Meanwhile, Mr. Holness informed that all the Cabinet Ministers have been given a copy of the Code of Conduct for Ministers.

“I encourage you to become familiar with its content and to abide by the

Code. The country has high expectations of our new Government; we cannot disappoint. We must remain focused on our commitments to the people of Jamaica, as they want to see a Government that is delivering,” he stated.

## Byles Welcomes Government's Growth Focus

**ECONOMIC PROGRAMME** Oversight Committee (EPOC) Co-Chair, Richard Byles, has welcomed the Government's stated focus on achieving more substantial growth for Jamaica.

“We need it to spur us past the one per cent margin... and into the two (and) three per cent (range), which is where you then start to see and feel job creation,” Mr. Byles says.

He was speaking at EPOC's monthly media briefing at Sagcor's New Kingston offices on March 15.

Mr. Byles noted that manufacturing, agriculture and tourism are key areas for growth.

While agriculture declined by 3.3 per cent during the December quarter, Mr. Byles said that if Jamaica is spared the onset of drought and hurricane, the sector “should start to grow again.”

As it relates to tourism, the EPOC Co-Chair noted “there are a lot of rooms



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

coming on stream this year,” while adding that rooms and airlift capacity are critical to the sector's growth.

The Planning Institute of Jamaica reported growth of 0.6 per cent for the October to December 2015 quarter.

Among the main growth drivers were electricity and water, which recorded a five per cent increase; manufacturing, 3.7 per cent; and construction, 0.7 per cent.

## Tourism Ministry to Boost Marketing Strategy

**THE MINISTRY** of Tourism will be improving marketing strategies in order to attract more visitors to the country.

The move involves maximising new technology, keeping abreast of market trends, as well as shaping the country's competitive messages to appeal to a range of travel niches, said Director of Tourism, Paul Pennicook.

He was delivering the keynote address at Sagcor's Pension Investment Fund (PIF) Seminar held on March 14, at the Jamaica Conference Centre, downtown Kingston.



**Director of Tourism, Paul Pennicook (right), in conversation with Chairman of the Sagcor Group Jamaica Ltd, Dr. the Hon. R. Danny Williams, ahead of Sagcor's Pension Investment Fund Seminar at the Jamaica Conference Centre on March 14.**

The short-term marketing plan includes boosting the presence of brand Jamaica in the Latin

American market, increasing arrivals from the Caribbean, and deepening collaboration with new industry players.

He said there are also plans to use digital media to reach a global audience and to aggressively pursue opportunities in key Asian markets.

## Prime Minister Greet GSAT Students



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness welcomes Madison Chin (2<sup>nd</sup> right), a Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) student who, along with other candidates, visited him at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on March 16. Others (from left) are: Justin Campbell, Madison Dunstan and Emily Main. The Prime Minister extended best wishes to all GSAT students who sat the examination held March 17-18.**

## CAC Secures \$25M for Aggrieved Consumers

**THE CONSUMER** Affairs Commission (CAC) has secured in excess of \$25 million on behalf of aggrieved consumers for the period April 2015 to January 2016, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organisation, Dolsie Allen, has disclosed.

In an interview with **JIS News**, Mrs. Allen informed that the sum was for the settlement of 989 of 1,374 complaints received, representing a 72 per cent resolution rate.

She informed that the most frequent complaints filed were in the categories of electrical equipment and appliances, accounting for 30 per cent; utilities, 14 per cent; other services, 12 per cent and motor vehicles and parts, 9 per cent.

Mrs. Allen said ‘electrical equipment and appliances’ continues to be the leading category over several periods and stressed the need for consumers to



**Chief Executive Officer at the Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC), Dolsie Allen, speaking at a JIS 'Think Tank'.**

properly examine items for defects and read tip sheets that are provided at furniture and appliance stores, as these can guide them in their purchasing decisions.

The CEO also advised persons to inform the CAC about anomalies in the marketplace.

For further information on consumer-related issues or queries, persons can

call the CAC toll-free at 1-888-991-4470, 906-5425, visit the website at [www.cac.gov.jm](http://www.cac.gov.jm) or the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/cac.gov.jm](http://www.facebook.com/cac.gov.jm).

## Tamiflu to be Available at all Pharmacies

**THE ANTIVIRAL** medication Tamiflu, used in the treatment of the H1N1 (Influenza A) virus, is to be made available at all pharmacies across the island.

This was disclosed by Acting Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Winston De La Haye, during a recent interview on the JIS ‘Issues and Answers’ television programme.

The medication was previously only available through hospital pharmacies.

Dr. De La Haye said that having seen an increase in the number



**Acting Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Winston De La Haye**

of influenza cases, the decision was made “to now have Tamiflu available

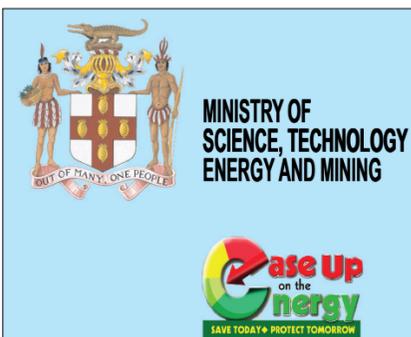
He said the Ministry will be providing doctors with treatment guidelines as not every patient should be recommended to receive the drug.

“We really don't want it to be for everyone or soon you will have resistance being developed,” he pointed out.

Tamiflu is only used to treat symptoms in severely affected patients and does not prevent illness.

The Ministry has shored up supply of the medication available through the hospital pharmacies.

in all pharmacies. Of course, you will need to have a prescription by a doctor.”



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