

Technology Park to Provide 5,000 Jobs

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, on September 28, broke ground for a technology park that will have the largest business process outsourcing (BPO) facility in the English-speaking Caribbean, providing 3,300 call centre seats and more than 5,000 permanent jobs.

The investment is worth more than US\$30 million and will result in the development of an integrated technology park, dubbed '58HWT', in Kingston.

The facility is being developed by Stanley Motta Limited, which is owned by the Musson Group, and will consist of 230,000 square feet of office space, rented predominantly to BPO operators. It is located at 58 Half-Way Tree Road in the city.

It will also have associated services such as day care; automated teller machine (ATM) and financial services, healthcare, such as dental and medical; and food and beverage.

In his address, the Prime Minister said the development signals inclusive growth and job creation for Jamaica.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (4th left) breaks ground for the development of an Integrated Technology Park at 58 Half-Way Tree Road in Kingston on September 28. Others participating (from left) are Mayor of Kingston and St. Andrew, Senator, Councillor Delroy Williams; Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Fayval Williams; Chairman of the Musson Group, Paul Scott; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Stanley Motta, Melanie Subratie; and Minister of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Karl Samuda.

He noted that the project shows the confidence that Musson has in the country's productivity and capacity, and symbolises the convergence of public and private sector aspirations.

He said that in the fast-growing outsourcing industry, service providers continually seek to grow their client base, and oftentimes

when they successfully close deals to increase business volumes, those deals require them to add significant capacity within months.

"If Jamaica is going to continue to be viewed by companies as an ideal place to grow their operations, we must invest in building facilities that meet these companies' requirements,

before they win new accounts. This is exactly what the Musson Group has done with 58HWT Tech Park, taking a calculated risk to prepare to meet the continuing growth in the sector," Mr. Holness noted.

Gov't Finalising Public Sector Transformation Plan

FINANCE AND the Public Service Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw, says a comprehensive public sector transformation plan is being finalised for tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

He said the document, which is being prepared by the Public Sector Transformation Implementation Unit, will provide full details of the State entities to be divested, merged, subsumed into Central Government or closed.

Eighty-four entities have already been identified for such exercise.

Mr. Shaw was speaking during Tuesday's (September 26) sitting of the House of Representatives at Gordon House.

He said the Government is developing project plans for the entities identified under the transformation programme, which would centre on public sector efficiency, and an information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure.



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Audley Shaw

He advised that procedures are also underway for the introduction of shared corporate services, while implementation of an operating model that has been developed for shared legal services, has commenced.

The Minister said operating models have also been developed for each of the other proposed shared areas. These include: human resource management; finance and accounts; asset management; procurement; information technology services; and public relations and communications.

PM Says Country Aggressively Expanding Tourism Base

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says Jamaica is aggressively expanding its tourism base by continuing to offer quality experience, supported by a range of infrastructural development.

Speaking at the opening of Breathless Montego Bay Resort and Spa, Freeport, St. James, on September 25, Mr. Holness noted that in light of this approach, it is extremely important that stakeholders do their part to ensure that the country remains the preferred destination in the region.

The Prime Minister said the country has set aggressive targets to secure five million visitors by 2021, while hoping to generate US\$5 billion in tourism earnings.

"We also hope to increase total direct jobs to 125,000, and we also see at least 15,000 new rooms added," he noted.

Mr. Holness pointed out that visitor expenditure



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) in discussion with Attorney General, Marlene Malahor Forte, and Mayor of Montego Bay, His Worship Homer Davis, at the opening of Breathless Montego Bay Resort and Spa in St. James, on September 25.

has hit a new high, growing by an estimated 3.5 per cent to reach US\$35.5 billion.

"Tourism is one of the very few industries in which the Caribbean region has both global competitive and comparative advantage, and we must do all we can to make this sustainable," he added.

The Prime Minister said the opening of Breathless

Montego Bay Resort & Spa is yet another signal that there is a premium on the various tourism offerings.

"The Government of Jamaica, in collaboration with our partners in tourism, will continue to expand and enhance our tourism sector in order to strengthen Jamaica's place as a world leader in the industry," he said.

Chang Emphasises Value of Private Partners

MINISTER WITHOUT Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, says the Government is committed to supporting private partners in the development of infrastructure projects in Jamaica.

"The Administration fully appreciates and realises the value of partnership with private sector interests. We have sought to provide the instruments of engagement that allow for the building and retooling of various enterprises and infrastructural activities throughout the country," he said.

The Minister was addressing a Bidders



Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang

Conference for the divestment of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) on the grounds of the facility in Kingston on September 26.

He pointed out that this private-public partnership (PPP) arrangement with

the NMIA will further equip the country to meet the demands of the global economy and to position the nation "as a truly multimodal transportation region."

"We are very pleased at the show of interest in the NMIA private-public partnership," he said, noting that the divestment is part of the strategic plan to move the country on an accelerated growth path.

Under the arrangement, the successful bidder will agree to a 25-year concession with the option to extend for five years by mutual consent. The company is also expected to pay an upfront fee of US\$5 million.

It's Now the Caribbean Maritime University

THE FORMALITIES to establish the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) were completed during the entity's inaugural Charter Day ceremony, held at the National Arena in Kingston on September 28.

These included the installation of Suapolor of the Shai Traditional Area of Ghana, His Royal Majesty Drolor Bosso Adamtey I, as Chancellor, and Professors Fritz Pinnock and Ibrahim Ajagunna as President and Deputy President, respectively.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness who delivered the keynote address, said the CMU's advent represents a historic moment in Jamaica's education landscape.

Citing the institution as the first specialised public university and the only internationally recognised maritime education and training provider in the English-speaking Caribbean, the Prime Minister said its accreditation provides it with greater leverage to foster the necessary relationships and partnerships, which are necessary to offer cutting edge training.

He reiterated the Administration's commitment to invest in the CMU in order to accommodate the



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) having an exchange with Education, Youth and Information Minister, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid (right), during the Caribbean Maritime University's (CMU) inaugural Charter Day ceremony at the National Arena on September 28. Others (from second left) are: Prime Minister of Barbados, Rt. Hon. Freundel Stuart; newly installed CMU President, Professor Fritz Pinnock; newly installed CMU Chancellor, Suapolor of the Shai Traditional Area of Ghana, His Royal Majesty Drolor Bosso Adamtey I; and Transport and Mining Minister, Hon. Mike Henry.

"growing appetite" for the institution's programmes and further cement its role as a key contributor to Jamaica's growth and development.

To this end, he said the Government is looking to establish a campus in St. Thomas, "where we have already established various projects, such as a new town centre and new highway construction."

"I am confident that the CMU will continue, not only to be Jamaica's and the Caribbean's leading source of talents and ideas in the areas of logistics and maritime technology, but will also be seen as one of the world's best institutions for maritime training, and therefore, a great export product," Mr. Holness said.

Jamaica and PAHO Sign Cooperation Agreement



Health Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right), and Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr. Carissa Etienne (left), sign a cooperation strategy agreement on Tuesday, September 26 at PAHO's headquarters, in Washington D.C. The agreement will see Jamaica benefiting from technical cooperation in health for the next five years.