



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE



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A BLACK AND GOLD AFFAIR

CIVIL SERVICE WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

SCALING UP
CLIMATE FINANCE
IN JAMAICA

Remembering
DFS Carlene O'Connor



Editorial

Prepared by the Corporate Communication
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The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) has achieved meaningful milestones in the past year that reinforce our commitment to building a resilient Jamaica through human capital and infrastructural development. As we look to 2024, the MOFPS remains focused and resolute in charting Jamaica toward a path of economic prosperity for all. Our intentions are evident through our efforts to bolster our climate resilience and form meaningful bilateral partnerships with the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation to undertake investment projects.

The MOFPS is aware that our human resource development and sustenance is of vital importance and as such we have key targets geared at prioritising the financial well-being of civil servants through a compensation transformation and championing policies and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for all Jamaicans. Likewise, the launch of our first of its kind, Jamaican dollar \$-linked instrument in the international capital markets is a testament to the aforementioned improvements.

In this edition of the **MOFPS Insider**, we highlight the Ministry's award for Website of the Year at the Office of the Cabinet Service Excellence Awards. We also bring highlights from our annual Audit Committees' Conference as well as activities surrounding Civil Service Week 2023, the Ministry's Grand Market and end-of-year celebrations.

If you wish to share feedback on this publication, please send an email to mofps.pr@mof.gov.jm.





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SCALING UP CLIMATE FINANCE IN JAMAICA



Press Release Dated: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

The Government of Jamaica is working with international financial institutions and donors to strengthen cooperation, crowd-in private investment and build climate resilience following the Resilience and Sustainability Facility arrangement with the International Monetary Fund.

The Government of Jamaica together with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Green Climate Fund (GCF), the United Kingdom, and the European Investment Bank (EIB) as part of Team Europe[1] today announced a collaborative approach to support a package aimed at enhancing the nation's ability to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

This support takes place in the context of the US\$764 million Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) arrangement approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Executive Board in March 2023. The RSF arrangement

supports reforms to strengthen Jamaica's physical and fiscal resilience to climate change, advance decarbonization of the economy, and manage transition risks. Reforms include the adoption of a disaster risk financing policy, the addition of climate requirements to the framework for public-private partnerships (PPPs), reforms of the fiscal framework, and incentives for investments in renewables and the greening of the financial system, aimed towards fostering investor confidence and catalyzing private climate financing.

These institutions, donors, as also the World Bank, have been providing financial and technical support to support Jamaica's efforts to enhance its climate resilience.

A three-pronged approach

...a project preparation facility (PPF) to develop a pipeline of resilient climate-smart PPPs...

A PPF will be crucial to help generate a robust pipeline of bankable projects required to scale up private investments across Jamaica, while reducing the financing burden on the public sector. It starts with identifying systemic climate risks and 'climate hotspots' including through the Jamaica Systemic Risk Assessment Tool (J-SRAT), which was prepared with the help of Oxford University with financing from the UK.

The IDB has been working with the Government of Jamaica to develop a PPF focused on PPPs, to help identify, prioritize, structure, and implement resilient and climate-smart projects across sectors.

Both the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and IDB have already committed resources to establish the PPF, and as requested by the Government, discussions are underway with other development partners to scale up this initiative in the future.

In addition, the GCF will support for the preparation of innovative, and transformational investment projects. The GCF will explore the potential for de-risking mechanisms to lower financial cost and optimize the mobilization of private sector resources. Facilitating private sector participation, for example through PPPs, will significantly increase the funds available for projects that would be feasible with only public-sector resources.

...a new Jamaica Green Financing Facility...

To support the identification and financing of climate projects, the GOJ, the GCF and the EIB are taking the lead in developing a new Jamaica Green Facility, domiciled in Jamaica. The GCF will provide credit and capacity development to finance local climate projects directly or through local financial institutions. Climate-smart agriculture, energy efficiency, water resource management, sustainable transport, among other investments, can be supported.

Once established, it will pave the way for Jamaica's other bilateral and multilateral financing partners to support the Facility through additional funding, technical support, and capitalization, therefore, providing a platform where the Government and development partners can pool their resources to provide programmatic support to projects that are in line with Jamaica's climate ambitions. In this way, this facility will trial a country-led approach to simplifying and scaling-up international climate finance provisions in line with recommendations of the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance and additionally mobilize the £7m of financing to be made available by the UK through this initiative.

