

JCF to be Redefined as Protection and Service Entity

THE GOVERNMENT is to develop a policy framework, which will redefine the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) as a protection and service organisation.

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness said the policy is expected to be in place by November 2017.

“That will become the launching pad for a discussion about what our new Jamaica protection and service institution will be; (and) what should our new

law-enforcement institution be,” he noted.

He said it is hoped that the policy will also change people’s perception of the JCF.

“I think that once we get to that point where the people recognise that the JCF is there to serve us, then their job, the Commissioner’s job will be much easier, because at that point, we would have enlisted the entire community in this business of enforcing the law and supporting the rule of law,” he added.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

The Prime Minister made the remarks as he

joined scores of volunteers at the Central Police Station in downtown Kingston on May 23, to beautify the facility as part of activities for Labour Day 2017.

The JCF, among other things, is responsible for the maintenance of law and order, the prevention and detection of crime, the investigation of alleged crimes, the protection of life and property and the enforcement of all criminal laws, as defined by the Jamaican Penal Code.

Tourism Poised for Increased Earnings

GOVERNOR OF the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ), Brian Wynter, says the tourism sector is poised for increased earnings this year, following a successful 2016/17 winter season.

He noted that the winter period, from December 15 to April 30, was the best ever for the sector, with earnings of more than US\$1 billion.

“In a context where tourism usually earns over US\$2 billion annually, this year we have already achieved half of that in the winter season alone,” he pointed out.

Mr. Wynter said that the arrival targets of 4.2 million visitors this year and five million by 2021 “are very much within reach.”

He was addressing the Central Bank’s quarterly press briefing at the Hyatt Ziva Hotel in Rose Hall, St. James, recently. He said optimism among stakeholders in the sector is at an all-time high “and with very good reason.”



Bank of Jamaica Governor, Brian Wynter

He pointed out that 2016 was a successful year for the sector, with Jamaica winning awards for the Caribbean’s leading destination, hotel brand, personality, and world’s leading cruise destination at the World Travel Awards.

Mr. Wynter said it is fitting that Montego Bay will be hosting the United Nations World Tourism Organization’s Global Conference on Partnerships for Jobs and Inclusive Growth Through Sustainable Tourism in November.

The conference will be held in collaboration with the World Bank.

SRC and JBDC Sign MoU to Boost MSME Sector

THE SCIENTIFIC Research Council (SRC) and the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which will provide faster and easier access to business development services for the growth of the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) sector.

Executive Director of the SRC, Dr. Cliff Riley,

said the agreement will strengthen the relationship between the entities, allowing them to share expertise in the interest of their customers.

He noted that clients will benefit directly from technical support and capacity building, among other offerings.

Dr. Riley explained that the SRC has a number of clients with formulations, who need assistance

with getting their product to market and to attract investors, so the SRC will direct them to the JBDC.

From there, the JBDC will provide support in formalising the business, including registering the operation; identifying appropriate funding; and assisting with commercialisation, marketing and intellectual property issues.

Dr. Riley, who was speaking at the signing of

a MoU at the SRC recently, said that Jamaicans need support to move their business idea from its conceptual stage to market, which will be made possible through the agreement.

Chief Executive Officer at the JBDC, Valerie Veira, said the MoU will allow the agencies to offer clients a fulsome service “with each one providing different elements, and the whole thing coming together as one package in the end.”



Executive Director of the Scientific Research Council (SRC), Dr. Cliff Riley (2nd left), and Chief Executive Officer at the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) Valerie Veira (right), sign a Memorandum of Understanding at the SRC’s offices in St. Andrew recently. Looking on are Acting Manager of Marketing and Corporate Communications at the SRC, Carolyn Rose Miller (left); and Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the JBDC, Harold Davis.

Gov’t Provides \$18 Million to Assist Flood-Affected Farmers

FARMERS, WHO have suffered extensive losses from the recent heavy rains, will benefit from an \$18 million allocation by the Government to begin the rebuilding effort.

Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. J.C. Hutchinson, said the sum is the first tranche of a response package for the sector. The farmers will begin to receive the support next week.

Minister Hutchinson said in this first instance, farmers who were severely affected are being given assistance to get back on their feet.

He noted that others will be reached as additional funds are provided to the Ministry.

The Minister, who was speaking with **JIS News** at the end of a tour of flood-affected areas in northern Clarendon on May 25, noted there are areas where the “crops are totally gone.”

“It might take months for those farmers to get back into cultivation, so we have to find a way of giving them assistance to keep going,” he pointed out.

He added that the Government has earmarked lands to boost production in order to prevent any fallout in the sector.

“We are looking to get farmers on those lands, so that we don’t have to import anything,” he pointed out.



Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. J.C. Hutchinson (2nd left), looks at cassava uprooted by recent heavy rains, during a tour of a farm in Pennants, Clarendon on May 25. Others pictured (from left) are: Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) Engineer, Lennoy Prendergast; Chief Executive Officer of RADA, Peter Thomas; and Assistant Extension Officer, Odean Roach.

PM Participates in National Labour Day Project



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) paints a column at the entrance of the Central Police Station in downtown Kingston as part of this year’s Labour Day activities. Among those looking on is Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (centre).

Jamaicans Urged to Prepare for Hurricane Season

WITH THE June 1 start of the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season only days away, Jamaicans are being urged to use the remaining time to check roofs and other installations and effect the necessary repairs.

President of the Incorporated Masterbuilders Association, Humphrey Taylor, says temperature changes can cause the lumber to expand or contract and the zinc nail to be ejected. “So, unless you have a roof that uses screws instead of nails, you should go and check.

If the nails are backing out you should put in new ones or replace them with screws,” he recommends.

Mr. Taylor says persons should also ensure that hurricane straps are installed and that windows are secure.

Livestock Specialist with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Maxine Brown, tells **JIS News** that adequate preparation should also be made for animals.

She says animals should not be tied during a hurricane and they must be removed from riverbeds

and large bodies of water. Farmers should also have first-aid kits with screw worm powder, wound powder, de-wormers, antibiotics, rope and a record book.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health advises that persons should ensure there is enough water, food, clothing and emergency supplies to last at least three days.

In the event that individuals have to evacuate their homes, they should take prescriptions, medications, first-aid items, bottled water and personal hygiene products.

Gov’t Receives Contribution for Flood Relief Efforts

Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) speaks with Peter Donkersloot, General Manager, Caribbean Cement Company Limited, following the donation of 3,000 bags of cement to the Government, to assist in recovery efforts following the heavy rains that affected the island recently. Observing is Director General of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Major Clive Davis.

