

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

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FINANCE MINISTER UPDATES THE NATION ON THE STATE OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMY

MOVEMENT OF SPECIFIC PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES ALONG THEIR SUBSTANTIVE SALARY BANDS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2025

MOFPS NATIONAL BUDGET SCHOOL TOUR



Prepared by the Corporate Communication and Public Relations Branch

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Editorial

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) remains committed to driving sound socio-economic and financial policies while also transforming the public service. As we enter the second quarter of the financial year the MOFPS is steadfast in its mission to stimulate economic growth and boost productivity. This has been expressed through the critical updates provided by the Minister of Finance and the Public Service on the state of Jamaica's economy and the recent reduction in the Bank of Jamaica's policy interest rate.

The Ministry's commitment to engaging Jamaicans in the budget conversation was evident through the launch of the National Budget Public Education Campaign. This campaign saw the third successful staging of the 2025/2026 National Budget Secondary School tour which targeted thirteen (13) schools in Clarendon and Kingston. This initiative provided students with the opportunity to learn about the national budget, the role and function of the MOFPS and the importance of debt management. Additionally, the MOFPS continues to foster meaningful relations with the Republic of Cuba through the Cuba-Jamaica Bilateral Scholarship, which saw fourteen (14) scholarships being awarded to gualified Jamaicans. Through this programme, Jamaican students are given the opportunity to pursue higher education and ultimately contribute to nation building.

In this edition of the **MOFPS Insider**, we highlight the Office of Public Procurement Policy and the Inter-American Development Bank's study tour visit that hosted Caribbean partners. We also highlight the Ministry's contribution to social and community development through its Read Across Jamaica Day initiative.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS









STATEMENT ON THE MOVEMENT OF SPECIFIC PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES ALONG THEIR SUBSTANTIVE SALARY BANDS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2025

3 MOFPS NATIONAL BUDGET SCHOOL TOUR TAKES CENTER STAGE AT CLARENDON-BASED SCHOOLS

13 RESPONSE TO JTA'S MEMO REGARDING PAYMENT OF INCREMENTS

- **15** FINANCE MINISTER UPDATES THE NATION ON THE STATE OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMY
- 17 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR – FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (FID)
- **19** CUBA-JAMAICA BILATERAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME AWARD CEREMONY
- **21** JAMAICA CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION MARKS 106 YEARS
- 21 PENSION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA HOSTS ANNUAL LUNCHEON
- **22** THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

23 MINISTRY MATTERS

STATEMENT ON THE MOVEMENT OF SPECIFIC **PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES** ALONG THEIR SUBSTANTIVE SALARY BANDS EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2025



Press Release Dated: Monday, April 7, 2025.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU) signed a Supplementary Agreement on September 12, 2024. Among the matters agreed in this Agreement is the movement of specific public sector employees along their substantive salary bands effective April 1, 2025.

The details regarding the implementation of the movement of employees along their substantive salary bands effective April 1, 2025, are contained in Ministry of Finance and the Public Service Circular No. 3, dated April 1, 2025, "Advancement Along Substantive Salary Bands effective April 1, 2025." Circular No. 3, dated April 1, 2025, indicates that payment, in respect of the Advancement Along Substantive Salary Bands effective April 1, 2025, will commence during the first quarter of fiscal year 2025/26.

Ministries, Departments and Agencies will need to establish the points to which individual employees move, calculate the additional funds required to make the payments and submit their funding requests to the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to facilitate the disbursement of those funds.

There is no agreement with any group for the retroactive payment of increments in respect of the three-year period of implementation of the compensation restructure.

The Agreement with the JCTU applies, in this instance, to other public sector bargaining units where eligible.

