



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE



October 2023 || Volume 2 || Issue 04

AT YOUR SERVICE EXPO

MARCUS GARVEY  
SCHOLARS

200 STEM  
SCHOLARSHIPS

2023



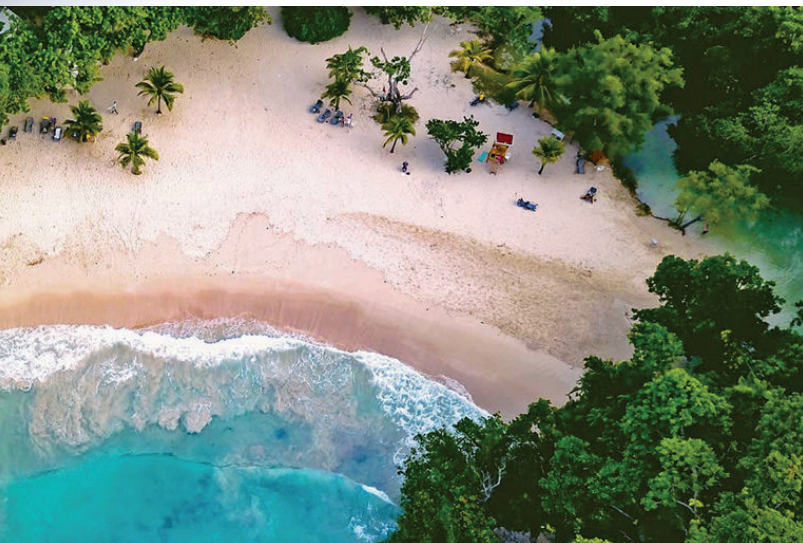
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

SERVICE  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS

*Congrats  
Team!*



# Editorial



Prepared by the Corporate Communication  
and Public Relations Branch

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The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) through its **Driven by Service Excellence** strategic roadmap is customer service focused and boasts a motivated workforce. This was evident at the recently held Service Excellence Awards where staff members who provide exceptional service were awarded. Being customer service focused at the Ministry is our commitment in order to enhance customer satisfaction and build strong customer relationships.

In the meantime, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is cognisant of the crucial role education plays in the development and advancement of a nation. Therefore, MOFPS is committed to improving the lives of all Jamaicans by supporting academic dreams at various educational levels. This is evident through the launch of the GOJ STEM Scholarship programme which will see over 2,000 students benefiting from fully funded scholarships. These scholarships will allow students to pursue academic studies in any of the STEM areas. Additionally, the third cohort of Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate scholarship programme were awarded fully funded scholarships to pursue post-graduate studies at prestigious universities locally and internationally.

In this edition of the **MOFPS Insider**, we highlight Jamaica's recent credit rating from Standard and Poor's (S&P) while providing an update on the fraud investigation at Stocks and Securities Limited (SSL). Also, highlighted are the UTech STEM scholarship award ceremony, our Emancipence Jam celebration and our two recently held expos, Healthy Wallet and MOFPS At Your Service.

If you wish to share feedback on this publication, please send an email to [mofps.pr@mof.gov.jm](mailto:mofps.pr@mof.gov.jm).





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# MOFPS Service Excellence Awards



Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) Service Excellence awardees are all smiles following the ceremony at AC Hotels by Marriott in Kingston on Friday, October 6, 2023.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service celebrated Customer Service Week which runs from October 2 – October 6, 2023. As part of the week's activities the Ministry hosted its Service Excellence Awards on Friday, October 6, 2023, which was geared at acknowledging and awarding staff who exemplify service excellence.

The Public Expenditure, Policy and Coordination Division came out on top as the winners of the Financial

Secretary's Award for Customer Satisfaction and the Minister of Finance's Award for Service Delivery. For the people's choice, Mr. Andrew Taylor, Technical and Client Support Officer reigned the victor of the MOFPS Customer Service Champion, while Mr. Otis Service, Technical and Client Support Manager copped the coveted, MOFPS Customer Service Leader of the Year. Employees who successfully completed training exercises within the Ministry were also affirmed.

## Highlights



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MOFPS

Insider











# OVER 1000 JAMAICANS BENEFIT FROM THE INAUGURAL MOFPS AT YOUR SERVICE EXPO



Secondary school students listen attentively to the various presentations being delivered by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's (MOFPS) Divisions, Departments and Agencies during the At Your Service Expo on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at AC Hotels by Marriott in Kingston.

