



Ministry of Youth
and Culture
Jamaica

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2015 SECTORAL DEBATE

Presentation by: The Honourable Lisa Hanna, MP
Wednesday, May 6, 2015





MR. SPEAKER, as I rise to make this contribution to the sectoral debate

1. I give God thanks for the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference
2. I want to thank you and the parliamentary staff for the work that has been done in organizing these presentations.
3. Thanks to my Prime Minister for affording me the opportunity to serve and my colleagues in Cabinet and in this house on both sides
4. My Ministry staff, headed by my Permanent Secretary Mrs. Sherrill O'Reggio Angus, my personal staff and the various agency heads and board chairmen and board members for their continued support, hard work and dedication
5. My beloved South East (SE) St. Ann, and the representatives who are here today, headed by members of my constituency executive, Councilor Bell, office staff, group chairmen and delegates. SE St. Ann remains strong, and I am heartened by the unwavering support given to me by both the delegates and the constituents

in spite of the efforts of a few. I just wish to place my love and undying support to the people who have placed me here for a second term.

In the constituency debate in the House, I will speak about our projects and work Programmes.

6. Finally to Alex and Richard who understand my long hours of work.



#ConnectedInTheBestInterestOfOurChildren

MR. SPEAKER, May is child month, a month where our nation pays tribute to our children the 809,000 persons under 18 that make up 29% of our population. At the Ministry of Youth and Culture, everyday for us is dedicated to our nation's children. We have made significant strides in improving the State's response to children under our care. But this is being overshadowed, by a cultural problem that we have had, and not spoken about for a number of years. I know that every well thinking person in this country has been sickened, horrified and deeply troubled by the alarming, and frequent reports of cases of abuse, rape, and murder of the country's most precious assets – our children. Each time, I get a new report from our Child Development Agency (CDA) or the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) I hurt to my very core.

Data suggests that this culture has developed because of a number of practices but none more glaring, than the breakdown in the family structure. I am calling on all Jamaicans, particularly the church, teachers, and communities to pay special attention to our

children's need for guidance, mentorship, and protection.

We have to move away from the concept that "a nuh my pickney..." and return to "a my pickney..."

At the Ministry of Youth and Culture we are proud of the work of our children boards, child agencies and specifically our children themselves.

MR. SPEAKER we get an average of 220 such reports of child abuse per week. Over the past year:

- We increased the number of child investigators at the CDA and cleared a backlog of 4000 reports last year. Because of the increased number of reports we have brought on an additional 10 investigators bringing the number up to 26.
- We increased the number of children in state care qualifying for tertiary education from 1 in 2012 to 46 in 2014
- We have cleared the child adoption

backlog of 900 cases with some cases as far back as 2003.

- We instituted a best practices programme for the standards of at Maxfield Park which involves extracurricular activities, mentorships, field trips and training which will be rolled out to the other homes this year.
- We increased the number of children being taken into foster care Close to 800 families in Jamaica have opened their homes and hearts to partner with the State to provide care for over 855 children. I have put a committee in place led by Sadie Keating to start the review of the foster care programme this year so that we can provide more resources to families as we have seen that our children do best when they are with families.
- We reduced the number of children that went missing by 10% and returned 9 out of 10 children that went missing through a bolstered Ananda Alert System and partnerships.

- We introduced and implemented the first phase of the case management system, which will see the OCR and the CDA sharing information through a web-based system, thus providing each agency with real-time updates and access to information through a synchronized database, which allows the tracking of a child's records and development from entry to the system to exit. This system will also allow the OCR to greatly improve internal operations (through the collection and storage of reports) and provide the public with faster ways of reporting and obtaining updates and information specific to children who are reported as abused and missing. It will serve other child protection agencies in Jamaica providing them with access to data relevant to their agency. We will be implementing the other 2 phases in this financial year. I want to thank Mark Connolly and UNICEF for their assistance in this programme.
- We recognized that nearly half of our children in state care needed professional counseling help.