... more resilient infrastructure through low-cost, long-term, loan instruments

Low-cost and long-term financing instruments from the EIB will support the Government investment in resilient water and waste treatment infrastructure, flood and coastal protection

or other sectors vulnerable to climate risks. Maturities of up to 30 years with a 10-year grace period can be considered, as well as a package that includes capacity-building and non-reimbursable grants at concessional rates to improve investment affordability.

The EIB, as part of Team Europe, has made available US\$18 million of grants from the European Union (EU) to support climate-resilient water, sanitation, and clean ocean projects across the Caribbean to back a US\$165 million loan facility. Through this facility, the EIB can support high-impact sustainable investment in Jamaica with extended-tenor affordable loans. The EIB is also piloting natural disaster risk clauses for its loans to ensure vulnerable communities can recover and rebuild following a crisis.

This collaborative support will bolster Jamaica's efforts to address the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities.

Quotes

Nigel Clarke, Minister of Finance and the Public Service of Jamaica, said "Jamaica's development will require significant and sustained infrastructure investment that outstrips the resource capacity of the Government. We will therefore need to attract local and international private investment through structured transactions. In addition, Jamaica's exposure to climate events makes it critical that such investments are climate smart and resilient. The costs of preparing projects, however, compete for scarce resources. In addition, accessing international climate finance for isolated investments often suffers from deficiencies of scale. For these reasons we are absolutely delighted that through close collaboration with our multilateral partners, the IMF, the IDB, the GCF and the EIB and bilateral partners, the UK and the EU, today we announce a three-prong approach, that will catalyze new and larger amounts of private finance that boosts Jamaica's climate smart development. This includes: an innovative Project Preparation Facility, a domestic Jamaica Green Financing Facility and low-cost, long term infrastructure financing instruments. These developments represent substantial policy dividends for Jamaica accruing from our climate finance reforms which have been supported by the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Trust program."

The Rt Honorable Andrew Mitchell, Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, said, "The UK is delighted to be working with Jamaica through providing technical assistance to support increased investment in climate resilient infrastructure and as a trial country for the

Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance. We recognise the dual challenge faced by Jamaica in accessing public climate finance and mobilising private finance for investment in resilience. The UK financed the Jamaica Systemic Risk Assessment Tool (J-SRAT), developed by the University of Oxford, to support identification of systemic climate risks and 'climate hotspots', as part of our support for the Coalition on Climate Resilient Investment. This tool will help identify and prioritise interventions to enhance climate resilience, including those that can attract private finance. In July 2023, during the inaugural Jamaica-UK Strategic Dialogue, the UK announced up to £7m to leverage increased access to climate finance as part of Jamaica's pioneering role in the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance. Jamaica is playing a key role in exploring an innovative, country platform led approach, to simplifying and scaling up access to climate and nature finance and sharing lessons with the most climate vulnerable countries."

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, said, "The IMF is committed to supporting our members' economic and financial sector policies to meet their climate goals. Reforms supported by the Fund's RST program built on Jamaica's home-grown climate policies were prepared in close collaboration with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other international partners with the goal of catalyzing climate finance. We continue to work closely with these partners since the RST program approval to further catalyze climate finance."

Ricardo Mourinho Félix, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank, said, "Working closely together with other multilateral development banks and international partners is essential to mobilise the investment – from both public and private sources – that is needed to meet climate goals and to direct financing to where it is needed most. This partnership and the implementation of policy reforms supported by the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Facility will strengthen Jamaica's climate resilience and ability to adapt to the

effects of climate change. The EIB, as the EU's Climate Bank and a key partner in Global Gateway, is committed to accelerating sustainable low-carbon development which protects vulnerable communities and biodiversity under threat from climate change."

Ilan Goldfajn, President, Inter-American Development Bank Group, said, "Jamaica and the IDB have a longstanding and deep-rooted development partnership. We are delighted to have been so closely involved in the development and implementation of the IMF RSF-supported program for Jamaica, that will be critical to setting the stage for a more sustainable future. We are strengthening ongoing initiatives in this area with the Government of Jamaica, and we're happy to be launching the region's first dedicated project preparation facility for public private partnerships. These and other related initiatives will be crucial to help catalyze new and larger volumes of private financing for resilient and climate-smart investment."

"Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund, said "The GCF is committed to empowering and working with our Direct Access Entities and look forward to collaborating with the Government of Jamaica to develop the new Blue-Green Facility, a platform for crowding in additional resources from various financing partners to deliver transformative and impactful climate action in Jamaica."

[1] Team Europe consists of the European Union, EU Member States — including their implementing agencies and public development banks — as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Team Europe Initiatives ('TEIs') focus on identifying critical priorities that constrain development in a country or region, where a coordinated and coherent effort by 'Team Europe' would ensure results with a transformative impact.

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MOFPS COPS

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR AWARD

AT CABINET OFFICE AWARDS CEREMONY



(L-R) Hon. Audrey Sewell, OJ, CD, JP, Cabinet Secretary is all smiles with a beaming Carlene Smith, Deputy Financial Secretary, Corporate Planning and Administration Division at the MOFPS and Rory Stennet, Director, Customer Services, MOFPS after the Ministry copped the Website of the Year Award.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service emerged as the winner of the Website of the Year Award at the Office of the Cabinet Service Excellence Awards on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. The Ministry was also affirmed for winning the Front Office Décor Competition in 2022.



Carlene Smith (left), Deputy Financial Secretary, Corporate Planning and Administration Division in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service accepts the Website of the Year Award on behalf of the Ministry.



Hon. Robert Nesta Morgan, Information Minister delivers remarks during the awards ceremony.



Hon. Edmund Bartlett, CD, MP, Minister of Tourism, delivers the keynote address during the awards ceremony.

Efficiency in Service Delivery



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PIOJ 2023

DIALOGUE FOR DEVELOPMENT SERIES

The Planning Institute of Jamaica hosted its 2-day Dialogue for Development Series at the AC Hotels by Marriott between November 1 – 2, 2023 under the theme, **'Beyond 60: Evolving Innovating Inspiring'**. The dialogue included presentations from Dr. Heather Ricketts, Dr. Christine Clarke, Dr. Garrett-Dijan Fairclough, Dr. Adrian Coore and Dr. Peter Blair Henry among others.

Highlights





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REVENUE APPEALS DIVISION

**Ministry of Finance & the Public Service
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JAMAICA LAUNCHES FIRST EVER JAMAICAN DOLLAR \$-LINKED INSTRUMENT IN INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS



Press Release Dated: Monday, November 6, 2023

On November 3, 2023, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) issued the first-ever Jamaican Dollar (J\$) linked international bond in the amount of J\$46.6 billion, equivalent to USD 300 million.

The issuance, which was oversubscribed 1.4 times, consists of Senior Unsecured Notes due 2030 which are registered with the Securities Exchange Commission in the United States. The operation represents the inaugural J\$-linked transaction for the Government of Jamaica ("GOJ") in international capital markets and accomplishes the GOJ's objective of opening local currency debt issues to international investors. This will help to effectively reduce the GOJ's exposure to USD-denominated debt as interest and principal payments are linked to the value of the Jamaica dollar.

It should be noted that while the issue is denominated in J\$, debt service payments to bondholders will be in USD determined by the average of the prevailing J\$ exchange

rate over the 10 business days prior to each payment date. This effectively means that international investors in this bond take on Jamaican Dollar exchange rate risk.

This bond issuance is part of the second phase of a liability management operation, where the proceeds of this Jamaican dollar linked bond were used to buy back outstanding USD-denominated bonds. The international credit rating agency, Moody's, published an Issuer's Comment which stated that the GOJ's use of the J\$ linked Bond issuance proceeds to buy back outstanding USD-denominated bonds will reduce "the government's exposure to foreign-exchange risk, which is a credit positive". Moody's also stated that "over time, a continued reduction in the government's exposure to exchange-rate risk would address one of the sovereign's key credit challenges".

In the first phase of the transaction, Jamaica issued an invitation for Offers to Tender for Cash, its 7.625% Notes due 2025, 9.250% Notes due 2025, and 6.750% Notes due 2028. The Invitation commenced on Thursday, October 19, 2023, and expired Friday, October 27, 2023.

The landmark offering achieved several major milestones—it was the:

1. First ever J\$-linked transaction by the Government of Jamaica, representing the breaking of a new frontier into successful local currency deals in the international markets;
2. The international investor participation in the J\$ link bond was 93.5% of all participants with 6.5% coming from domestic investors. Globally, this represents the largest participation rate by international investors in a local currency issue during 2023;
3. This J\$ link bond represents the lowest coupon and yield for a local currency-linked global bond transaction in 2023 to date;
4. This is the first ever Jamaican buyback of USD debt associated with a J\$-linked new issuance, supporting the Government's effort at de-dollarizing the national debt; and
5. This J\$ linked bond issue marks Jamaica's first return to the international capital markets since 2019.

Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke, who led a Jamaican delegation on an investor

road show in London and New York connected with the issue, said "International bond investors investing in a J\$-linked bond, and accepting J\$ currency risk, would have been unimaginable only five years ago. This is an extremely significant transaction that opens new frontiers and offers new possibilities for Jamaica. The development represents a substantial policy dividend emanating from (i) Jamaica's substantially improved macro-economic fundamentals and (ii) from the deepening of monetary policy transparency, and the establishment of the pursuit of low, stable and predictable inflation, as the objective of monetary policy, through the law that established central bank independence. The GOJ's new ability to tap international investors for local currency linked debt broadens, deepens and diversifies the GOJ's funding sources while providing the opportunity, over time, of altering the currency mix of the national debt. This makes Jamaica more robust. In addition, the greater the proportion of our national debt that is denominated in, or linked to, Jamaican Dollars, the stronger, and more resilient Jamaica will be. This transaction, therefore, enhances Jamaica's resilience and paves the way for similar international issues in the future."



History coincidentally collided during the FHCCU/CSW Civil Servants of the Year and People's Choice Awards when four (4) impressive ladies were acknowledged as the first women to function in their respective leadership roles.

Beaming with pride are (L-R) Leodis Douglas, Chairman of the First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union (FHCCU), Hon. Audrey Sewell, OJ, CD, JP, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service, Techa Clarke-Griffiths, President of the Jamaica Civil Service Association and Roxann Linton, CEO, FHCCU. The awards ceremony was held at the Terra Nova All Suite Hotel on Friday, November 17, 2023.

DIALOGUE FOR

DEVELOPMENT

SERIES 2023

**"Beyond 60: Evolving...
Innovating...Inspiring"**

November 1 and 2

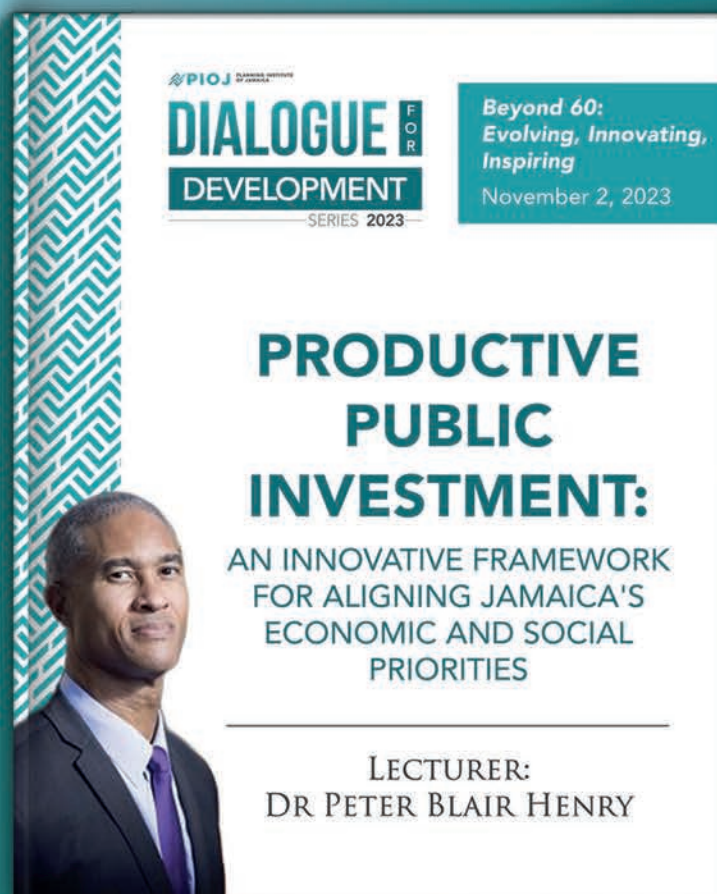


Economist Dr Peter Blair (second left), who delivered the Dialogue for Development 2023 Lecture encouraged high social return on public spending decisions to a public audience including the Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr Nigel Clarke (third left); Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Mr Zavia Mayne (far right); and Dr Wayne Henry (left), Director General, PIOJ.