## Press Release Dated: Thursday, October 5, 2023

Over 1000 members from the public and private sectors as well as secondary and tertiary students congregated in droves at the AC Hotels by Marriott Kingston for the inaugural staging of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) At Your Service Expo on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

The expo, which formed part of activities slated for Customer Service Week, featured over 17 booths showcasing the main services offered by the Ministry's Divisions, Departments and Agencies. It allowed the public to do business directly with these entities and give immediate feedback.

Rory Stennett, Director of Customer Service at the MOFPS described the inaugural staging of the expo as a successful initiative that achieved its intended purpose of bringing all the Ministry's services together in one place for the benefit of the public.

"We are thankful to the wider Ministerial portfolio for being open and available to try something new. We all achieved our goals and have proven that we need to be more accessible to the public and tell the story of great careers in public service. What a fulfilling and engaging experience not just for us who had a chance to serve, but for those who we served at our event," he said.



He also highlighted that the expo reaffirms the Ministry's commitment to delivering service excellence and ensuring that customers are satisfied.

In the meantime, Sheraley Bridgeman, a Board Member, of the Jamaica Customer Service Association highlighted the need for initiatives such as the MOFPS At Your Service Expo in showing customers that their needs matter.

She said, "The significance of delivering exceptional customer service remains paramount. The Expos team 'Elevating Your Experience, Elevating Your Life' coupled with their tagline 'Driven by Service Excellence' underscores the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's unwavering commitment to raising the bar of customer service standards within the government sector."

Divisions, departments and agencies present at the expo included the Jamaica Customs Agency, Office of the Public Procurement Policy, Pensions Administration Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Students' Loan

Bureau, Strategic Workforce, Planning and Improvement Branch, Accountant General's Department, Development Bank of Jamaica Limited, Economic Management Division, Financial Investigations Division, Revenue Protection Department, Public Enterprise Division, Jamaica Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Revenue Appeals Division, Tax Administration Jamaica and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

The expo featured free giveaways, games, a short presentation from each entity about their services and two Outside Broadcasts on Edge FM and RJR 94 FM.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service will hold itself accountable for meeting its customers' needs through service guarantees: quality, accessibility, convenience, responsiveness, and affordability.

Customer Service Week 2023 is being observed from Monday, October 2, 2023, to Friday, October 6, 2023. The celebration will culminate on Friday with a Service Excellence Awards for staff at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.



Participants listen attentively to a representative from the Jamaica Deposit Insurance Corporation (JDIC) during the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) At Your Service Expo on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at AC Hotels by Marriott in Kingston.



# THE MOFPS AT YOUR SERVICE *Highlights*









# GOJ OFFERS 1000 NEEDS-BASED STEM SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS



Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and Public Service signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Professor Haldane Johnson (left), Acting Deputy President of the University of Technology Jamaica (UTech) and Nickeisha Walsh (right), Executive Director, Students' Loan Bureau for the offering of 1000 STEM Scholarships to UTech during the launch for the Government of Jamaica's STEM Scholarship Programme at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Thursday, July 6, 2023. Looking on are Hon. Marsha Smith, MP (centre), Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Youth, Lloyd Carney (left), Third Chancellor, UTech and Professor Sean Thorpe (right), Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computing, UTech.

**Press Release Dated: Thursday, July 6, 2023**

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) through the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) and the Students' Loan Bureau (SLB) is offering one thousand (1000) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) needs-based scholarships at the University of Technology (UTech), Jamaica to students over the next five years.

The \$2.4 billion-dollar scholarship programme was launched on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston.

New students who enrol at UTech as of September 2023 who are looking to pursue studies in any of the STEM areas, and who can demonstrate financial need, will be eligible for this scholarship.





Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service is all smiles with Nickeisha Walsh (6th right), Executive Director, Students' Loan Bureau, Professor Haldane Johnson (6th left) Acting Deputy President of the University of Technology (UTech), Jamaica and other representatives from UTech.

During his remarks, Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service says the GOJ STEM Scholarship Programme is currently the largest scholarship initiative in Jamaica.

