

Gov't Committed to Social Partnership – PM

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has renewed commitment to the social partnership involving the Government and Opposition, civil society, the private sector, and the trade union movement.

He said the objective is to ensure collaboration in fulfilling the national targets aimed at achieving social and economic progress.

The Prime Minister was speaking on December 7 at the official signing of the four-year Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica Agreement at King's House.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Holness and representatives of the stakeholder groups.

These are Chief Executive Officer, Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), Diana McCaulay on behalf of civil society; Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA) President, O'Neil Grant, for the Jamaica



Governor-General, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (centre), joins stakeholder representatives who signed the Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica Agreement at King's House on December 7. They are Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd right); Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica President, Paul B. Scott (left); Jamaica Environment Trust, Chief Executive Officer, Diana McCaulay; and Jamaica Civil Service Association President, O'Neil Grant.

Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU); and Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) President, Paul B. Scott.

The Partnership is underpinned by five priority areas:

inclusive economic growth and job creation; public sector transformation for efficiency and effectiveness; adherence to the rule of law and timely justice outcomes; national debt reduction and macroeconomic stability; and enhanced tourism flows and inter-sectoral linkages.

Mr. Holness noted that a well-structured partnership with clear objectives "will ensure that conflicts are resolved so that we meet our targets... working together."

"We need to have social partnerships... for all stakeholders to figure out how to move from a win-lose to a win-win, so that we all have the benefit of these ambitious goals that we all agree are necessary," he said.

The Prime Minister gave an undertaking to do his part in ensuring that all stakeholders "achieve the shared vision of making our country a prosperous nation for all."

Justice Reform Programme Receives \$3.3B in Grant Funding

JAMAICA'S JUSTICE reform programme has been further boosted by additional European Union (EU) grant funding support totalling approximately \$3.3 billion (€22 million).

The provision, which has been allocated under the justice component of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), is the single largest by the EU to the programme.

Approximately \$3 billion (€22 million), to be managed by the Government, has been earmarked for budgetary support, while the EU will administer the remaining \$275.4 million (€2 million) that will be channelled into two critical areas of engagement.

A total of \$137.7 million (€1 million) will fund technical assistance, evaluation and audits, communication and visibility services.

The remaining \$137.7 million will be offered to civil society organisations through calls for proposals to contribute to improving access to justice, with emphasis on vulnerable groups.



Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck

The overall provision aims to assist with the Government's successful implementation of the justice reform programme over the next four years, as part of its ongoing undertaking to create a secure, cohesive and just society.

An agreement formalising the provision was signed during a ceremony at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in Kingston on December 8.

Mr. Chuck, in welcoming the provision, said it represented more than half of the administration's funding requirement to advance the reform programme up to 2020.

Gov't Launches Project to Cut Energy Costs in Public Sector

THE GOVERNMENT is undertaking a three-year project that is expected to cut energy costs in the public sector by putting renewable systems in place and increasing conservation methods.

The Deployment of Renewable Energy and Improvement of Energy Efficiency in the Public Sector Project is being undertaken through US\$12 million in funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing the initiative through partnership with the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ).

Speaking at the launch recently at the PCJ in New Kingston, Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Dr. the Hon. Andrew Wheatley, said he is pleased that the project seeks to increase the use of renewable energy and reduce public sector energy consumption, while driving efficiency.

He pointed out that through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme "we have seen significant savings and reductions within several government facilities."

Manager, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, PCJ, Dr. Peter Ruddock, informed that energy efficient systems will be installed at health facilities.

These include the National Chest Hospital, Bellevue Hospital and the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre, St. Andrew; May Pen Hospital, Clarendon; Savanna-la-Mar



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

Hospital, Westmoreland; and the Black River Hospital in St. Elizabeth.

"Our assessments reveal that our energy interventions there will result in high savings and good return on investments," Dr. Ruddock said.

Five New Tourism Subsectors Added to Offerings

FIVE NEW tourism subsectors have been added to the country's offerings as the Government ramps up efforts to promote Jamaica as an ideal tourist destination.

The new areas, which form part of the country's tourism linkages network, are sports and entertainment, shopping, knowledge, health and wellness, and gastronomy.

They were established to further diversify the country's tourism offerings, create business opportunities and increase the use of

local goods and services within the tourism sector.

Speaking at the official press launch at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel, on December 8, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, said these key areas will serve to greatly enhance the country's tourism product.

The Minister said the Government will be working on the policies relating to the new networks, which he intends to introduce in time for his budget presentation next year.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett

"We have already done the concept paper, which Cabinet has approved. We will now do the White Paper and then have the policy ready for Parliament's approval when I make my presentation," he said.

The primary goal of the Tourism Linkages Network is to ensure that Jamaica's tourism sector becomes better integrated with other sectors, such as agriculture and manufacturing.

JA Calls for Strengthened Ties Within ACP Group

MINISTER OF Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, has called for greater cohesion among the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), in order to meet the challenges of a changing global environment.

Speaking at the 104th Session of the ACP Council of Ministers in Brussels, Belgium recently, Minister Johnson Smith noted that the world and the context within which the 40-year-old ACP was created has changed considerably, "requiring that the ACP itself undergo its own metamorphosis."

The Minister urged the Group to redouble its efforts



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith

to bridge the gap in political, economic, social and cultural cooperation among its 79 member countries.

The Council, which met recently, discussed the future of the organisation and its relationship with the European Union. Jamaica has benefited significantly from EU development assistance over the years under the Cotonou Agreement which expires in four years.

Minister Johnson Smith indicated Jamaica's support for the negotiation of another legally binding agreement between the ACP and the EU, with a focus on sustainable development, peace, security and stability, inclusive development cooperation and global public goods.

Young Persons Urged to Participate in Political Process



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (left), offers words of encouragement to Youth Mayor of St. Ann's Bay, Maurice Charoo, at a Youth Mayors' luncheon, held at Spanish Court Hotel in Kingston on December 5.

PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

It's Everybody's Responsibility

DISPOSE OF GARBAGE PROPERLY

COVER ALL CONTAINERS

PUNCH HOLES IN TINS