The Dialogue for Development Series is a discussion forum, started in 2001.

The objectives of the dialogue are:

- To engage civil society in dialogue and encourage participation in matters relating to Jamaica's economic, social and environmental development
- To facilitate constructive exchange of information, ideas, research findings, best practices and lessons learnt
- To promote awareness of the PIOJ's strategic goals
- To use the information generated to guide policy advice and formulation.



**DOWNLOAD
THE LECTURE**



MOFPS HOSTS ANNUAL AUDIT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in collaboration with the Cabinet Office hosted its annual Audit Committees' Conference on Thursday, November 9, 2023, under the theme, **"Empower, Connect and Transform: Strengthening the role of the Audit Committees"**. The audit committees within the central government represent a critical element of the governance framework in overseeing many aspects of an entity's activities and performance. It is also geared at ensuring that they continue to add value, each year a conference is held to build awareness on topical issues.

Highlights



IDB AND GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA SIGN AGREEMENT TO INCREASE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS



(L-R) Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Anton Edmunds, General Manager of the Caribbean Country Department and Jamaica's Country Representative at the Inter-American Development Bank, sign a Project Preparation Facility Technical Assistance agreement which aims to generate a pipeline of investment projects in Jamaica. Looking on are (L-R) David Wan, Acting Managing Director, Development Bank of Jamaica, Arlene Williams, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation and Lorenzo Escondeur, Chief of Operations at IDB Jamaica look on. The signing took place at the MOFPS on Thursday, November 9, 2023.

Press Release Dated: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Jamaica have signed a Project Preparation Facility (PPF) Technical Assistance agreement to generate a pipeline of investment projects in Jamaica. The total project is valued at US\$1.25 million.

The technical assistance agreement aims to increase infrastructure investment, promote good practices in project preparation, and produce value for money for government and infrastructure-based service users. It will focus on creating environmentally sustainable, bankable, and fiscally responsible public-private partnership (PPP) projects. The initiative will be executed by the Development Bank of Jamaica in partnership with IDB.

The PPF will accomplish two objectives: first, it will select projects that will have a positive impact on society and are feasible from commercial, environmental, and technical perspectives. Second, it will deliver the best internationally available expertise to structure those contracts that have been prioritized so they can deliver value for money for government and service users.

Speaking on the initiative, Anton Edmunds, General Manager of the Caribbean Country Department and Jamaica's Country Representative at the IDB said, *"The implementation of strong PPP projects is key to strengthening Jamaica's economic and social development. The IDB is therefore pleased to continue and strengthen this partnership with the government to encourage the creation, structuring, and successful execution of impactful projects that will improve the country's infrastructure and services, and the lives of the Jamaican people."*

At the signing ceremony, Dr the Honourable Nigel Clarke, Jamaica's Minister of Finance and the Public Service said, *"The infrastructure needs of Jamaica far outstrip the financial and fiscal capacity of the government. In order to address these infrastructure needs, in some cases, we will have to use modalities other than government financing. One of the primary modalities will be through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). The Project Preparation Facility we launch today with US\$1.25m overall, includes US\$500k from the GOJ and US\$750k in grant funding from the IDB that will be set aside to assist in the development of PPP projects that can then be brought to market for private financing. We are grateful to IDB for partnering with us on this in full knowledge that this is still only the beginning."*

This initiative is part of the IDB Group's country strategy for Jamaica which highlights facilitating private-sector investment as a major priority and supports the government's objective of faster inclusive growth.



(L-R) David Wan, Acting Managing Director, Development Bank of Jamaica; Arlene Williams, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service; Anton Edmunds, General Manager of the Caribbean Country Department and Jamaica's Country Representative at the IDB; and Lorenzo Escondeur, Chief of Operations at IDB Jamaica engage in dialogue after the signing on Thursday, November 9, 2023.



REVENUE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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CIVIL SERVICE WEEK 2023

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service joins the Government of Jamaica in celebrating Civil Service Week 2023 from November 19–20, 2023 under the theme **'Raising the Bar: Strengthening the Bond'**. The week of activities is geared at recognising the work and worth of civil servants in central government and the country as a whole.