“This UTech STEM Scholarship programme at 2.4 billion dollars along with the Mico STEM Programme is the largest in Jamaica and what is more important is that it's geared towards students in need. For the financing of tertiary education to be sustainable and for our vision of an equitable Jamaica to be realised our financing has to give a leg up to those who are in need,” he highlighted.

Minister Clarke announced the roll-out of the programme during his 2023/2024 National Budget presentation in March of this year.

Meanwhile, Professor Haldane Johnson, Acting Deputy President, UTech described the programme as another fruitful partnership between the Government and academia.

“The STEM Scholarship programme is another win-win model for Jamaica's development, demonstrating that when academia, government and industry come together

for the investment in youth, education and training, the future can only be brighter for Jamaica. UTech Jamaica is especially happy to be participating in this important national initiative, in this our 65th Anniversary Year,” Professor Johnson explained.

In the meantime, Tejay Stevens, a Chemical Engineering student at UTech who was present at the launch says the STEM Scholarship Programme is a step in the right direction for Jamaica.

“Today's Scholarship Launch is a clear indication of how crucial STEM development and education is to the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, the UTECH, the Students' Loan Bureau and all other stakeholders. As a student, I feel honoured to be in a country that provides these scholarship opportunities for students; allowing for higher education and the development of new jobs,” he said.

Present at the launch was the Hon. Marsha Smith, MP, State Minister in the Ministry of Education and Youth, Lloyd Carney, Chancellor, UTech and Nickeisha Walsh, Executive Director, SLB.





Statistical Institute  
of Jamaica

C E L E B R A T E

# CARIBBEAN 20 STATISTICS DAY 23

"ONE VOICE, ONE CARICOM,  
EVERYONE COUNTS"

OCTOBER 15, 2023



## Minutes Challenge: Words often used in statistics

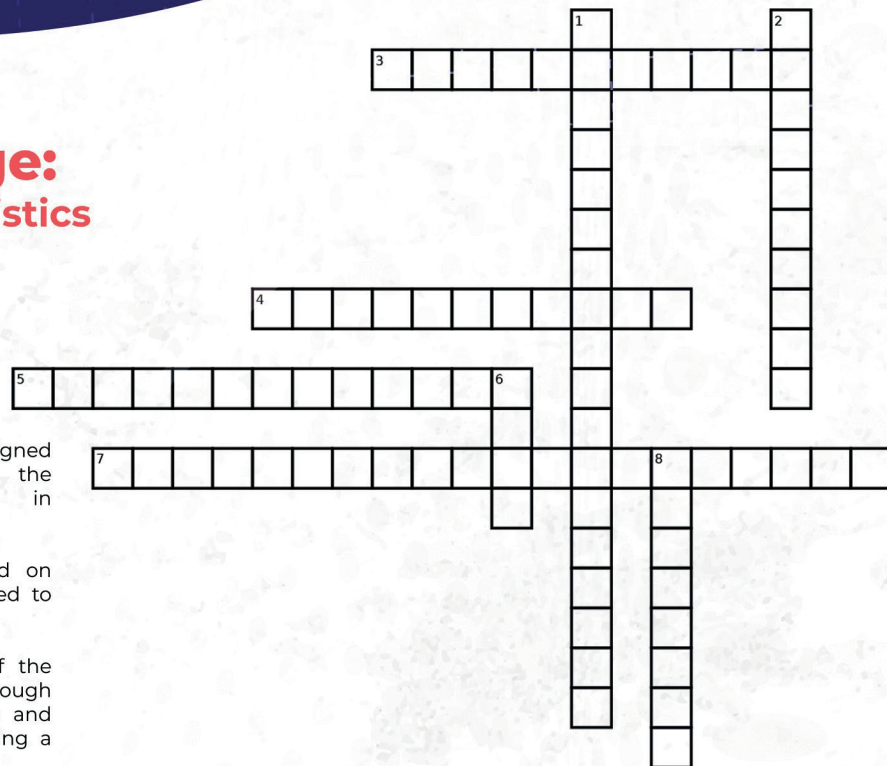
**Directions:** Complete the puzzle with the clues below.

### Down

1. An index that measures changes in the general level of prices of consumer goods and services purchased by private households.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the science of collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and presenting data.
6. Information collected and analyzed in statistical research.
8. In statistics, what is the quality of being applicable to a particular situation or problem?

