



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

July 2023 || Volume 2 || Issue 03



MOFPS DEMOLISHES THEIR OPPONENTS

IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR
DEBATE COMPETITION

STEM
SCHOLARSHIPS

**MINISTRY
MATTERS**

MOFPS
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
TOUR

**'GET ON
BOARD'**



Prepared by the Corporate Communication
and Public Relations Branch

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EDITORIAL

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service is driven by service excellence as demonstrated by the recent win of the 2023 Public Sector Debate Competition. After losing in the opening round, team MOFPS returned to the competition as a wild card, to emerge winners. Moreover, the MOFPS stands resolute in informing and educating the Jamaican populace about the government's policy directives for building a more resilient Jamaica. This has been achieved through the Ministry's execution of the National Natural Disaster Risk Financing Policy (NNDRFP) Public Consultations geared at sensitising the public about the government's move to make Jamaica more resilient against natural disasters through a risk financing policy.

The Ministry has also ramped up its communication efforts through the launch of the 2023/2024 National Budget Secondary School Tour which saw ten (10) schools in the corporate area being sensitised about the national budget and the role and function of the MOFPS. Additionally, the MOFPS is committed to being transparent and accountable in its operations with the launch of the Public Bodies' Database of Prospective Directors. This database, allows suitable members of the public to apply to be among a pool of prospective candidates who may be selected to serve on public body boards once they meet the criteria.

In this edition of the **MOFPS Insider**, we highlight the GOJ's efforts to bolster Jamaica's Public-Private Partnerships as well as the efforts being made in the GCT Excise and Modernisation mission. Also, highlighted are the Ministry's contribution to social and community development through its Children in Charge Day and Read Across Jamaica Day initiatives.

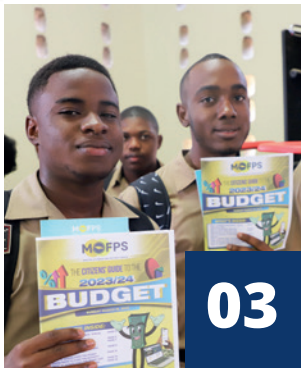
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MOFPS DEBATE TEAM-CHAMPIONS OF THE 2023 PUBLIC SECTOR DEBATE COMPETITION

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service emerged winners of the 2023 Public Sector Debate Competition defeating the quick-witted Jamaica Information Service (JIS) in the grand finals held at the Jamaica Conference Centre on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

The MOFPS copped prizes valued over \$1 million and the coveted winner's trophy. This includes a \$200,000 cash prize, a weekend for two (each) at Royalton Blue Waters Resort and gift certificates for an Appleton Estate Rum Tour.

DEBATE TEAM:

Pedroy Garvey, Othneil Gilbert, Diego Thomas, Xavier Hutchinson, Sherika Anderson Cole and Colleen Cohen

COACH: Rory Stennett

MOFPS JOURNEY:

- April 24, 2023-Round 1 (MOFPS VS PICA)
- May 4, 2023- Round 2 (MOFPS VS AGD)
- May 11, 2023- Quarter-Final (MOFPS VS Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade)
- May 18, 2023 - Semi-Final (MOFPS VS Victoria Jubilee Hospital)
- June 7, 2023- Grand Finals (MOFPS VS JIS)





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MOFPS LAUNCHES NATIONAL BUDGET SECONDARY SCHOOL TOUR



Hon. Nigel Clarke (3rd right), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) discusses the Citizens' Guide to the Budget with Hon. Fayval Williams (3rd left), MP, Minister of Education and Youth, Colleen Montague (right), Principal of Wolmer's Trust High School for Girls, Dwight Pennycooke (left), Principal of Wolmers' Boys, J'Vaughn Hyman (2nd left), Head Boy and Diamonique Brown (2nd right), Head Girl following the launch of MOFPS's 2023/2024 National Budget Secondary School Tour on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at Wolmer's Trust High School for Girls.

Press Release dated: Tuesday, April 18 2023.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) kicked off the 2023/24 National Budget Secondary School Tour at Wolmer's Trust High School for Girls on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

The inaugural session saw students and staff of Wolmer's Boys and Girls Schools benefiting from a deep dive into the government's expenditure for the financial year.

The launch also dissected the 2023/24 Citizens' Guide to the Budget and sets in motion a series of 10 workshops geared at sensitising secondary school students in the corporate area. The presentations likewise explored the role and functions of the Ministry.

Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, highlighted the Ministry's stride to ensure the national budget is easily understood among all Jamaicans.

"The National Budget Secondary School Tour is an initiative of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service to make the national budget more accessible to Jamaicans. It follows other similar initiatives such as the annual Citizens' Guide to the Budget," says Minister Clarke.

He further added, "Information is the lifeblood of a democracy. We hope to empower Jamaican citizens through the democratisation of budgetary information and by so doing strengthen the health and vibrancy of our country."

This grass root approach is a part of the Ministry's push to inform and engage young Jamaicans about things of national impact.

Meanwhile, Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Education and Youth commended the MOFPS for spearheading the initiative and implored students to take advantage of the information being shared.

"This was an awesome session, I am very impressed with the participation and the quality of questions coming from our students. I want to thank the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service for this initiative; to raise awareness about the national budget among our students," Minister Williams said.

She also emphasised, "All our children need to understand the national budget, what it means to them in their own lives and the lives of their communities as well, so I welcome and embrace this initiative."

In the meantime, Dwight Pennycooke, Principal of Wolmer's Boys, said this initiative is changing the understanding of the national budget.

"This is an excellent initiative geared at garnering understanding and the fact that the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service would have seen it fit to start with students, I think will be a game changer in terms of people understanding the national budget and how it impacts on their lives and their livelihood," he said.

Diamonique Brown, Head Girl for Wolmer's Girls, said, "The session was very informative, it tied in a lot of aspects of budget planning and aspects of our economy that a lot of persons might not be familiar with and it was really exciting to see the young girls and gentlemen answering the questions to the best of their abilities."

"As we're going into the workforce... In a few years this will be us so we need to understand the national budget... even if we're not necessarily going into finance, the budget and economy still affect everyone so it's important for all of us to know the different aspects," added Brown.

Over 250 students were present at the launch which included an outside broadcast on ZIP103 FM.

The school tour will make stops at St. Hugh's High School for Girls, Clan Carthy, Excelsior, Camperdown, Denham Town, St. George's College and Jamaica College. It will culminate on Friday, April 28, 2023, at Holy Childhood High.

The topics to be explored during the tour include understanding where the money comes from to fund the budget, parts of the national budget, how funds are allocated and Public Debt, among other areas.

The presentations will be conducted by members of the Ministry's Corporate Communication and Public Relations Branch and the Fiscal Policy Management Branch.

NATIONAL BUDGET SECONDARY SCHOOL TOUR



The team from the MOFPS are all smiles following the launch of the school tour.

Wolmers' Boys and Girls School



A student from Wolmer's Boys' High School asks a question during the launch of the school tour.

A student from Wolmer's Girls' High School poses a question to representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.



NATIONAL BUDGET SECONDARY SCHOOL TOUR

ST HUGH'S HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



A student from St. Hugh's High School for Girls asks about budgeting during the third stop on the school tour on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.



Minister Clarke snaps a selfie with ecstatic students from St. Hugh's High School.

CLAN CARTHY HIGH SCHOOL



Trevor Anderson, Principal Director of the Fiscal Management Branch, outlines to students of Clan Carthy what makes up the national budget during the fourth stop on the Ministry's National Budget Secondary School tour on Thursday, April 20, 2023.



Shelly-Ann Weeks, Director, Corporate Communication and Public Relations shares a light moment with students at Clan Carthy High.

EXCELSIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Trevor Anderson, Principal Director of the Fiscal Management Branch, presents a token to a student of Excelsior High for successfully answering a question during the fifth stop on the school tour on Friday, April 21, 2023.



Students of Excelsior High listen attentively to Shelly-Ann Weeks, Director, Corporate Communication and Public Relations as she speaks about the national budget.

NATIONAL BUDGET SECONDARY SCHOOL TOUR

CAMPERDOWN HIGH SCHOOL



Students of Camperdown High pause for a photo with the Citizens' Guide to the Budget in hand during the Ministry's sixth stop on the school tour on Monday, April 24, 2023.

Students of Camperdown High School read the Citizens' Guide to the Budget during the ministry's presentation on the national budget.

DENHAM TOWN HIGH SCHOOL



Trevor Anderson, Principal Director of the Fiscal Management Branch explains the budget process to students of Denham Town during the seventh stop on the school tour on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

A student from Denham Town High volunteers to read an excerpt from the Citizens' Guide to the Budget.