Highlights



Beaming Civil Servants of the Year awardees, Christine Rowe (3rd left), Secretary at the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs emerged the winner of the Technical Support Category, Ruth McGrowder (2nd right), Senior Case Officer at the Administrator General's Department copped the award in the Mid-Managerial Category and Opal Bryan (3rd right), Corporate Planner, Administrator General's Department is the People's Choice and the Managerial Category awardee. Photographed with the awardees are Techa Clarke-Griffiths (left), President of the Jamaica Civil Service Association, Leodis Douglas (2nd left), Chairman of the First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union (FHCCU) and Roxann Linton, CEO, FHCCU. The Civil Servant of the Year & People's Choice Awards was held on Friday, November 17, 2023, at Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel.



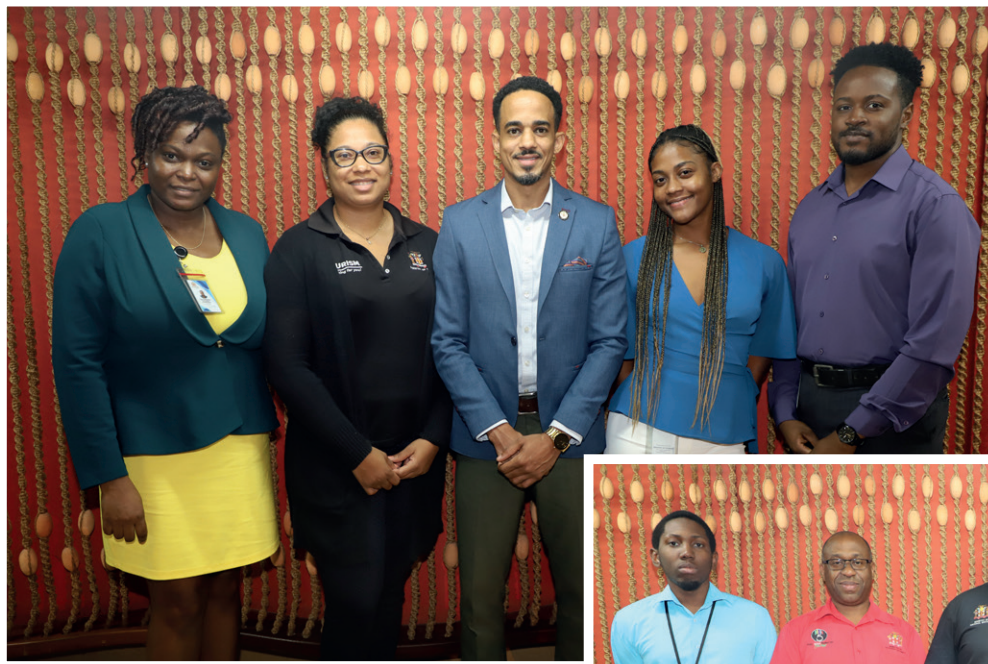
CSW Church Service

Civil Service Week 2023 kicked off with a vibrant church service at the Fellowship Tabernacle Church on Sunday, November 19, 2023.



CSW Quiz Competition

Three teams comprising the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of National Security and the Office of the Services Commission competed for the coveted Civil Service Week MDA Quiz Competition title. The Ministry of Tourism copped the award after reigning victorious in the second and final round of the competition.



The Ministry of Tourism emerged as the winner of the Civil Service Week MDA Competition



Ministry of National Security Quiz Team



Office of the Services Commission Quiz Team

CSW After Work Lyme

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service hosted its annual Civil Service Week After-Work Lyme and Zoom Party as part of activities celebrating the worth and work of civil servants on Friday, November 24, 2023.



PUBLIC FORUM URGES LEADERS IN CIVIL SERVICE TO COACH AND MENTOR NEW TALENT



(L-R) Debbie Bissoon, Master of Ceremonies of the Civil Service Week Public Forum, Prudence James-Townsend, Director, Business Development and Communication, MIND, Roxann Linton, CEO, First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union and Techa Clarke-Griffiths, President of the Jamaica Civil Service Association are all smiles after the Civil Service Week Public Forum at AC Hotels by Marriott on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

Press Release Dated: Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Civil servants in leadership roles across central government are being urged to effectively engage in coaching and mentoring employees within the public service so they too can be effective leaders. The call came during the Civil Service Week Public Forum held at the AC Hotel by Marriott on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

The forum which is held annually as part of activities for Civil Service Week, is geared at highlighting to participants the value and work of the public sector, promoting and strengthening the current public and private sector partnerships while re-energising and mobilising public servants toward a brighter Jamaica. It was hosted under the theme, ***“Raising the Bar: Strengthening the Bond”***.