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MOFPS NATIONAL BUDGET SCHOOL TOUR

TAKES CENTER STAGE AT CLARENDON-BASED SCHOOLS



Hon. Fayval Williams, MP (4th left), Minister of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS), Senator, Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon (4th right), Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information (MOESYI), Barrington Richardson, (3rd right), Regional Director, Region 7, MOESYI and Denavon Hayles (3rd left), Vice-Principal of Glenmuir High School peruse the Citizens' Guide to the Budget with students from Glenmuir and Denbigh High Schools during the launch of the MOFPS 2025/2026 National Budget Secondary School Tour at Glenmuir High School on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Press Release Dated: Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

The third staging of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's (MOFPS) National Budget Secondary School Tour is set to engage several schools in the parish of Clarendon. The Ministry rolled out this leg of the school tour with a launch at Glenmuir High School which included students from Denbigh High School on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. The tour, which forms part of the Ministry's National Budget Public Education Campaign, is geared at sensitising secondary school students about the 2025/2026 Central Government Budget presented by the Minister of Finance and the Public Service during the budget debates.





The launch sets in motion a series of thirteen workshops that will benefit students in the parish of Clarendon as well as a Kingstonbased school.

Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service in her remarks underscored the Ministry's commitment to getting students involved in the national budget.

The Minister indicated that "We remain committed to ensuring that our citizens, including our students, understand the budget process, the figures in the budget and that they are keenly aware of the spending and also what areas are supported by the budget. This annual tour has my full endorsement and support and I look forward to receiving feedback from the students".

Meanwhile, Senator Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon, Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information said, **"I am so happy that our students are able to participate in the Budget Tour. The** 2025/26 Citizens' Guide to the Budget is a wonderful publication that breaks down the plans for the country and how they impact our students and their families. It is important that our children begin engaging with the budget in high school as a critical component of our thrust to reintroduce civics and to give them the tools to better understand government policy".

Denavon Hayles, Vice Principal of Glenmuir High School, highlighted that his students will have an opportunity to learn more about the budget process through the Citizens' Guide to the Budget that was utilised during the workshop.

"For the students here at Glenmuir, the Citizen's Guide that was distributed with the information on how the budget is broken down and its process will enable them to pay keen attention to actual budgeting and understand that the budget is very important, not just for the country but also for individuals on a whole, so I think the tour can enhance that," noted Hayles.



4

Also present at the launch was Annett Daley, Principal of Denbigh High who mentioned that the presentation was well received by her students.

"Financial literacy is extremely important, especially for students, because sometimes when they are listening to the budget debate, they are not clear but by coming into schools and making it simple as the presenters have done, it is extremely important for the students. They are now understanding how the budget is financed and how debt is managed," explained Daley.

In the meantime, Laurel Williams, Head Girl of Glenmuir High said, "I believe these presentations have impacted us simply because, truly, the national budget is everybody's business and the decisions that our Ministry of Finance makes directly impacts us, for example the allocation of funds given to our schools". Fearona McLean, Head Girl, Denbigh High School, also stated, "My experience here was very insightful. I was very intrigued by the various speakers that were here including our Finance Minister. She really opened my eyes and educated me on the various things that are within the budget and the financial aspects of the country," she highlighted.

The school tour is scheduled to conclude on Friday, May 2, 2025 and will make stops at Central High, Foga Road High, Bustamante High, Vere Technical High, Kemps Hill High, Garvey Maceo High, Clarendon College, Thompson Town High, Lennon High, Vauxhall High and Alphansus Davis High.

The topics that will be explored during the tour include a breakdown of the national budget for this fiscal year, understanding budget terms, where the money comes from to fund the budget and how funds are allocated. The presentations will be conducted by staff from the Ministry's Corporate Communication and Public Relations Branch, the Public Expenditure Division and the Economic Management Division.

GLENMUIR AND DENBIGH HIGH SCHOOLS



A student from Glenmuir High School answers a question posed by Carolyn Campbell, Production Unit Head of the Public Expenditure Division at the MOFPS during the launch of the tour.



Students from Denbigh High School are immersed in the Citizen's Guide to the Budget during the Ministry's presentation on the national budget.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



A Central High student performs a jingle about the national budget during the Ministry's third stop on the school tour on Thursday, April 10, 2025.



