

# Government Committed to Confronting Crime

**P**RIME MINISTER the Most Hon. Andrew Holness says the Government is committed to confronting the country's crime problem.

He says one means of doing this is through measures to ensure order in the public transport system.

Referencing the recent policy directive to remove tints from all public passenger vehicles, the Prime Minister insists that there should be clear view into vehicles to reduce and eliminate crimes, including abductions and rapes, on the public thoroughfare.

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will reduce the space that criminals have to act," said Mr. Holness.

The Prime Minister asserted that the Government must control small crimes as they can lead to bigger crimes.

He said criminals should not use the public



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness**

thoroughfare and public transportation to get away with crime.

"I am not going to be the Prime Minister that after two days we forget about it. This is going to be a consistent and

persistent effort by the police."

The Prime Minister thanked taxi operators who recently met with the Transport Authority and pledged support for the Government's policy directive.

## Millions to be Spent on Redevelopment of Montego Bay Hip Strip

**T**OURISM MINISTER, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, says a major redevelopment project is being planned for the popular Montego Bay Hip Strip located along Gloucester and Kent Avenues.

Speaking during a ceremony to officially open the Royal Decameron Cornwall Beach Resort in Montego Bay, St. James on February 18, Mr. Bartlett said the reconfiguration of the Hip Strip will begin with the removal of all overhanging utility wires.

"We have already allocated \$11 million for the preliminary work to be done on that, and we hope that before this budget year is completed, that exercise will be done," he said.

Mr. Bartlett informed that \$35 million has been earmarked for street-scaping works from the corner of Summit to Dead End. Street-scaping refers to the visual elements of a street, including adjoining buildings, sidewalks, street furniture, trees and open spaces that



**Tourism Minister, Hon. Edmund Bartlett**

combine to form the street's character.

"This will give us a nice finish and a good look as we go along that corridor," Minister Bartlett noted.

He said he will also be seeking private sector partnership to ensure that attractions, entertainment, shopping and food are addressed.

"My dream is for the strip to be extended from Dump-Up Beach all the way to Dead End with a series of experiences, entertainment and shopping that will remind us of City Walk in Orlando. We want to create an experience that is not just acceptable... but will be exceptional," Minister Bartlett said.

## Gov't Improving Effectiveness of Social Protection Programmes

**T**HE GOVERNMENT has budgeted \$211 million to continue work to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of key social protection programmes in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

The allocation, contained in the 2017/18

Estimates of Expenditures now before the House of Representatives, will go towards the 'Integrated Social Protection and Labour Programme', which is being funded by the Inter-American Development Bank.

It is focused on improving human capital

and labour market outcomes for the poor.

For the 2017/18 period, an early stimulation plus centre will be constructed, while workshop activities to support the implementation of a parenting pilot will continue.

Some of the achievements of the project include placing 453 participants in on-the-job training; commencing workshops for a parenting programme in six pilot parishes (Clarendon, Kingston, St.

Thomas, Portland, St. Ann and St James), engaging two consultants to study the impact of the parenting pilot; construction of an early stimulation programme assessment centre, and establishing two satellite locations.

Other achievements include the drafting of the School Feeding Policy Cabinet submission document for review by the Minister of Education, Youth and Information.



Director of the Early Stimulation Programme (ESP), Antonica Gunter-Gayle, gets a tight hug from a student enrolled in the programme at the Stimulation Plus Child Development Centre in Kingston.

## PM Breaks Ground for \$131M Sewerage Project in Bay Farm Villa

**P**rime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) gets assistance in operating a backhoe at the ground-breaking for the \$131.9 million (US\$1.03 million) Bay Farm Villa Sewerage Project in West Central St. Andrew on February 17. The new system will replace the 40-year-old wastewater treatment plant which serves residents in the communities of Bay Farm Villa, Olympic Court, Compound, Lime Tree Lane, Andrews Mews, Simmonds Park and their environs.



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