Dr Taneisha Ingleton, Managing Director, HEART/NSTA Trust during her presentation urged public sector leaders to prioritise meaningful supervision in the workplace.

“Oftentimes, in the workplace, we speak about supervision and in raising the bar that is something we need to focus on because if we’re going to raise the bar we have to do some mentorship and some coaching of the individuals that are coming up behind us,” she explained.

She further encouraged civil servants to find a balance in their professional and personal lives while also executing their duties not just as individuals but as architects of a brighter future for Jamaica.



Dr. Taneisha Ingleton, Managing Director at HEART/NSTA during her call for leaders in civil service to coach and mentor new talent at the Civil Service Week Public Forum at AC Hotels by Marriott in Kingston on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

Mrs. Prudence James-Townsend, Director of Business Development and Communication at the Management Institute for National Development (MIND) implored civil servants to make use of their productive years in the public sector by championing service excellence.

“Service excellence is an experience and it’s a culture... it’s a mindset shift. This sort of transition and raising the bar is big people’s business. It is motivation but it is also discipline- to get there. It speaks about our need to enhance our competencies that include our performance competencies and our people engagement,” she noted.

Ms. Roxann Linton, CEO of the First Heritage Corporate Credit Union encouraged civil servants to continue raising the bar while dwelling on the possibilities.

“When you think about what the quality of your mind needs to be if you are really going to be raising the bar it has to be one about possibility... because when you think about possibilities it allows us to embrace change, uncertainty and it allows us to look for the beauty in the ordinary,” the history-making CEO highlighted.

Civil Service Week 2023 is being observed from Sunday, November 19, 2023, and will conclude on Saturday, November 25, 2023, with all-island church services. The week of activities is geared at recognising the work and worth of civil servants who deliver excellent service across the central government and to the country as a whole.

Remembering DFS Carlene O'Connor

MARCH 26, 1965- NOVEMBER 29, 2023

On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service hosted a memorial service for the late Carlene O'Connor, Deputy Financial Secretary of the Public Enterprise Division. DFS O'Connor started at the MOFPS in August 1994 as a Financial Analyst.

During her twenty-nine-year engagement with the Ministry with responsibility for finance, DFS O'Connor moved up the ranks from the classification of NPS. 4 which at the time was Natural and Physical Sciences to Chief Technical Director in the capacity of deputy financial

secretary of the public enterprise division, demonstrating that striving for excellence in the execution of your job can lead to recognition and reward.

Among DFS O'Connor's many achievements, while with the Ministry was her contribution to the development of policies around facilitating improved governance and financial management of public bodies. She was integral to the realisation of the Public Bodies and Accountability Act and represented a knowledge bank on the public bodies' legislation.

MEMORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Memories with DFS Carlene O'Connor





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THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

Hope
Blake



Meet Hope Blake, Deputy Financial Secretary in the Public Expenditure and Policy Coordination Division at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. DFS Blake oversees six units, the Accounting and Financial Policy Branch, Asset Management and Disposal Branch, Asset Management Policy Branch, Internal Audit Directorate, Office of the Public Procurement Policy Branch and the Public Sector Enterprise Risk Management Branch. She has been in the public sector for over 29 years.

Here are some things about her.

1. If you could change something about Jamaica what would it be? Why?

I would change the high level of poverty. I believe poverty is a major contributor to the crime rate in Jamaica and a poverty reduction would lead to a better standard of living and a reduction in crime.

2. What is your favourite way to spend a day off?

My favourite way to spend a day off is by relaxing at home, watching comedy and game shows or relaxing on the beach.

3. If money were no object what would you do?

If money were no object, I would provide funding for young persons to get higher education and ensure that the less fortunate are properly fed each day.

4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

My favourite thing about my job is relating to staff members (although it is sometimes also the most challenging aspect of the job).

5. Top 3 lessons you would teach your younger self:

- Rely more on God in every aspect of your life and worry less; He will work things out.
- Spend more time building relationships than trying to acquire material things.
- Pursue the things for which you are passionate as that's what brings satisfaction.