Students from Central High listen attentively as representatives from the MOFPS break down the parts of the budget process.

FOGA ROAD HIGH SCHOOL

6



Students from Foga Road High engaged in a game of Chinese telephone during the Ministry's fourth stop on the National Budget Secondary School Tour on Tuesday, April 10, 2025.



A student from Foga Road High keenly completes the puzzle activity in the Citizen's Guide to the Budget.



BUSTAMANTE HIGH SCHOOL



Cheryl Smith, Investor Relation and Communications Manager in the Debt Management Branch at the MOFPS explains to students of Bustamante High the importance of managing the country's debt during the fifth stop on the school tour on Friday, April 11, 2025.



Students of Bustamante High volunteer to do a dramatisation activity on the budget cycle and the importance of the national budget.

VERE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

7



A student of Vere Technical High attentively completes a puzzle activity enclosed in the Citizen's Guide to the Budget booklet during the Ministry's sixth stop on the National Budget Secondary School Tour on Friday, April 11, 2025.



These beaming young ladies of Vere Technical High pause for a photo opportunity during the school tour.



KEMPS HILL HIGH SCHOOL



Students from Kemps Hill High School engage with Shakiel Rochester Shorter, Director, Corporate Communication and Public Relations at the MOFPS during the Ministry's seventh stop on the National Budget Secondary School Tour on Wednesday, April 15, 2025.



Students of Kemps Hill peruse the Citizens' Guide to the Budget during the presentations about the national budget.

GARVEY MACEO HIGH SCHOOL

8



Carolyn Campbell, Production Unit Head in the Public Expenditure Division at the MOFPS, breaks down the budget cycle to students of Garvey Maceo High during the eighth stop on the Ministry's school tour on Monday, April 28, 2025.

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A student of Garvey Maceo High is all smiles following the Ministry's presentation to students about the national budget.

CLARENDON COLLEGE



Terron Francis, Chief Fiscal Economist at the MOFPS shares a light moment with students of his alma mater, Clarendon College, during the Ministry's ninth stop on the school tour on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.



Three students of Clarendon College perform a skit for their peers about the importance of debt management following the Ministry's presentation to students.

THOMPSON TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

9



Students of Thompson Town High listen attentively as Kerry-Ann Jackson, Senior Director, Cash Management Unit at the MOFPS explains the budget process during the tenth stop on the school tour on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.



A Thompson Town High student freestyles a song about the national budget following the Ministry's presentation to students.



LENNON HIGH SCHOOL



During the Ministry's presentation, students of Lennon High follow along using the Citizen's Guide to the Budget during the eleventh stop on the National Budget Secondary School Tour on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.



A student of Lennon High participates in an activity following a presentation by Shakiel Rochester Shorter, Director, Corporate Communication and Public Relations during the school tour.

VAUXHALL HIGH SCHOOL

10



Lisa Bent Dover, Budget Analyst in the Public Expenditure Division at the MOFPS, details the national budget cycle to students of Vauxhall High during the twelfth stop on the National Budget Secondary School Tour on Thursday, May 1, 2025.



A Vauxhall High student performs a dub poem on the importance of debt management following the Ministry's presentation.



ALPHANSUS DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL



Students of Alphansus Davis High School are all ears as Carolyn Campbell, Production Unit Head in the Public Expenditure Division at the MOFPS explains budget terms during the final stop on the National Budget Secondary School Tour on Friday, May, 2, 2025.



Students of Alphansus Davis High soaking in all the presentations done by the Ministry's representatives during the school tour.



11





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RESPONSE TO JTA'S MEMO REGARDING PAYMENT OF INCREMENTS



Press Release Dated: Thursday, April 24, 2025.

A Jamaica Teachers Association Memorandum dated April 23, 2025 to its membership from the Secretary General, Mark Nicely, stated that the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service had outlined that payments for the increments should be made during the first quarter of the 2025-2026 Financial Year.