### Across

3. Growth or advancement.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ survey is designed to monitor changes in the employment situation in Jamaica.
5. Information that is based on facts or research is referred to as?
7. The standard measure of the value added created through the production of goods and services in a country during a specific period.





# S&P UPGRADES JAMAICA FROM 'B+' TO 'BB-', OUTLOOK REMAINS "STABLE"

**Press Release dated: Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

Standard and Poor's Global Ratings, today, September 13, 2023, upgraded the Government of Jamaica's Long-Term Foreign and Local Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) from 'B+' to 'BB-' with a stable outlook.

The S&P rating reflects the agency's projections that Jamaica's debt-to-GDP will continue to decline, led by modest fiscal surpluses, over the medium-term. While the government's interest burden remains high, S&P expects that it will fall to 17.5% of government revenues within the next fiscal year and to less than 15.0% by 2026. S&P also foresees continued economic growth, which is expected to support external balances over the next four years.

The outlook reflects S&P's expectation that Jamaica will continue to pursue "cautious macroeconomic policy and maintain its commitment to prudent public sector financing and debt reduction, as well as supportive economic policies including a flexible exchange rate regime and effective monetary policy".

In commenting on the rating action Dr. the Honourable Nigel Clarke, Minister of Finance and the Public Service said, *"This historic upgrade is wonderful news for Jamaica. Jamaica has never before had a credit rating as high as 'BB-' from S&P. This is now the best credit rating that Jamaica has received from S&P since they started rating Jamaica's sovereign debt in 1999. The benefit of this credit upgrade to Jamaica is that it provides the ability for Jamaica to get better terms on financing which can save a substantial amount of money in the long run leaving more room for spending on education, health, security and infrastructure. It also makes Jamaica a more attractive place to invest. This will lead to more investments, more economic activity and more jobs for Jamaicans."*



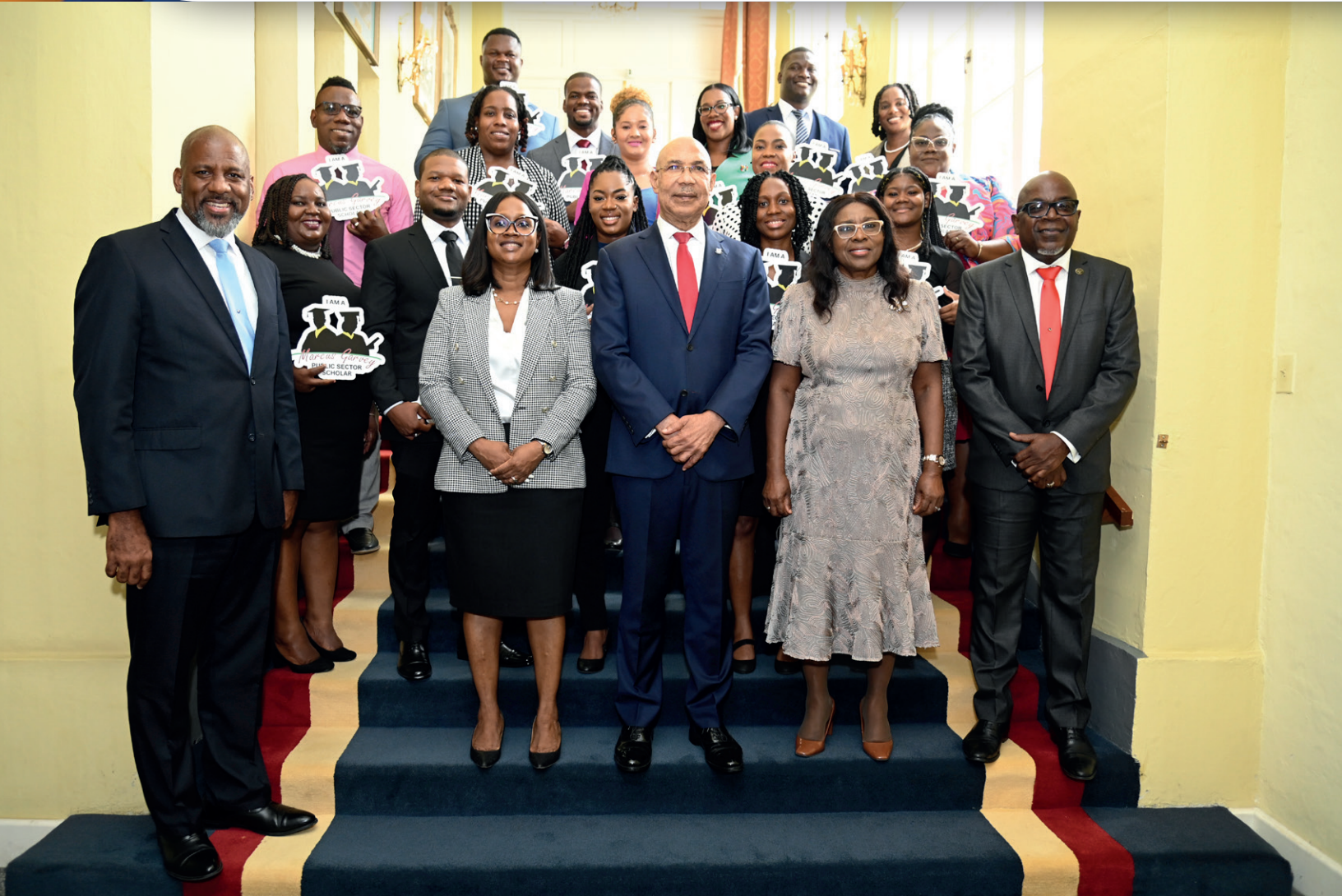
*In evaluating Jamaica's credit rating S&P would have looked at Jamaica's economic performance, our economic policy framework and projections of Jamaica's economic trajectory, among other factors. As such this upgrade is a victory for our economic policy focus of pursuing economic independence, building economic resilience and expanding economic opportunity for all.*