MINISTRY MATTERS



VICE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH KOREA PAYS COURTESY CALL TO THE MOFPS

Oh Youngju (right), Vice Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and her delegation paid a courtesy call to Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

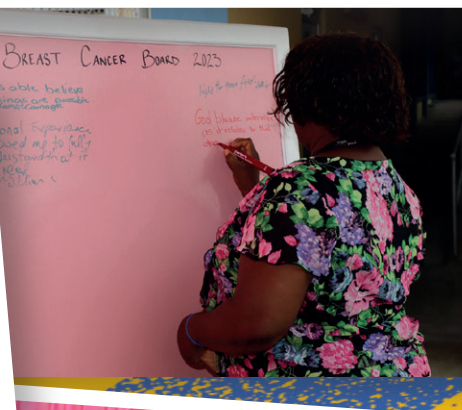


UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES PAY COURTESY CALL TO THE MOFPS

Dennis Zulu (right), United Nations Resident Coordinator and his delegation paid a courtesy call to Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service on Friday, December 15, 2023.

MOFPS

Pinktober Highlights





FINANCE MATTERS

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's flagship programme, Finance Matters, is a current affairs programme that is set to demystify the economic and fiscal policies and initiatives implemented by the Government to empower Jamaicans as we chart a path to Jamaica's economic prosperity. The feature is produced by the MOFPS and is broadcast on all local TV channels.



► **EPISODE 1**
New Loan Offerings
Nickeisha Walsh



► **EPISODE 2**
Clampdown on Counterfeit Goods
Crantson Morgan



► **EPISODE 3**
New Banknotes
Natalie Haynes



► **EPISODE 4**
BIGEE Programme
Christopher Brown



► **EPISODE 5**
National Natural Disaster Reserve Fund
Terron Francis



► **EPISODE 6**
Jamaica Social Stock Exchange
Julian Mair



► **EPISODE 7**
Customer Service Delivery
Rory Stennett



► **EPISODE 8**
Interviews with Exhibitors At Your Service Expo Highlights



► **EPISODE 9**
Scholarships
Collette Cummings-McCausland

► **EPISODE 10**
Season Recap

MOFPS AND UCC HOST INVESTMENT FORUM

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in collaboration with the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) hosted an Investment Forum under the theme, **‘Generating Wealth For You, Country and Tomorrow’** on Friday, November 24, 2023.



PXPC HOST FIRST CIVIL SERVICE AUCTION IN OVER TEN YEARS

The Public Expenditure Policy Coordination (PXPC) Division through its Asset Management and Disposal Services Branch (AMDS) hosted an Auction for Civil Servants on November 3, 2023. This initiative was an important one as the Group had not benefitted from an auction in over ten (10) years. The auction allowed officers at all levels within the public service to have direct access to purchase motor vehicles and other assets that were withdrawn from operational use across GOJ Entities.

Additionally, due to demand and to allow for parity, officers were restricted to the purchase of only one (1) vehicle and multiple miscellaneous assets. The process to participate was simplified as the decision was taken to remove the requirement of registering with Jamaica Customs Agency to ascertain a Bidder's Card. To encourage participation, the officers were asked to present their work ID as a means of verification and their TRN number.



Scores of civil servants engage in the bidding exercise during the Asset Management and Disposal Services Civil Service Auction at 1 Shalimar Avenue in Kingston on Friday, November 3, 2023.

The Auction met its objective as over one hundred and twenty-six (126) officers from across thirty-seven (37) GOJ entities participated in the Auction and acquired for themselves motor vehicles, office furniture and domestic furniture. The initiative yielded the benefits to the intended target audience as the officers were pleased with the offerings of motor vehicles. A Big Thank you to The Asset Management and Disposal Services Team, Colleagues from PXPC and all participants on the day.



Customer Service APPRECIATION DAY

The MOFPS recognised Customer Service Appreciation Day on Thursday, December 14, 2023. On the day, visiting customers at the Ministry's headquarters were engaged in different activities.



A vibrant still life photograph of fresh fruits and vegetables. In the foreground, there are several bright orange carrots, a bunch of yellow bananas, and several red tomatoes. Behind them, a wicker basket is filled with various greens, including leafy lettuce and spinach. To the left of the basket is a whole pineapple. To the right, there are more vegetables, including a red bell pepper, a head of broccoli, and a bunch of purple beets. The entire arrangement is set on a rustic wooden surface, with a dark wooden background. The image is framed by a white border, which is itself set against a yellow background.



End of Year Celebration

The black and gold themed End of Year Celebrations party for MOFPS staff was held at the Jamaica Conference on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