- Through the engagement counselors and clinical psychologists over 2000 children are being assisted. 805 of whom, were referred to the clinical psychologists and psychiatrists for ongoing treatment and medication where necessary. We are seeing several cases of post traumatic stress disorder, ADHD, depression, learning disorders just to name a few. This programme of therapeutic intervention will be continued and bolstered and we will be ensuring that a space is created in every parish now for our children to receive therapeutic care.
- We are attacking abuses and violence against our children through programmes of education and public awareness and we are connecting. We went into communities and schools, meeting and speaking to community persons and students with the objective of raising awareness about negative issues affecting children and encourage reporting. More impactful was the 1500 parents that benefitted from our parenting workshops. MR. SPEAKER we have seen the benefits of

these programmes and the CDA and OCR will double their efforts this year to reach more communities and more parents, and to place as their major priority the closure and resolution of outstanding cases.

- We published the first Search and Rescue Protocol and also conducted Search and Rescue Trainings to over one hundred and fifty Volunteers Island wide.
- We now have a partnership with the Jamaica Library Service, to assist with the dissemination of Ananda Alert information on missing children in parish library networks, mobile libraries and school libraries under the portfolio of the JLS and as authorized by the school principals. I want to thank all our partners and urge others to get on board.
- We have reviewed the Child Care and Protection Act and the Child Adoption Act. We will be presenting those aspects of the revised CCPA that are relevant to our portfolio responsibilities

to the Joint Select Parliamentary Committee being asked to review the Sexual Offences Act in conjunction with the Child Care and Protection Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Offences Against the Persons Act.

- Of the 45 privately operated children's homes, 38 or 84% have been issued with licenses. The other seven (7) Homes have submitted applications but have outstanding documentation to fulfill the requirements for licensing. They have been written to and given a deadline to respond.

MR. SPEAKER when I led the delegation to Switzerland earlier this year on behalf of the Government, what was clear was that the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child saw the strides we had made in all areas. However, they wanted us to deal with the impact of violent environments on our nation's children; in particular physical and sexual violence and what is heard and seen around them.

Acts of violence against our children cannot be condoned. The incidents of murder,

physical and sexual abuse that we have see is symptomatic of a society that has lost his soul.

The government remains committed to using every tool at our disposal to protect our children and youth from abuse. Where the rights of children are infringed, perpetrators will be punished in accordance with our laws.

However, Mr. Speaker, the society must come to the realization that the protection of our children is not the responsibility of any one person, ministry or group. The protection of our children is our duty -- All of us.

We are not a country at war or have the kinds of conflicts we see in some other places. But we have a problem; how does a mother know her child is being abused and says nothing? How does a mother have an 11 year old girl pregnant in her house and not know? How does a community say they suspected a child was being abused only after the same child has been murdered? And when the time comes to make a statement to the police for a conviction they say and do nothing? How does someone deliberately set fire to a house knowing that three children are

inside? Our clinical psychologists tell me that this is a result of the generational breakdown of the family structure, single parenting, multiple partners, a family history of mental health, incarceration and adverse childhood experiences to name a few.

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MR. SPEAKER, “how much child yuh get” is not a stripe and neither is “having out your lot”, if you are not going to do right by your children. A mother with six children with six different fathers or the converse for the father with multiple baby mothers is not proving helpful to the children’s overall development.

MR. SPEAKER every piece of legislation is in place to protect our children, the budgets are in place, and we have the sanctions, and will be strengthening them according to the call from the Prime Minister.

But all of this amounts to zero if parents and communities don’t wake up and speak up. Burning down the house after the fact is not the solution. We have made over seven arrests for child trafficking and rescued over 20 children but cannot get a conviction because we cannot get the statements. The time has come to get #connected to the truth about what is really hurting our children in this country. The practice of keeping silent and not giving the evidence to convict the perpetrators who abuse them must stop.

Earlier this year I stated that the MYC has a zero tolerance approach to those who abuse our children.