NATIONAL BUDGET SECONDARY SCHOOL TOUR

ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE



Shelly-Ann Weeks, Director of Corporate Communication and Public Relations is all smiles with students of St. George's College on the eighth stop on the school tour on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

Students of St. George's College take notes while representatives from the ministry deliver a presentation about the national budget.

JAMAICA COLLEGE



Shelly-Ann Weeks, Director of Corporate Communication and Public Relations engages with a student of Jamaica College on the ninth stop on the school tour on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Students of Jamaica College listen attentively as representatives from the ministry break down the role, function and importance of the national budget.

HOLY CHILDHOOD HIGH SCHOOL



A group of ecstatic students of Holy Childhood High could not contain their eagerness to participate in the Q&A segment during the ministry's final stop on its school tour on Friday, April 28, 2023.

Trevor Anderson, Principal Director of the Fiscal Management Branch presents a token to a student of Holy Childhood High for successfully answering a question.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service has streamlined our services around 5 pillars: a motivated workforce, efficiency in service delivery, technology-driven solutions, customer-focused policies, and evidence-based policy programs to create a clear road map that is driven by Service Excellence.



Motivated Workforce

Creating an environment that will foster increased productivity and staff engagement.




Technology-Driven

Cutting edge technologies buttressed by portability, scalability and accessibility.




Efficiency in Service Delivery

Building a culture that uses data as a critical element of an evidence-based approach to policy development.



Customer Service Focus

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service will hold itself accountable to meeting its customers' needs through service guarantees: quality, accessibility, convenience, responsiveness, and affordability – in short, the MOFPS at Your Service!



Evidence-Based Policies & Programmes

Making the operations, machinery and internal processes of the Ministry more efficient through automation.

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTER ON CENTURY ALUMINUM COMPANY'S ACQUISITION OF 55% INTEREST IN JAMALCO FROM NOBLE GROUP



Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service.

Press Release dated: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) notes the announcement from Century Aluminium Company ("Century") about its transaction with the Noble Group ("Noble") with respect to Noble's 55% interest in JAMALCO. The GOJ offers its non-objection to the transaction and welcomes Century as the new managing partner of JAMALCO. The GOJ looks forward to working with Century to maximise the value of JAMALCO for all stakeholders.

In November 2021 JAMALCO experienced a fire which engulfed the power plant, halting production at the plant for almost a year before partial production resumed on a single digester basis in August 2022. In order to restore the refinery to its rated capacity of 1.4 million tonnes a series of further investments, referred to as Project Restore, are required. With the transfer of Noble's share-ownership to Century, the necessary investments are expected to be made, in association with Clarendon Alumina Production ("CAP") to improve JAMALCO's operating efficiency and to restore the facility to a top place among the top two quartiles of the global ranking of alumina producers.

Furthermore, Century is aligned with the GOJ on the priority of transitioning JAMALCO from an unincorporated joint venture legal structure arrangement to a limited liability company structure. These efforts will therefore continue and are expected to gain increased momentum and achieve completion.

About Century Aluminium Company

Century Aluminium Company is a global producer of primary aluminium, operating smelters in the United States and Ireland. The company operates three aluminium smelters in the US, Hawesville and Sebres in Kentucky and Mount Holly in South Carolina, and another smelter, Grundartangi, in Iceland. These smelters produce standard grade and value-added primary aluminium products that are used in aerospace, automotive, building and construction, packaging and infrastructure industries.

The company is listed on the NASDAQ exchange, with approximately 45% of its shares held by global metals company, Glencore.

About JAMALCO

JAMALCO's competitive positioning derives from the consistent production of high-quality alumina, strategic geographic location in the Atlantic alumina market and an appropriate corporate culture.