Given that commitment, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service finds it incredulous that the leadership of the Jamaica Teachers Association should at the same time indicate to its membership an April timeline for payment that was not agreed, especially given the need for costings to be determined to inform payments. The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service reiterates its commitment to the payment of increments negotiated through the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions.







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FINANCE MINISTER UPDATES THE NATION ON THE STATE OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMY



Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service provided an update on the state of Jamaica's economy during a Post Cabinet Press Briefing held at the Office of the Prime Minister on Thursday, May 22, 2025. She outlined that the Bank of Jamaica's Monetary Policy Committee unanimously agreed to lower the policy rate by 25 basis points from 6.00 per cent to 5.75 per cent per annum and preserve relative stability in the foreign exchange market.





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APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF TECHNICAL DIRECTOR – FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (FID)

Press Release Dated: Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

The Minister of Finance and the Public Service is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Dennis Chung as Chief Technical Director of the Financial Investigations Division (FID), effective June 2, 2025.

The recruitment/appointment process was managed by the Office of the Services Commissions.

Mr. Chung brings over 35 years of extensive experience in accounting and financial management, having served in both the public and private sectors. He is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Accounting, both from the University of the West Indies.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Chung has held several senior roles, including Financial Controller in various industries and as a consultant. Notably, he served as Project Manager – Divestment Team and Head of Legacy Operations – Divestment Team at Air Jamaica Limited.

From 2018 to 2022, he led Supreme Ventures Services Limited as Chief Executive Officer. Since November 2022, he has served as General Secretary of the Jamaica Football Federation.

Mr. Chung has also held directorships at several prestigious institutions, including the Bank of Jamaica, First Global Financial Services and the Betting, Gaming & Lotteries Commission.

Currently, he serves on the boards of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Wigton Windfarm Limited and GK Capital Management Limited, all of which he will demit prior to his start date on June 2, 2025. Mr. Chung is also a Justice of the Peace.



With a strong foundation in accounting, corporate governance, strategic management, and transformational leadership, Mr. Chung is wellpositioned to lead the FID.

His mandate will include advancing the Division's efforts to combat financial crimes, overseeing the implementation of operational policies and systems aligned with the FID Act, and strengthening asset recovery initiatives in accordance with the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

This appointment follows the departure of Mr. Selvin Hay, who demitted office in July 2024 upon the completion of his contract.

Sincere gratitude is extended to Mr. Hay for his exemplary service and leadership. The acting tenure of Mr. Ordinor Tucker, who has served in the interim, will conclude on June 1, 2025. Gratitude is also extended to Mr. Tucker for anchoring the FID during this transitional period.



HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON COLLABORATION FOR IMPROVED DATA AND STATISTICS FOR INFORMED DECISION- MAKING

Highlights

STATIN and UNSD recently held a workshop as part of the "Supporting informed decision- making through the DATA for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) initiative (or 'DATAS')". This initiative seeks to strengthen the capacities of national statistical offices (NSOs) and national partners to produce and disseminate better and more timely data and statistics to inform policies in an integrated manner and monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development goals through support for data governance, production, dissemination, innovation and SIDS to SIDS collaboration.









Cuba-Jamaica

BILATERAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME AWARD CEREMONY

Representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's Strategic Workforce Planning and Improvement Branch attended the Cuba-Jamaica Bilateral Scholarship Programme Award Ceremony at the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Kingston on Wednesday, May 28, 2025. The ceremony marked the awarding of fourteen (14) scholarships to qualified Jamaicans who are interested in pursuing tertiary studies in Cuba for the 2025-2026 academic year.





JAMAICA CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION Marks 106 Years



The Jamaica Civil Service Association held its 106th Annual General Meeting under the theme, "106 Years of Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, and Driving Transformative Change for Quality Public Services" at the O'Neil W. Grant Auditorium on Thursday, May 29, 2025. State Minister, the Hon. Zavia Mayne, MP, while delivering remarks at the event congratulated the organisation for 106 years of advocacy to public sector workers.