To this end we have, with the CDA spearheaded the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence. The goal of the NPACV is to create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of and responsive to the issues of violence, child abuse and maltreatment of children in Jamaica. It is an integrated approach that we will be implementing over the course of this year.

MR. SPEAKER, I understand the emotional and financial sacrifices that are involved in being a parent, and I want to “big up” all parents who work at putting their children’s needs first and are trying to do the best for them everyday. I am aware of the long hours and emotional strain on our staff across our agencies as they seek to assist the abused and abandoned babies and children, and I say to them thanks for all that they do. I sincerely call on all Jamaicans to get involved to assist in our efforts to protect our children. You can call [1888-PROTECT](tel:1888-PROTECT).

The exceptional love we show to our children must become a well known part of our rich culture.

#ConnectedInCulture

MR. SPEAKER, Jamaica is a cultural superpower. When the Leader of the Free World comes to our shores for less than a day, and leaves his hotel to visit the Bob Marley museum, it confirms the impact of Jamaica on the world. Our mission is to nurture and develop this natural gift in all its forms: physically and artistically. Our cultural heritage, art and music are the envy of many countries.

To this end we have achieved and are working to implement the following:

- Ensured that the cultural and religious beliefs of Rastafari were respected in the new ganja legislation.
- With the assistance of UNESCO we have created a data bank of the intangible cultural heritage of many communities island wide. How they make baskets, crochet, sugar sweetie... can now be viewed at the ACIJ at the Institute of Jamaica. It will be updated on an ongoing basis.
- We will be producing the Cultural Passport for thousands of students at the secondary level. This will allow for students to visit free of cost or at significantly discounted

rates sites and events. They will receive prominent seals/stamps of places visited with the objective of strengthening their identity and love for Jamaica. This programme is an upgrade to the Culture Card programme of 2013 and will be implemented through the JCDC, Culture Clubs for the start of the 2015/2016 Academic Year.

- MR. SPEAKER, we facilitated the tabling of the first report of the National Reparations Committee which was debated in this House. Consultations have been completed in Kingston and will be held in Montego Bay and in other areas island wide. The topic for the annual Norman Manley Lecture this year was Reparations. A presentation on Reparations was made at the Sankofa International Conference in February, which viewed via satellite by universities in the United Kingdom as well as York University in New York. Presentations by members of the commission have continued at the various service clubs. There will also be a National High School debate with reparations as the theme.
- Our JCDC programs have resulted in a 20% increase in entries in the Performing Arts and over 30% increase in entries in Visual Arts, last year.

- *MR. SPEAKER*, this year's National Festival and Emancipation and Independence is expanded and enhanced to include the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Morant Bay Rebellion. The theme: Proud and Free... Jamaica 53 will see island wide celebrations and commemorations.
- We will add another 3 museums to the 4 we implemented last year: The Simon Bolivar Centre, The National Museum West and The National History Museum. What was once called the Museum of St James is now the National Museum West. Housed in the historic Montego Bay Court House now the Montego Bay Cultural Centre in St James, this museum chronicles the history of the parish of St James and how it became known as the stronghold of 'King Sugar' and plantation slavery. The museum also documents the 1831 Christmas Rebellion which led to the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies and it details the ascent of Montego Bay as the tourism capital of Jamaica. National Museum West is a must see cultural institution for the many tourists who visit the western section of the island.
- Housed in the Montego Bay Cultural Centre is our new addition to the National Gallery of Jamaica National Gallery West.