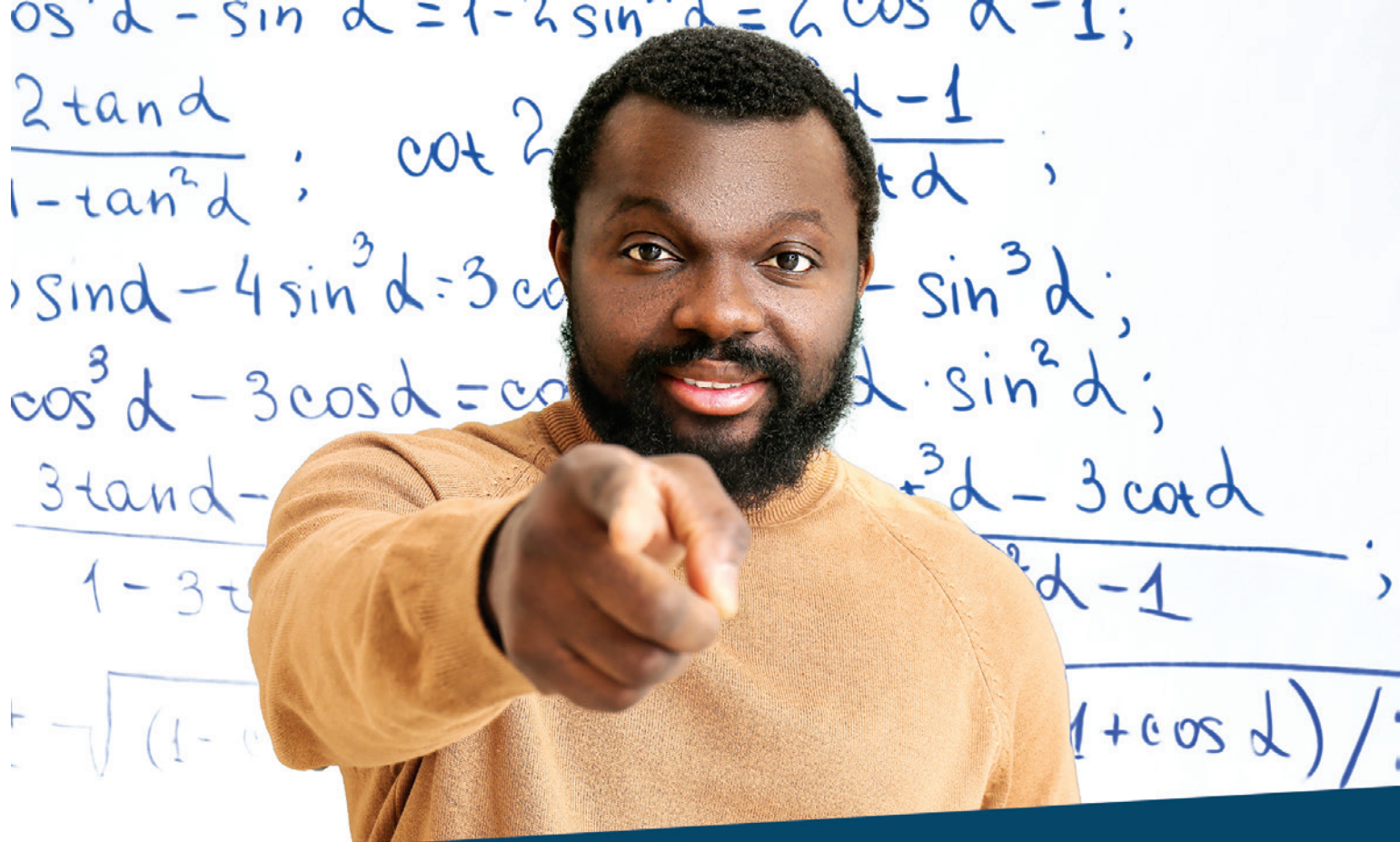
With the involvement of Century, an experienced operator in the industry, JAMALCO is expected to benefit from the know-how, technical and systems support, purchasing economies, etc. These are expected to yield improved efficiencies in its operation.

Structural Implications

JAMALCO is expected to continue to honour all existing employment contracts and terms and conditions of employment, including the collective labour agreements for both salaried and hourly employees and the existing compensation arrangements for contractors.

Century has been one of the largest customers of the JAMALCO refinery and alumina produced by JAMALCO has been used in all its smelters. The acquisition of the 55% ownership in JAMALCO is expected to assure Century of a predictable, long-term supply of high-quality alumina, allowing for efficiencies associated with vertical integration from bauxite to aluminium.





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Sign up for a STEM Scholarship today!

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Conditions apply.



Partnership between the MOFPS | SLB | MICO



SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

IFC JOINS THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA TO DISCUSS THE COUNTRY'S PPP PROJECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Press Release dated: Tuesday, May 2, 2023

High-level representatives from the International Finance Corporation (IFC)—a member of the World Bank Group (WBG)—participated in a symposium with the Government of Jamaica to discuss the country's Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) program, including projects in the urban transportation, roads, healthcare and water.

With opening remarks from the Minister of Finance and the Public Service of Jamaica, Dr. Nigel Clarke and the IFC Vice President for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Alfonso García Mora, the first day of the symposium included presentations by the Jamaican Government authorities and discussions on market perspectives, as well as sector-specific opportunities. The event will continue tomorrow with further conversations about projects and the next steps.