*This historic upgrade is even more meaningful given the devastating impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Our policy priority of economic recovery is paying off.*

*I would like to emphasise that we consider this a national achievement and one to be protected. I express gratitude to the Ministry of Finance team, to public servants in general, unions, members of the private sector and civil society who continue to work for a better Jamaica. Jamaica is coming from a "junk" credit rating of CCC, which meant very high cost of financing that affected all Jamaicans negatively, and we spent a decade in the single B range (B-, B, B+), with the last four years at B+. This upgrade to BB- is full demonstration that our collective efforts will bear fruit if we keep at it and keep steadfastly improving our country. Our future is in all our hands. Collectively, we can make Jamaica what we want it to be."*



## **“MARCUS GARVEY PUBLIC SECTOR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IS A SUCCESS”, says recipient from the first cohort**



(L-R) Dr Wayne Henry, JP, Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Nickeisha Walsh, Executive Director, Students' Loan Bureau, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J, Governor-General of Jamaica, Hon. Audrey V. Sewell, OJ, CD, JP, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Cabinet and Wayne Jones, OD, JP, Deputy Financial Secretary, MOFPS are seen with recipients of the 2023 Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship programme after the award ceremony held at King's House on Thursday, August 17.

**Press Release dated: Friday, August 18, 2023**

**O**n the 136th anniversary of the birth of the Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey, ONH, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) awarded the third cohort of the Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate

Scholarship with fully funded tuition fees to leading universities locally and internationally.

The recipients were awarded during a ceremony at King's House on Thursday, August 17, 2023.



Returning to the awards ceremony as the keynote speaker was Major Othneil Blackwood from the first cohort. He graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2022 with a Master of Philosophy in Education which was afforded to him in 2021 through the Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship programme.



Major Othneil Blackwood, a past recipient of the Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship delivers the keynote address during the awards ceremony.

After the ceremony, Major Blackwood noted, “The question is not whether the Marcus Garvey scholarship is a success, it is a question of the level to which the success is. It is hugely successful; it has been a life-changing opportunity. [The scholarship] takes latent talent within the public service and elevates it to the level where it can be its best to develop the country and to achieve key national development goals, particularly around human capital”.

He further mentioned, “It is ensuring that we have the right kinds of public servants who are armed with the knowledge in their respective fields and who are also exposed to the level of the best and brightest in the world because Jamaica has a legacy of greatness to uphold.”

Major Black will now be pursuing a PhD in Education starting in the academic year 2023/24. He is determined to bridge the gap between real-world military operations, civil-military relations and scholarship.