- Like the National Gallery of Jamaica, National Gallery West will showcase the works of established and upcoming artists. It is expected to mount four major exhibitions per year with one being specifically curated for National Gallery West; the other exhibitions will be condensed versions of exhibitions mounted at the Kingston branch.
- We are pleased to announce that the Government of Jamaica is partnering with the Japanese Government to enhance the technological capacity of the Institute of Jamaica, as the oldest cultural agency mandated to preserve and safeguard Jamaica's tangible and intangible heritage. The IOJ will be building a world class technology driven natural history exhibition gallery at the Natural History Museum which will showcase Jamaican plants and animals as we would see them in their natural habitat. These will be presented in the form Diaromas that is life-size models of the various species that are both native and endemic. The significance of this initiative is of course the educational values that will imparted to students and the wider population who will visit the space. This is another major step towards preserving the natural

heritage of our island. We are pleased to announce that the Japanese Government has already committed funding for this specific initiative estimated at over US\$60,000. Additional funding will also go towards other special projects within the Institute of Jamaica to include the technological upgrading of the audio visual capacity of the Lecture Hall which continues to host annual events of great significance to our history, such as the Musgrave Awards. Funding will also be made available for the establishment of an Information Technology training facility at the Junior Centre. The total value of the funding from the Japanese Government towards enhancing the technological capacity of the IOJ is US\$482,000. In addition to the J\$48 million for capital expenditure.

- The Jamaica National Heritage Trust continues to work with other agencies for the protection and revitalization of our heritage sites. We are currently working with UDC and TEF to restore several areas. In streamlining the development of the historic town of Port Royal, over the last 12 months the JNHT has been assisting with the restoration of major properties in the town. Currently, the Trust is working

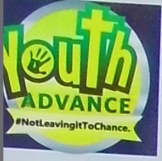
on the restoration of the Naval Hospital. Restoration work has been completed on the Admiralty House and H Block, both of which are being used as classroom spaces for the Caribbean Maritime Institute.

- We are working to resolve the issue of the relocation of persons who occupy the home of National Hero, Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey. We have made a submission for resources to assist in this effort. We aim to start the refurbishing and restoration of the property by the anniversary of his next birthday. We are committed to preserving part of the legacy of this outstanding Jamaican.
- *MR. SPEAKER* we submitted the Blue and John Crow mountains for world heritage status and we are pleased to say that the Evaluators have recommended an inscription of the site to the World Heritage List, with the final decision resting with the World Heritage Committee which meets in June in Germany. Of even greater significance, the Blue and John Crow Mountains will be the first mixed site in the Caribbean, meaning it is nominated for its outstanding cultural and natural values. Jamaica is indeed building its presence in World Heritage as we prepare to serve in the second sitting of our four year term

as members of the prestigious World Heritage Committee.

I am sure that my colleagues on both sides of the house are aware that the fact that tourism is achieving record levels is not only as a result of our beautiful beaches or our hotels but also because of our people and our culture. The time is now for our youth to optimize the opportunities that exist.

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MOYCJA

YOUTH ADVANCE

#NotLeavingItToChance

7

#ConnectedtoOurYouth

MR. SPEAKER

The world has changed so much in the last 20 years. There was a time when former Prime Minister Michael Manley called for a new economic order. He wanted more value added to be created in one's own country. He recognized that in the economic structure as it existed, you would require increasing amounts of raw bauxite to purchase the tractor to excavate it. In other words we would always be shipping out more of our resources to buy the finished goods of other countries. He was right. We needed to create more value added as a country. The world as it existed was designed to benefit the developed countries who were exporting manufactured goods to the same countries from which they were exploiting the raw materials.

I wish to outline for you the world as it exists today, because the opportunities are so different. This year the world will produce 3.5 zetabytes (3.5×10^{21}) of unique information. This is more information than the previous five thousand years. Recently, tests have been carried out on third generation fiber optics, demonstrating that one single fiber optic strand can carry ten trillion bits of information per second.

That's a lot of information. We are living in a data driven world that allows us to connect with each other in real time. Today Technology and data have changed the way the world works, and the way we do business. With technical information doubling every two years, it has changed everything. Today Google is the number one search engine; there are 100 billion Google searches per month on the Internet, and Facebook has connected us there are 1.3 billion Face Book users. If Face Book were a country, it would be the size of China. FB only started 10 years ago.