"This symposium is a crucial step towards advancing Jamaica's PPP agenda, and the Government of Jamaica looks forward to more fruitful discussions with key stakeholders, such as IFC, to drive growth and development in the country," said Minister Clarke.

"Jamaica is a priority country for IFC, and we are pleased to be a partner concerning PPPs, particularly as the Government has demonstrated enormous leadership in advancing this agenda," said García Mora in the context of his first visit to the Caribbean as IFC Regional Vice President.

Last year, during the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, Minister Clarke and IFC Managing Director Makhtar Diop signed a Financial Advisory Services Agreement for the development of the North Coast Highway Project, which has an investment value of approximately US\$600 million. As part of this engagement, IFC is committed to providing transaction

advisory services to the Government of Jamaica and structuring and implementing a competitive tender process to mobilize a private operator that will design, build, finance, and operate three brownfield roads.

As part of another PPP engagement, in 2016 IFC was the transaction advisor for the successful 25-year concession of the Norman Manley Airport in Kingston.



Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Alfonso García Mora, International Corporation Vice-President for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean pose for our lens.

In the last 10 years, IFC has invested US\$167 million in Jamaica to boost the role of the private sector and foster productivity, inclusion, and sustainability. The institution's current portfolio includes investments in the financial and technology sectors. On the advisory services and upstream side, IFC is working on ICT, financial inclusion, and agriculture in addition to the PPP work.

About IFC

IFC—a member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work in more than 100 countries, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in developing countries. In fiscal year 2022, IFC committed a record \$32.8 billion to private companies and financial institutions in developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity as economies grapple with the impacts of global compounding crises. For more information, visit www.ifc.org.



10th
**Jamaica Customs
Agency**
"A Decade of Excellence"

JAMAICA CUSTOMS AGENCY AWARDS STAKEHOLDERS IN 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



The Hon. Dr. Nigel Clarke, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, keynote speaker, highlighted the importance of the Jamaica Customs Agency to the overall development of Jamaica



Velma Ricketts Walker, CEO/Commissioner of the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA), delivered the welcome and opening remarks.



Selina Clarke-Graham, Deputy CEO (acting), for Operations, JCA, presents an award to Mark Williams, CEO, Kingston Wharves Limited. He is joined by Valrie Campbell, Director, Terminal Operations.



Pamella Wade-Fearon, Deputy Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, receives an award on behalf of the Ministry, for its technical assistance over the last decade.



Clive Coke, President, Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of Jamaica (CBFFAJ), receives an award on behalf of the Association, for its longstanding partnership in trade facilitation from Gina Philipps Black, Chair, JCA's Advisory Board.



Kimberley Stiff, Assistant Vice President at the Port Authority of Jamaica, and Shaun Cochrane, Port Manager at Port Handlers Limited, collect plaques on behalf of their respective organizations.

MOFPS HOSTS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL NATURAL DISASTER RISK FINANCING POLICY



Trevor Anderson (left), Principal Director of the Fiscal Management Branch in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) shares a panel with Evan Thompson (center) Principal Director, Meteorological Service of Jamaica and moderator, Shelly-Ann Weeks (right) Director, Corporate Communication and Public Relations during the Ministry's National Natural Disaster Risk Financing Policy Public Consultation at the Old Police Station in Clarendon on Monday, May, 15, 2023.

Press Release dated: Monday, May 8, 2023

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) is set to engage thousands of Jamaicans in a series of public consultation fora on the Government of Jamaica's (GOJ's) National Natural Disaster Risk Financing (NNDRF) Policy starting at the Old Police Station (50 Main Street) May Pen, Clarendon on Monday, May 15, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The NNDRF Policy is the GOJ's guide to disaster risk financing, aimed at minimising the fiscal impact of disasters on the national budget, the economy and society. It also serves to ultimately enhance the country's economic resilience to natural disasters.

The first of four sessions, which will give average Jamaicans an opportunity to voice their opinion, concerns and questions on the policy, will feature an outside broadcast on Irie FM and will include a live performance from recording artist, Agent Sasco.

Trevor Anderson, Principal Director of the Fiscal Policy Management Branch says the policy acts as an insurance coverage for Jamaica in the case of natural hazards including weather events and earthquakes.

He added, "The advent of this policy is a game changer for the National Budget, as the risk of significant slippages, arising from a natural disaster, has been mitigated through the use of financing instruments".