Meanwhile, in his remarks, His Excellency, the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen ON, GCMG, Dc, KStJ, Governor-General of Jamaica, reminded the audience that this scholarship programme is intended to be a human capital development initiative to provide world-class educational opportunities for Jamaicans.

He further noted, “I felt extremely gratified last November when Major Othneil Blackwood of the JDF visited me on a courtesy call and presented me with my own copy of his master’s thesis. This is a success story and I see that Major Blackwood is our keynote speaker for today”.

He also mentioned that he is looking forward to the increase in the uptake of the scholarships over the next two years. The selection committee for Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship is led by His Excellency along with delegates from across the public sector.

Speaking on behalf of Dr Nigel Clarke, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Wayne Jones, OD, JP, Deputy Financial Secretary, cited that the scholarship recipients are carefully selected and are set to be of the highest level of skills and competencies within the government.

He said, “The Marcus Garvey Public Sector Scholarship, whilst a stand-alone education activity, is connected to the bigger effort of the government of Jamaica of transforming the public sector into a place where all Jamaicans aspire to work, to a place where all Jamaicans look for the best quality public service, to a place where public service management is at the top and ranked with the developed countries of the world”.

Additionally, he stated, “The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service continues to lead the charge in facilitating opportunities for public sector workers and the citizens of Jamaica”.

There was a tribute to Marcus Garvey and the scholarship recipients during the ceremony by Omaal Wright and his daughter Ngozi. Saxophonist Fred Robertson played renditions of Bob Marley and The Wailers’ Redemption Song and Jimmy Cliff’s The Harder They Come.

The awardees are Capt. Natalie James, Dr Tudy-Ann Johnson-Hylton, Dr Sherika Equiana-Flowers, Dr Stefan Flowers, Rajive Ford, Dr Roshane Simmonds, Krissy-Lee McLean, Shannon Douglas-Francis, Syleen O’Gillvie, Daniella McGillvary, Crystal Lambert, Christopher Blake, Tash-Marie Chambers, Fabian Lowe, Latoya Greaves, His Honor Alwayne Smith, Crystal Rowe-Allen, Jon-Michael Linton and Davian Holland.



The scholarship recipients can pursue postgraduate studies from competitive, appropriately accredited universities in Jamaica, North America and Europe. To be eligible for the scholarship, the recipient must be Jamaican nationals/ citizens under 45 years old at the time of application whether permanently appointed, temporary or on contract with at least 2 years of continuous service.

The Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship Programme is administered by the Marcus Garvey Technical Secretariat (MGTS), a division of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. The scholarship's secretariat organises all of its activities, including the handling of applications, the distribution of prizes, the tracking and evaluation of recipients and the welfare of the recipients.



His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ, Governor General of Jamaica delivers remarks during the award ceremony.



Omaal Wright and his daughter Ngozi pay tribute to the Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey, ONH during the awards ceremony.



Jacqueline Mendez, Chief Personnel, Office of the Services Commission opens the awards ceremony with prayer.



Shelly-Ann Weeks, Director of Corporate Communication and Public Relations at the MOFPS guided the ceremony's proceedings.



Wayne Jones, OD, JP, Deputy Financial Secretary, Strategic Human Resource Management Division in the MOFPS delivers remarks during the ceremony.



Fred Robertson, Saxophonist, delivered entertaining renditions during the awards ceremony.



His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (center), ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ, Governor-General of Jamaica, Dr. Diana Thorburn (2nd right) Director of Research at Caribbean Policy Research Institute, Stephen Vasciannie, Professor at the University of the West Indies, Jacqueline Mendez (2nd left) Chief Personnel, Office of the Services Commission and Dr. Wayne Henry (left), Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica share a moment following the awards ceremony.



Members of the audience to include the Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship recipients and representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service listen attentively to the keynote address during the awards ceremony.



His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen (right), ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ, Governor-General of Jamaica, Audrey Sewell OJ, CD, JP (center) OJ, CD, JP, newly appointed Cabinet Secretary and Wayne Jones (left), Deputy Financial Secretary, Strategic Human Resource Management Division, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service are immersed in the morning's proceedings.



# PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

**WE'RE HERE TO  
SUPPORT YOU**



## WHO ARE WE?

The PSEAP is an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) launched in 2000 as a service and benefit offered to Public Sector workers.