Data and technology have also changed the traditional modes of employment and how jobs are created. So much so, that the top ten in demand jobs for 2014 did not exist in 2004.

Added to this is the reality that for the first time in our history we have four different generations working side by side: the traditionalist, the boomer, the gen X and the millennial. All of whom grew up learning to communicate differently: write me, call me, email me, text me respectively.

My Ministry for the most part serves the "text me" generation young people between the ages of 15-29 all "plugged in and connected"

to one form of technology or another. Approximately 25% of our population. The majority of whom needs 4G and high speed wifi for them to feel connected socially. They are largely impatient and cynical about Government, and technocrats, they are savvy, cutting edge and strive to have 'swag' in all that they do.

MR. SPEAKER we also serve other segments of this youth population, rural youth, church youth, agricultural youth, youth with disabilities and youth who are unattached and feel disconnected from society. They have the same goals for a better life. Today every single one of them is competing in a world that is rapidly changing, and they will have to be equipped to keep up or be left behind. It is our job to ensure that they are prepared, and that's what we have been doing!

This reality gives our youth a level playing field in the world. Their market is not only Jamaica but the world. The MYC has been shifting their conversation from seeing only the traditional paths, to the opening their minds to innovation and new possibilities; we are connecting with our youth.

Here with us today is a group of young leaders who have been critical in their comments about opportunities in Jamaica as is it their right to

do, while others like young Jadan Johnson see Jamaica as capable as participating and leading "...the world of tech leaders'. Also here with us are youth with disabilities and several others from our various NYS programmes. I welcome them all; Youth looking through different windows at a landscape of what is possible in Jamaica.

MR. SPEAKER, it is not easy to shift a mindset and conversation. Here is what we had to do last year:

- We went into their virtual spaces and we increased our online reach from 46,000 to over 117,000 registered users; We also met and reasoned with thousands of youth island wide through our "Pon Di Corna" reasonings; and we redoubled our efforts for student advocacy so that today we have over 300,000 students involved in the National Secondary Students Council and a fully functioning Student Council Structure with regional executive bodies. President Charles Young has been doing an excellent job.
- Although we are just one Ministry working with youth, since 2012 to date, we have trained and impacted over 51000 young people and placed close to 36,519 in temporary jobs and other permanent jobs.

- Additionally, as a Ministry we made a transition through the NYS to offer experiences guided by youth needs. In the past 2 years 350 of our GWEPs are in permanent employment. This programme was developed to provide valuable work experience to 300 tertiary graduates up to 24 years. It is a response to the challenge of graduates being unable to gain jobs without experience and cannot gain meaningful experience without jobs. Participants are placed for up to six (6) months during which NYS pays a stipend to assist with their expenses. So MR. SPEAKER it is that temporary work experience which has lead to their permanent employment today. We #connectedwithGWEP
- *MR. SPEAKER* last year we gave our youth eight (8) additional experiences through the NYS to choose from. Options that would give them the best competitive advantage for the “in demand jobs” both locally and globally. Last year \$322 million was allocated to the National Youth Service for this purpose. We assisted youth with scholarships to get training at the Caribbean Maritime Institute, CASE, The Brown’s Town Community College in Information Technology and

in Entrepreneurship. We impacted approximately 13,500 young people through our NYS programmes.

- This year we have increased the budget to the NYS for youth programmes to J\$344.6M, to impact over 15, 000 young people. These programmes are in the areas of:
 1. **Empowerment** - This programme is oriented to youth with mild intellectual disabilities and geared towards providing basic personal and professional development skills and work experience. This year we will continue with 101 existing and 50 new participants. (\$25 million)
 2. **Financial Assistance** - Financial Assistance is a grant to post-service participants pursuing tertiary education. 300 students will be eligible to receive up to 20% of their tuition paid for by the NYS for a period of three (3) years. (\$18.5 million)
 3. **Enrichment Programmes** - geared at engaging youth in activities that focus on character building, career development, volunteerism and cultural awareness. This year we will continue with 73 existing Participants and engage a further 155 (\$29.5 million)