Anderson further noted that "Disasters such as Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, not only resulted in loss of lives and property, it also negatively impacted the fiscal accounts, resulting in a higher debt burden."

With such disasters at the forefront of the policy, it will serve as a tool to address deficiencies in how the budget responds to the impact of natural disasters as well as promote a risk-layering approach to Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) that facilitates access by the GOJ to one or several pools of resources based on the severity of the natural disaster.

In addition, to building financial and disaster risk resilience, the policy also addresses the budgeting process for disaster risk financing as well as building institutional capacity for disaster risk financing.

The ministry is set to host public consultation sessions at William Grant Park, Downtown Kingston on Wednesday,

May 17, 2023, with an outside broadcast on ZIP103 FM and in Sam Sharpe Square, St. James on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, with an outside broadcast on Mello FM and a performance from recording artist Laalee

Additionally, the public consultation sessions will culminate on Friday, May 26, 2023, in Mandella Park, Half Way Tree, St. Andrew with an outside broadcast on Edge 105 FM and a performance from recording artist Laalee. All sessions will commence from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This NNDRF Policy represents Jamaica's enhanced financial resilience with respect to addressing the aftermath of natural disasters.

Old Police Station, May Pen, Clarendon, May 15, 2023



William Grant Park, Downtown, Kingston, May 17, 2023



Sam Sharpe Square, Montego Bay, St. James, May 24, 2023



Mandela Park, Half Way Tree, Kingston, May 26, 2023



‘GET ON BOARD’

MOFPS LAUNCHES PUBLIC BODIES DATABASE OF PROSPECTIVE DIRECTORS



Hon. Nigel Clarke (4th left), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS), Camille Facey (3rd right), Chair of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) Corporate Governance Committee, Denzil Thorpe (2nd right), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Carlene O’ Connor (2nd left), Deputy Financial Secretary, Public Enterprises Division, MOFPS, John Mahfood (left), President of the Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Professor Trevor Munroe (4th right) and Professor Anthony Clayton (3rd left) both representing the Crime Monitoring and Oversight Committee and Nophia Morgan (right) Director, Public Body Board Secretariat, MOFPS, were all smiles following the launch of the MOFPS Public Bodies Database of Prospective Directors on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

Press Release dated: Thursday, May 18, 2023.

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is doubling down on its mandate to strengthen the governance and accountability system of public bodies

through the launch of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service’s (MOFPS) Public Bodies Database of Prospective Directors at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

The database will contain information on persons willing to serve on public body boards. This means a due diligence check would have determined that persons possess the requisite knowledge, skills and experience to be selected and appointed to a public body board.

Additionally, the database will facilitate greater probity, efficiency, and transparency, as well as an organised and structured approach to the process for nominating, selecting and appointing persons to the boards of Jamaica's public bodies.

Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public says the database is revolutionary and is the Government of Jamaica's commitment to public sector reform and good governance.

He further noted, "There will come a time when we say that the database is now ready and at that time persons will not be able to be appointed to the board of public bodies if they are not included prior to the time of appointment in the database."

In the meantime, Camille Facey, Chair of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) underscored the importance of the database and the impact it will have in making the selection process more efficient.

"It is in our interest that they [public bodies] be overseen by competent boards comprised of directors who are fit and proper and of the highest integrity with the requisite skill sets to add value to the organisations."

The database forms part of the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Regulations which affords an organised and structured approach to the process of nominating, selecting and appointing persons to the boards of Jamaica's public bodies.

During the launch, a demonstration of the portal was led by Nophia Morgan, Director of the Public Body Board Secretariat at the MOFPS.

The database is accessible to the public at mof.gov.jm.



Cherly James, Senior Director, Public Enterprises Division in the MOFPS delivers a rendition during the launch.

GET ON BOARD

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qualified Jamaicans to apply for and access
opportunities to serve as Directors on Public
Boards.



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DRIVEN BY SERVICE EXCELLENCE INTERNAL MEDIA LAUNCH

The MOFPS launched its Driven by Service Excellence internal media campaign on Monday, June 5, 2023. The launch revealed a wall mural with a strategic roadmap that will guide the transformation of the ministry for the next 5 years.



REFORM AND MODERNISATION OF GCT AND EXCISE IN JAMAICA – PHASE 2



The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in collaboration with the Tax Administration, Jamaica (TAJ) hosted high-level discussions with the heads of the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Irish Revenue between Monday, June 12, 2023, and Thursday, June 15, 2023. The 4-day mission represents phase-2 of the reform and modernisation of the GCT and Excise in Jamaica as phase-1 was previously executed in January 2023.