We offer **free, confidential**, voluntary, emotional and behavioural support.

## WE HELP WITH:

- ✓ Stress & Coping
- ✓ Grief & Loss
- ✓ Interpersonal Relations
- ✓ Other Emotional & Behavioural Issues



## OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Individual Counselling
- ✓ Group Counselling
- ✓ Presentations/ Sensitisation
- ✓ Mediation



## WHO PROVIDES THE SERVICE?

- MOFPS In-House Counsellors
- Trained Volunteers
- External Service Providers  
(on referral and may be subject to additional costs)

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Submit a request  
or referral here

## REACH OUT TO YOUR HR OR CONTACT US!



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Ministry of Finance & the Public Service | 30 National Heroes Circle, Kingston 4

**Are you a trained counsellor/ psychologist/ therapist?**  
**Contact us to volunteer with the PSEAP**



# SSL GETS US\$1M INSURANCE PAYOUT – GOJ FINANCIAL SUPPORT NOT REQUIRED



**Press Release Dated: Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

**M**inister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke has announced that it is no longer necessary for the Government of Jamaica to provide support for the salaries of SSL staff members; an insurance claim made by the Temporary Manager of SSL in April of this year, to SSL's insurers in England, has now been settled. SSL received the insurance payout of US\$1 million on Thursday, September 7th, enabling SSL to settle the remainder of their August staff salary bill last week Monday, September 11.

“As such, with this new development, no taxpayer money, no Government of Jamaica resources, no public funds have, or will be, used to support SSL in the payment of any of its employees or any other of its expenses,” stated Dr Clarke.

SSL's receipt of insurance proceeds occurred prior to the Financial Services Commission's finalization of the steps required for the Commission to provide short term support to SSL. With SSL's receipt of the insurance proceeds, SSL no longer needs the Commission's support. As such, approximately two-thirds of SSL's net salary bill for August was paid last Monday, without any financial support from the GOJ. The other one-third had been paid earlier by SSL.

The Temporary Manager had filed the claim on SSL's overseas insurers, through its insurance brokerage, in April 2023. However, payment from the overseas insurers in respect of the insurance claim was made to SSL five months later in an

amount that represents the maximum limit claimable under SSL's insurance policies.

## **Return of Client Balances, Expected Reduction of Staff**

SSL clients directly own J\$ securities (i.e. stocks and bonds) held in the Jamaica Central Securities Depository which form part of SSL's off balance sheet business. Beginning on Friday, September 22, SSL will begin the process of transferring these J\$ client securities from SSL's custody to other security dealers selected by clients, and any J\$ cash balances in client accounts will be transferred to banks specified by clients.

“While we expect up to one-third of J\$ client balances to be transferred within days, the entire process could take up to six weeks to be completed, given the volume of client accounts,” noted Minister Clarke.

However, the transfer of US\$ securities owned by SSL clients will involve collaboration with US based regulators and US based investment houses which will therefore take more time.

The Jamaica Central Securities Depository and the Jamaica Stock Exchange are working with the Temporary Manager and the FSC to facilitate the transfer of J\$ securities and balances. SSL clients will be required to complete the relevant Know Your Customer documentation. SSL will communicate directly with its clients on the procedures to be followed.

Given the progress in the investigation recently announced by the Financial Investigation Division, and the expected winding down of SSL's off-balance sheet book of business, as per the above, SSL's staff complement is projected to decline from 22 persons currently to no more than 8 persons by the end of November.

It should be noted however that complete removal of SSL as a contingent liability of the GOJ requires a final determination by the Court on the issues surrounding who has proper authority over SSL: whether it is the Financial Services Commission's appointed Temporary Manager or the SSL Board appointed Trustee.





# 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!

**MOFPS**  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

*Driven by*  
**Service  
Excellence**



# OVER 200 UTECH STUDENTS AWARDED GOJ STEM SCHOLARSHIP



Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service is all smiles with Hon. Marsha Smith (2nd right) MP, State Minister in the Ministry of Education and Youth, Dr Kevin Brown (4th left) President, University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech), Nickeisha Walsh (3rd left), Executive Director, Students' Loan Bureau, Aldrick McNab (2nd left), Board Member, UTech, Professor Sean Thorpe (left), Dean, Faculty of Engineering, UTech and Professor Colin Gyles (right), Deputy Principal, UTech after the GOJ STEM Scholarship Handover Ceremony on Thursday, September 21, 2023, held at the University's main campus in Papine. Also captured are scholarship recipients Jahmelia Campbell (4th right) and Dantae Shirley (3rd right).