4. **Entrepreneurship** - geared towards training 200 youths who have expressed an interest and the aptitude for owning and operating a business. NYS will also assist with provision of coaching to develop business plans for seeking financing for their ventures. (\$12.2 million)
5. **Entrepreneurship 101** - assisting 4000 youth to begin a process of self-examination to determine whether they are interested in entrepreneurship. (\$4 million)
6. **The Access to Success through Knowledge Programme** – through interactive modes we will deliver personal and professional development to 4200 Jamaican youth (\$11.8 million)
7. **The Summer Work Employment Programme** – 5000 youth (\$115 million)
8. **The Graduate Work Experience Programme**, - 300 young people and the NYS/PSOJ MoU will enable the organization to place even more youth in private sector organizations. (\$74.4 million)
9. **The Access to Higher Education Programme** - a partnership between

the NYS, Northern Caribbean University, CMI, CASE and BTCC where financial assistance is provided to 230 participants to pursue tertiary studies at the partner institutions. Participants are engaged in personal development sessions, group mentorship as well as work experience and volunteerism opportunities. (\$30 million)

10. Rural Youth Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship Programme (with Jamaica 4H Clubs) - Under this initiative we will partner with 4H to support rural based youth entrepreneurs (\$15 million)

11. Volunteerism - This Programme is designed to re-establish NYS' volunteerism emphasis by providing opportunities for 100 young people across Jamaica to undertake community based and national projects. This cuts across all NYS Programme offerings. Participants will receive different levels of recognition based on the number of hours they volunteer. (\$8.95 million)

MR. SPEAKER these Programmes are all strategically designed towards ensuring that we get our youth equipped, involved and productive. Added to this are the scholarships we are making for youth to study in areas that give them the best chances as the world will need to create approximately half a billion

new jobs by 2030, as more and more young people join the labour market. The ILO says that the global unemployment rate for youth aged 15-24 is at 12.6% (76 million) which is at crisis level.

- In the National Youth Survey (2010) 63% listed employment and career as their most important aspiration. MR. SPEAKER we know they want the private sector experience so NYS signed an MOU with the PSOJ and while we were targeting 5,000 youth with our funds we are anticipating that we will reach as many as 6,500 with this MOU. We are **#connectingyouthwiththepsoj**
- We know how young persons with disabilities daily experience exclusion and often ridicule, and so we are providing fellowships through the Edna Manley School for the Performing Arts for 6 graduates to capture the world of a young PWD to not only broaden the artistic horizon of the graduate of also give social inclusion to the PWD. We are **#connectingartandpwd**
- We know that many of you (MPs) in your constituencies are connected to youth so I have charged the NYS to expand the dialogue with those interested to offer more workshops leveraging some of your CDF pool. We are **#makinggreaterconnectionsinconstituencies**

- The CPTC and NYS will partner to identify 31 youth across the island to be trained in media production over a 6-month, paid internship period. These will make up the production pod that will produce the youth programme. They will be the hosts, producers, videographers, scriptwriters/researchers, graphic artists, etc. working on the youth programme; this youth team will then produce 39 episodes over a 17 month period, as paid media practitioners. This training & experience will enable them to secure media jobs in Jamaica, as another batch of youth are selected in 2017/18.
- Take some time and read the NYS brochure that will be given to you today.



#YICs

Two (2) Youth Information Centers (YICs) will be opened June 2015, Hanover and Spanish Town. We will be improving the services offered to youth to increase youth engagement. The YICs will be placing greater emphasis on engaging youth-at-risk - unattached youth, out-of-school youth with maladaptive behaviours and delinquent youth registered within the school system.