The mission commenced with a detailed presentation of a report which included, policy, legislative, administrative, cross-cutting issues and policy formulation, along with analysis and recommendations. There were also recommendations on improving the efficacy and equity of the appeals process and dissemination of appeal decisions. The team also focused on strategies to address motor vehicle compliance.

The last 2 days of the mission comprised workshops surrounding modern excise management practices, inter-agency cooperation and developing a real-time track and trace system for excise control. A new Excise Duty Act, developing a Risk Analysis Strategy for GCT including the use of new technologies and Tax Administration code, digital transformation and IT Governance structures among others, were also dissected.

The members of the mission were, Elena Bondarenko, David O'Sullivan, Philip Brennan, Gioia de Nelo and Silver Namunane from the World Bank, Thomas Ecker from OECD and Duncan Cleary, Michael Daly and Justin Walsh from the Irish Revenue.



1,250 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS



Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr Asburn Pinnock (left) President, Mico University College and Nikeisha Walsh (right) Executive Director, Students' Loan Bureau during the launch of the Government of Jamaica's STEM Scholarship Programme for math and science teachers at Courtyard by Marriott on Thursday, June 29, 2023.

Press Release dated: Thursday, June 29, 2023

The Government of Jamaica is providing 1,250 scholarships through The Mico University College for Jamaicans preparing to become a science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers under a \$2.5 billion-dollar Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Programme. The main aim of this programme, which runs over five years, is to produce qualified, technically proficient, work-ready STEM Teachers for the Jamaican education system.

The scholarship programme, which was launched on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Kingston, is a partnership between the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS), Students' Loan Bureau (SLB) and The Mico University College (MUC).

Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service announced the programme during his 2023/2024 National Budget presentation earlier this year. The recipients of the scholarship will fulfil the GOJ bonding criteria, which helps guarantee that they will teach in our public school system for a defined period.

While delivering his remarks at the launch, Minister Clarke said the STEM scholarship programme forms part of the Government's efforts to make Jamaica's workforce globally competitive.

"We are making this national investment in

math and science teachers as part of the drive to improve STEM education outcomes which is critical for the expansion of our growth and development opportunities. This all begins with having sufficient numbers of well-trained math and science teachers who are already in high demand. We, therefore, hope to increase the supply of math and science teachers through this scholarship initiative," said Minister Clarke.

Dr. Asburn Pinnock, President of The MUC mentioned that this programme will give the education system a big boost in supporting teacher education excellence through the provision of financial resources to teachers to complete their studies.

"One of the greatest hindrances for the movement is lack of resources and tuition and so I can see that this is going to be a game changer for parents, guardians and those who support our students as they move towards satisfying their real-life dream," he highlighted.

Meanwhile, Nikeisha Walsh, Executive Director of the SLB revealed that SLB will not only facilitate payments of scholarships but will be providing additional benefits through their own STEM programme.

"These students can benefit from a reduced interest rate of 6% per annum and are also eligible for good standing benefits of an additional 2% reduction in interest once they maintain a GPA of 2.5 and greater as well as current status during repayment."

Further information about the programme can be found by contacting Mico or on the Ministry's website (www.mof.gov.jm).



GOJ GETS 4 HUNDRED MILLION YEN FROM THE GOJP FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLES- FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023



Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and Public Service, signs a MOU for the Exchange of Notes with His Excellency Yasuhiro Atsumi (right) Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Jamaica to provide grant aid to support the Ministry of National Security for purchasing police vehicles. Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (left), MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Hon. Juliet Cuthbert Fylnn (right), MP, State Minister, Ministry of National Security look on.



Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre) DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service is all smiles with His Excellency Yasuhiro Atsumi (2nd right) Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Jamaica, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (2nd left), MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert Fylnn (right), MP, State Minister, Ministry of National Security and Dr. Wayne Henry (left) Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica following a MOU Signing Ceremony for the Exchange of Notes with the Government of Jamaica and the Japan Government.

THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

Dian Black

Meet Dian Black, Deputy Financial Secretary (DFS), Economic Management Division, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. DFS Black oversees three branches, Debt Management, Fiscal Policy Management and International Programme Management Branch and has been in the public sector for over 22 years.

Here are some things about her.

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

If I could change something about Jamaica it would have to be crime because it affects everything and everyone. Crime affects people's lives and productivity and investors are wary of investing in the country.

