

More Resources for Security Forces, Social Intervention

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says additional resources will be provided to the security forces for implementing social intervention programmes as part of efforts to curb crime.

“There has to be an allocation of resources to the police, to the army and to the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency. More so, we will have to make some special allocations for social intervention. We are also going to insist that the force use the resources that they get far more efficiently than they presently do,” he stated.

The Prime Minister was speaking in the House of Representatives on June 28 during the debate on the Law Reform (Zones of Special Operations) (Special Security and Community Development Measures)



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness emphasises a point in the House of Representatives on June 28.

Bill, which was passed with 18 amendments.

The Bill gives members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Defence Force certain powers that are required to address serious crimes, while at the same time

upholding the rule of law and protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.

Prime Minister Holness noted that the Bill provides a strategic intervention to address crime, adding that it is not “meant to be the

total solution (but) a tool in fighting crime.”

Mr. Holness further assured that the legislation is not seeking to replicate a state of emergency, emphasising that the “state of emergency powers must remain your last resort.”

PM Bids Farewell to Outgoing US Ambassador



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) presents a farewell gift to outgoing United States Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Luis Moreno, during a courtesy call at the Office of the Prime Minister on June 29. Prime Minister Holness stated that Mr. Moreno has been a champion in promoting investment in Jamaica and thanked him for his service.

More than 5,000 Youth Benefit From CSJP III

MORE THAN 5,000 persons have benefited from the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP) III since its implementation in 2014.

Of that number, over 2,000 were deemed to be at medium or high risk for involvement in crime and violence.

Counselling services were provided for 1,000 persons; 404 received vocational skills training; 226 benefited from employment internships; and another 158 have been permanently employed.

In addition, approximately 426 students have received tuition assistance – 147 tertiary and 279 secondary.

Communication/Social Marketing Coordinator at CSJP, Patrice Nephew, said that the services provided seek to facilitate the holistic development of vulnerable persons, as part of the CSJP programme of crime prevention.

“A youngster is not just a beneficiary of a particular service only, but the CSJP looks at the total being; as one who needs a series of treatment to aid them in their personal fight against crime,” she said.

She was speaking at a Think Tank at the Jamaica Information Service (JIS)



Communication/Social Marketing Coordinator for the Citizen Security and Justice Programme, Patrice Nephew

head office in Kingston on June 28.

A major achievement of the CSJP III is the placement of beneficiaries with some of its partner entities.

Over 400 young people have interned with the Jamaica Defence Force, with seven being recruited, while several persons have joined the Jamaica Constabulary Force as District Constables.

Another 19 have been employed to the Shipping Association of Jamaica. Persons have also been placed at the Marriott and Jewel Resorts; and the Jamaica Public Service Company has employed and trained beneficiaries as linesmen and meter readers.

Jamaica Focused on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

PRIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says Jamaica remains committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through attainment of the targets under the Vision 2030 national development plan.

The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people can enjoy peace and prosperity.

These 17 goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities.

Promulgated in 2009, Vision 2030 Jamaica is the strategic road map to guide the country to attaining developed country status by 2030.

“Vision 2030 is visionary, practical, strategic, and

insightful and is designed to make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business,” the Prime Minister said.

He was addressing the opening ceremony of a three-day Caribbean Action 2030 Conference on the SDGs at the Regional Headquarters of the University of the West Indies on June 28.

The Prime Minister said the country has already

begun implementation of the goals, with keen attention being paid to the accelerators that have been recommended in the SDG road map for Jamaica. These include strengthening the outreach of social protection programmes; expanding care services for children and the elderly; pursuing multi-disciplinary, non-communicable disease prevention; and strengthening the judiciary and police systems, among others.

Minister Reid Opens Computer Laboratory at Mount Fletcher Primary School



Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, takes a close look at a learning software, while Member of Parliament for East Rural St. Andrew and Founder of the Save Our Boys and Girls Foundation, the Most Hon. Juliet Holness, and head girl for the Mount Fletcher Primary School, Yolanda Morrison, observe. Occasion was the official opening of a computer laboratory at the school's Mavis Bank campus in St. Andrew on June 29.

Education Ministry Disburses \$1.4B in Subventions to Schools

THE MINISTRY of Education, Youth and Information has disbursed subventions totalling over \$1.4 billion to secondary schools for the 2017/ 2018 academic year.

This was announced by Portfolio Minister, Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, at a post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House on June 28.

The Minister pointed out that this is the first of four tranches to be paid for the period.

“All schools that are due for funding from the Government by virtue of the schedule, all those payments have been made – from early childhood to high school. All Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (PATH) pay-

ments, feeding payments and other grants have been made,” he said.

The Minister further informed that the budget has been increased to \$200 million, up from \$75 million, to procure 35,000 pieces of furniture for teachers and students for the new school year.

“We are way advanced and we expect to commence

distribution of those furniture before July 31,” he said.

Meanwhile, benefits under PATH have been raised by 30 per cent. This follows Cabinet’s approval of increases in the 2017/18 benefit rates, which came into effect on June 1.

Senator Reid said the increase will move the base benefit from \$400 to \$600 per child each month.

Development Approval Time to be Reduced from 90 to 60 Days by March 2018

THE GOVERNMENT is targeting a reduction in the development approval process timeline from 90 to 60 days by March 2018.

Additionally, the Administration has taken steps to reduce the time taken to establish a business by facilitating an electronic registration process, said Finance and the Public Service Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw.

These measures, he indicated, form part of the

thrust to further improve Jamaica’s investment climate and competitiveness by removing impediments to the ease of doing business in order to facilitate investors.

They are among the programmed reforms for which the World Bank has provided the Second Competitiveness and Fiscal Management Programmatic Development Policy Loan (DPL) in the sum of J\$9.01 billion (US\$70 million) for Jamaica.

Speaking at the signing of the loan agreement with World Bank Country Manager for Jamaica, Galina Sotirova, at the Ministry’s offices in Kingston on June 28, Mr. Shaw said the loan will also support the Administration’s targeted programme of fiscal consolidation and enhanced public financial management.

To this end, Mr. Shaw said several initiatives aimed at achieving better

expenditure oversight and management through public procurement and public sector pension management reforms are being targeted.

Mr. Shaw added that the provision is welcomed as it will support the Government’s plans to achieve and fast-track higher levels of economic growth, provide additional employment and reduce poverty levels and inequality.



Finance and the Public Service Minister, Hon. Audley Shaw (left), and World Bank Country Manager for Jamaica, Galina Sotirova, sign the multilateral institution's J\$9.01 billion loan agreement on June 28 at the Ministry's offices in Kingston.