PENSION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA HOSTS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Pension Industry Association of Jamaica hosted its annual luncheon on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, while delivering the keynote address, underscored that efforts are being made to review the proposal to finance auto enrolling systems that will automatically enroll eligible employees into pension plans while maintaining their option to withdraw.





21



THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

Mark Davis

Meet Mark Davis, Acting Principal Director, Corporate Management andEstablishment Branch in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. Mr. Davis has been employed to the public service for over **thirteen (13)** years.

(In)sider

HERE ARE SOME THINGS ABOUT HIM:

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

If I could change one thing about Jamaica, it would be to cultivate a deeper and more consistent sense of love and unity among our people. As Jamaicans, we are known globally for our warmth, resilience, and rich culture, but I believe we can do more to demonstrate those qualities in our daily interactions both personally and professionally. I envision a society where collaboration, respect, and genuine care for each other are not just ideals but lived realities.

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

My ideal day off is one that allows me to relax, quiet my mind and reconnect with nature, with myself and with the people I love. I find great peace in spending time outdoors, whether it's enjoying a garden space, listening to the birds, or simply breathing in fresh air. I also treasure moments with my parents and pets—those interactions keep me grounded and remind me of what truly matters.

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

If money were no object, I would focus my energy and resources on eradicating poverty and ensuring universal access to quality education at all levels. Poverty is more than a lack of income, it's a barrier to opportunity, dignity, and selfactualisation. By eliminating it, we create the foundation for a more equitable society. I believe everyone, regardless of background or circumstance, should have access to lifelong learning from early childhood to tertiary and beyond.

4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

What I love most about my job is the dynamic and people-centered nature of the work. Every day brings new challenges, new problems to solve, and new opportunities to make a meaningful impact. I especially enjoy meeting and interacting with people across the public sector from frontline staff to senior leaders and helping them navigate complex organisational and staffing issues. It's incredibly fulfilling to know that the support I provide can lead to stronger institutions and better public service delivery. I also appreciate the broad exposure my role gives me; I get to engage with a wide range of sectors and disciplines, which keeps my work interesting, relevant and deeply rewarding.

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

- Be patient Everything unfolds in its own time. Growth, success and clarity don't happen overnight. Trust the process and allow yourself the grace to learn and evolve.
 - You don't need validation from anyone but yourself Your worth isn't defined by external approval. Learn to trust your inner voice and find confidence in who you are, not in how others perceive you.
 - Trust your instincts—everything will be okay. That quiet inner nudge is often wiser than you think. Believe in your ability to figure things out, even when the path is unclear. Things have a way of working out, even when they don't go according to plan.

22

MINISTRY MATTERS



Family members and staff at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service gathered in the Ministry's Courtyard to commemorate the life of Howard Duval on Thursday, April 3, 2025. Mr Duval was an employee in the Public Expenditure Division.



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READ ACROSS JAMAICA DAY



The MOFPS participated in Read Across Jamaica Day on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Staff from the Ministry visited the Allman Town Primary School and read to children across grades 1-6.



OPPP IN COLLABORATION WITH IDB HOSTS STUDY TOUR VISIT MOFPS TO JAMAICA

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, through the Office of Public Procurement Policy in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank hosted a study tour visit to Jamaica between May 15 and 16, 2025. The tour included Caribbean partners from Guyana, Trinidad, Belize and the Caribbean Development Bank.







MOFPS SENSITISES OPM STAFF ABOUT MINISTRY FUNCTIONS AT *Orientation Session*

Shakiel Rochester Shorter, Director Corporate Communication and Public Relations at the Ministry of Finance and Public Service (MOFPS) delivered an interactive presentation about the role and function of the MOFPS to new and transferred staff members at the Office of the Prime Minister on Monday, June 23, 2025.









26





PUBLIC AUCTION



27

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's Asset Management and Disposal Services Branch hosted its customary Public Auction Sale at 1 Shalimar Avenue on Friday, June 20, 2025.

(In)sider

Farmers' Market

THE MOFPS FARMERS' MARKET HAPPENS EVERY LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.









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Farmers' Market







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