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

My favourite way to spend a day off is at the beach in the Northcoast. I like to be near the sea.

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

If money were no object, I would take a trip to Dubai or the Maldives and I would do it in style. I would also start a foundation for underprivileged children or unattached youths because what I realise is that if they had the support and education they would not turn to crime.

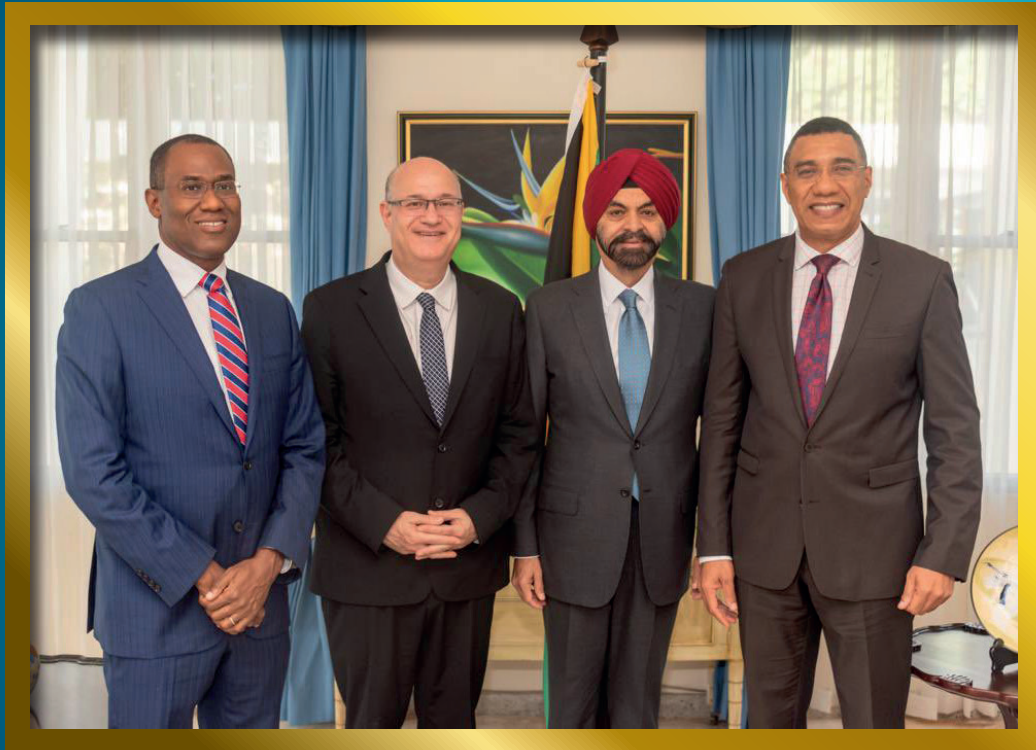
4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

I love the nature of my job especially when I have a difficult task and I get to complete it successfully. That gives me a sense of satisfaction and I feel like I am making a difference and an impact. I also love working with my team.

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

- Start investing early
- Travel more
- Meet Barack Obama

MINISTRY MATTERS



COURTESY CALL

Prime Minister Andrew Holness ON PC (right) and Nigel Clarke DPhil., MP (left), Minister of Finance and the Public Service met with Ajay Banga (2nd right), President of the World Bank and Ilan Goldfajn (2nd left), President of the IDB on their visit to Jamaica on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

EASTER *Reflection*

The MOFPS Easter Reflection was held on Friday, April 7, 2023, to empower staff through word, worship and song in light of the Easter season. Staff were encouraged to adopt a positive mindset and to walk with Christ.





READ ACROSS JAMAICA DAY

The MOFPS participated in Read Across Jamaica Day on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. Staff from the ministry visited the Allman Town Primary School and read to children across grades 1-6. Books and other items were distributed.



CHILDREN IN CHARGE DAY

The MOFPS partnered with the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) to host Children in Charge Day at the ministry on Friday, May 19, 2023. For the day, youngsters were mentored by staff members and participated in a vision board activity.





FARMERS' MARKET

MOFPS Farmers' Market happens every last Friday of each of month.





TEAM EXCELLENCE EXPO

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service hosted its inaugural 2023 Team Excellence Expo on Friday, June 30, 2023, which allowed staff to competitively showcase the 11 divisions within the Ministry. The Strategic Human Resource Management Division (SHRMD) emerged as the overall winner of the competition while Internal Audit copped the runner-up title. They were followed by the Public Enterprises Division in third place.

Highlights