This reintegration programme will be implemented within the YICs, using a multi-sectoral approach to address the issues being faced by the target group. The programme will seek to accomplish the following objectives:

- Reduction in crime among unattached youth
- Reduction in delinquent Behaviours in Secondary School (target groups)
- Increase self-acceptance, self-efficacy and worth

#youthpolicy

Our Government will be spending approximately \$89 billion on programmes for youth and children this year across seven Ministry portfolios, an estimated 14% of the total budget. I want to assure the youth of this country that the Portia Simpson Miller lead GOJ is not demanding action only from you, we demand it from ourselves. With this in mind we must ensure that we coordinate and collaborate to get the best outcomes from the monies we spend.

I am pleased to advise this House that The Green Paper for the National Youth Policy 2015 - 2030 has been tabled today. This revised policy will now cater to persons 15-29 years.

The revised National Youth Policy seeks to take a positive approach to youth development for all young people, and will seek to be responsive to their needs through well structured partnerships within the public sector, with the private sector, youth organisations, NGOs, faith-based organisations, academia and with our international development partners. Our youth will be at the “heart of national development”.

CONCLUSION

#Connected

MR. SPEAKER, The mission of the #MYC is to ensure that we prepare our youth to take full advantage of this data driven world to see themselves as global producers, connected and empowered rather than consumers disconnected by a world without boundaries. *MR. SPEAKER* the world has never offered as much opportunity as it does today. However, make no mistake the qualities required for success have not changed. Namely, a quality education, a determination to put in the work and a commitment to excellence! I know that young people also want to have fun, but this is not mutually exclusive to these values. I am therefore urging all young people to arm themselves with these qualities for this changing world.

The strides that we have made and the programmes outlined for this year demonstrate that we have strived to implement our mandate and we are progressing. I will not pretend that it has been a smooth path; we still have more to complete.

As we continue to improve the conditions of our children and youth, we need everyone's support. Each one of us must resolve to protect, nurture and motivate a child. We

The revised policy will see the following: a Strategic Action Plan to guide its implementation; A National Youth Development Agency; established to coordinate the operational aspects of the inter sectoral implementation approach to youth programming and mainstreaming.

A Youth Development Act; the legal framework for action in the sector, and to stipulate that youth issues be mainstreamed throughout the public sector and non-state sectors. This act will require youth sensitive budgeting and provide the basis for appropriate levels of financing for youth development.

MR. SPEAKER the new Youth Division within the Ministry of Youth and Culture will now be focused on sector policy development, and related activities such as strategic programme development, standards development, research, monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and evaluation. This will be bolstered by an inter-ministerial committee which will be established to support the responsibilities of the Ministry. Most importantly, however, it will bring together all the Ministries and agencies working with young people so that our objectives are aligned and we are not duplicating programmes.

must reclaim a society where the 'village' raised the child and call out the abusers in our society and prosecute them. The violence that is being brought to our attention is barbaric and destructive and we should take a stand and resolve to stop it.

MR. SPEAKER I interact often with Jamaican children and youth. I have found them to be passionate, enthusiastic and resilient. Looking to us for guidance, motivation and for a chance to grow, thrive and become successful adults. We have the ability to reconstruct our children's future. Let us help to get them there. Let us all resolve to make it happen.

Today, we tabled the Green Paper Youth Policy, the feedback you provide will be considered in finalising the Policy. We expect this to galvanise the focus of the country on the importance of youth development to secure the nation's future. I appeal to my colleagues here in this house, the public and private sector to utilize this policy and so develop youth programmes which will reduce the obstacles they face to become productive members of the society. This should be our commitment. Let us all keep connected.