Some 200 students at the University of Technology, Jamaica were awarded the GOJ STEM Scholarship during a Handover Ceremony at the University's main campus in Papine on Thursday, September 21, 2023. The STEM Scholarship Programme is geared at assisting some 1000 students over the next five years at a total cost of \$2.4-billion-dollars.





Awardees of the GOJ STEM Scholarship and staff at the University of Technology, Jamaica along with MOFPS representatives listen attentively during the GOJ STEM Scholarship Handover Ceremony on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the University's main campus in Kingston.



Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre) DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Marsha Smith (right), MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Youth, Dr Kevin Brown (left) President, University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech) share a light moment with scholarship recipients Jahmelia Campbell (2nd left) and Dantae Shirley (2nd right) following the GOJ STEM Scholarship Handover Ceremony at UTech on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the University's main campus in Kingston.



# THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

## Michael Parker



Meet Michael Parker, Principal Finance Officer (PFO), Finance and Accounts Division, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. PFO Parker oversees five units, Final Accounts, Management Accounts, Public Service Accounts, Accounts Payable and Payroll and Public Debt. He has been in the public sector for over 25 years.

*Here are some things about him.*

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

I would change the agricultural sector in Jamaica in an effort to improve the country's food security. I believe the country needs to invest more into growing the food that Jamaicans consume and reduce the importation of food, which can result in saving billions of dollars. I believe the GoJ needs to implement policies to utilise available farmland to boost the production of food crops locally.

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

Driving out to the countryside and relaxing on a beach with my favourite drink.

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

I would own as much real estate as I can and also travel the world.

### 4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

My favourite thing about my job is achieving the desired results from the efforts invested in the job, it gives that feeling of gratification.

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

- To eat right and let your food be your medicine
- Procrastinate less and be more aggressive towards achieving your goals
- Read more books



# MINISTRY MATTERS



## IDB COURTESY CALL

Anton Edmunds (left), Inter-American Development Bank Country Representative paid a courtesy call to Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP (right), Minister of Finance and the Public Service on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at the Ministry's office in Kingston.

## MOFPS UNSERVICEABLE MOTOR VEHICLE AND MISCELLANEOUS ASSET AUCTION

The Asset Management and Disposal Services Branch hosted its Unserviceable Motor Vehicle & Miscellaneous Assets Auction on Monday, September 25, 2023.











# COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS

The MOFPS's Internal-facing programme, Coffee and Conversations, highlights the Ministry's policies with the people who are tasked with developing them.



► **EPISODE 1**  
**Corporate Governance:  
Public Body Boards**  
Nophia Morgan



► **EPISODE 2**  
**Enterprise Risk Management**  
Tracey-Ann Bonner



► **EPISODE 3**  
**Payroll Unit**  
Jacqueline Guthrie



► **EPISODE 4**  
**Knowledge Management**  
Marcia McKenzie



► **EPISODE 5**  
**Customer Service**  
Rory Stennett



► **EPISODE 6**  
**Performance Management  
Appraisal System**  
Shauna-Kay Moore



► **EPISODE 7**  
**Scholarships**  
Sherona King



► **EPISODE 8**  
**Office Services**  
Ann Burton



► **EPISODE 9**  
**Pensions**  
Dr. Kimorley Humphrey, JP



► **EPISODE 10**  
**Procurement Services**  
Cordia Edwards



► **EPISODE 11**  
**Property, Security and  
Emergency Management**  
Dayne Phang





# EMANCIPENDENCE JAM

The MOFPS Emancipendence Jam is a celebration of Jamaica's Independence and Emancipation. It's a cultural celebration aimed to demonstrate the meaning of our motto, "Out of Many One People." This year's event was held on Friday, July 28, 2023, and showcased Jamaica's connection with other cultures.















# HEALTHY WALLET EXPO

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's Healthy Wallet Expo is an opportunity to help MOFPS staff improve their financial health and build wealth. It was held on Friday, August 18, 2023.











# Farmers' Market

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

