

North-South Highway An Opportunity for Investment – PM

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the newly opened North-South leg of Highway 2000 must be seen as an opportunity for investment projects.

"We have to develop the value opportunities for investors to come and not just drive on the road, but to build on the road."

Mr. Holness was speaking at the official opening ceremony on March 23, at the Caymanas Tollbooth in St. Catherine.

"We have to develop the value opportunities for investors to come and not just drive on the road, but to build on the road," he said.

The Prime Minister noted that the scenic view along the roadway has the potential to become a tourist attraction.

Mr. Holness said the Jamaican Government will be seeking to establish further partnerships with the Government of China; China Harbour Engineering



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) greets Vice President of the China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC), Ziyu Sun (left), ahead of the official opening ceremony of the North-South leg of Highway 2000, at the Caymanas Tollbooth in St. Catherine on March 23. Looking on (from left) are: Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Qingbao Niu; and Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz.

Company Ltd. (CHEC), and its parent company, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), to "use these opportunities to bring real growth and job creation and prosperity to the people of Jamaica."

He said the company is open to pursuing investments in industrial parks, in the Jamaican ports, as well as in the construction of

an interview with journalists at the Jamaica Pegasus, confirmed that the CCCC is committed to furthering investment initiatives in Jamaica.

another express highway. He said there is also potential for investment in tourism and real estate.

He added that the organisation will be looking to bring its subsidiary companies, which specialise in these areas, into Jamaica over the next few years.

More CCTV Cameras for Mandeville and Montego Bay

MORE CLOSED-circuit television (CCTV) cameras are to be installed in the towns of Mandeville, Manchester and Montego Bay, St. James, this year.

The move is part of the Government's effort to enhance police monitoring of the areas and to ensure the safety and security of residents.

Head of the Modernization Initiatives and Strategic Projects Division in the Ministry of National Security, Dr. Canute Thompson, said there will be a 50 per cent increase in the number of cameras serving the towns.

He was speaking at a forum on building safe communities, staged by the Management Institute for National Development



Head of the Modernization Initiatives and Strategic Projects Division of the Ministry of National Security, Dr. Canute Thompson (2nd left), is greeted by Head of the Manchester Police Division, Superintendent Vendolyn Cameron-Powell (right) at the Mandeville campus of the Management Institute for National Development (MIND) on March 18. Also pictured (from left) are: Senior Manager, Distance Learning, MIND, Edward Shakes and Director, Business Development and Communication, MIND, Marlene Campbell.

(MIND) at its Mandeville campus in Manchester on March 18.

CCTV surveillance technology is crucial in deterring criminal activity as well as to support the investigation of crime.

"We are of the view that when people know that an area is monitored by CCTV, there is a stronger likelihood that they will conduct themselves in a manner that is law-abiding," he noted.

Dr. Thompson further informed that CCTV systems are also to be installed in Christiana, Manchester, this year, through partnership with the Christiana Business Watch Group.

Gov't Pensioners to Get an Increase

GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS are slated to receive increased payments ranging from \$1,100 to \$2,000 per month.

The increases have been approved by the new Cabinet.

Making the announcement on March 22 at a post-Cabinet press briefing, Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, pointed out that per-

sons receiving a pension of \$60,000 per month and more will receive \$1,100 per month.

The Minister added that persons receiving under \$30,000 per month will receive an increase of \$2,000 per month.

The post-Cabinet press briefing, held at the office of the Prime Minister (OPM), was the first for the new Administration.

Government to Table \$83B Carry on Budget

A CARRY on budget of \$83 billion is to be tabled in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, March 29.

This was disclosed by Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, at a post-Cabinet press briefing, held at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), on March 22.

The carry on budget is to take care of the spending needs of the Government until the next Budget is presented.

Senator Reid also informed that the ceremonial opening of Parliament will take place on Thursday, April 14.

Meanwhile, Mr. Reid stated that a three-day Cabinet Retreat will be held from Wednesday, March 30 to Friday, April 1.

"We plan also to have preliminary Cabinet consideration on the Budget on April 4 and final con-



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid

sideration on April 11," the Minister said.

The Information Minister pointed out that the Standing Finance Committee will examine the budget from May 3 to 5 and the Budget Debate will be held between May 9 and 19.

Mr. Reid said it is hoped that the Budget will be sent to the Senate for its deliberation on Friday, May 27.

Rock River Primary to Get Learning Centre



Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Hon. Floyd Green (left), observes while Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Masanori Nakano (centre) and Principal of the Clarendon-based Rock River Primary School, Marcia Ankle, display the agreement for a grant of \$10 million to build a learning centre at the institution. The agreement was signed at the Japanese Embassy in St. Andrew, on March 22.

Fuel Inspectorate to be Established

THE GOVERNMENT intends to establish a fuel inspectorate with responsibility for monitoring fuel quality standards.

The development comes against the background of cases of contaminated gas discovered at several service stations across the island last year.

Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley, made the announcement at a ceremony to relaunch TOTAL Jamaica's fuel card, held on March 22 at the Spanish Court Hotel, New Kingston.



Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley

He said the Government is committed to ensuring that a robust

regulatory regime is in place to govern the handling and custody of petroleum products to protect the interests of the Jamaican customers and businesses.

"As Minister, I will be sparing no effort to guarantee increased accountability on the part of all the persons in the chain of custody as fuel is transported from offshore to our retail pumps," he stated.

He further urged industry players to commit to ensuring that there is no repeat of cases of contaminated gas in Jamaica.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY ENERGY AND MINING

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SAVE TODAY • PROTECT TOMORROW

BE AN ENERGY CHAMPION

When not in use... turn it off, shut it down or plug it out



ADVT.