DATE: April 1, 2015

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

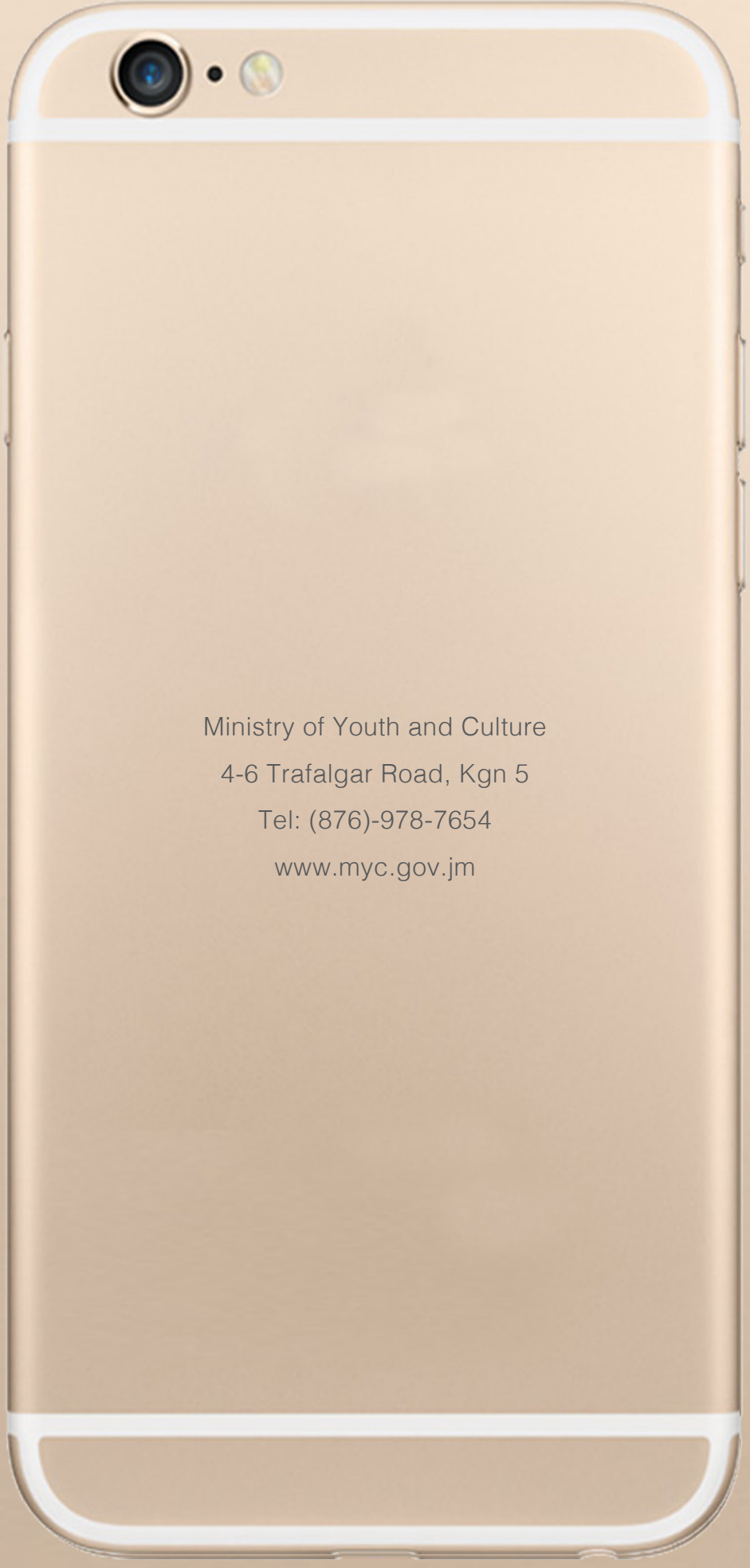
Jamaica 4-H Clubs **JMD \$15,000,000.00**

THE SUM OF

Fifteen Million Dollars

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Jamaica 4-H Clubs 75th Anniversary
"4-Of-Us 4-Of-One
Builds
Structure."

The image shows the back of a gold iPhone 6s. At the top left, there is a camera lens, a small black dot (likely a microphone), and a flash. The phone's body is a uniform gold color. In the center of the back, there is contact information for the Ministry of Youth and Culture.

Ministry of Youth and Culture

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www.myc.gov.jm