

MOFPS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Insider

October 2024 || Volume 3 || Issue 04

GOJ COULD GIVE YOU \$20,000 UNDER THE REVERSE INCOME TAX CREDIT



**GOJ SIGNS
MOU WITH IFC**

**GOJ AND THE JICA
SIGN AGREEMENT
FOR DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE**

**MOFPS HOST
CLIMATE IMPACT
RISK ASSESSMENT
METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP**



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Prepared by the Corporate Communication
and Public Relations Branch

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Editorial

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) stands at the forefront of initiatives aimed at forming strategic partnerships that play a part in advancing Jamaica's socio-economic landscape. Our commitment to fostering sustainable development is unwavering, and recent agreements with international organisations underscore this dedication. As we continue to enjoy the fruits of our macroeconomic progress, the GOJ is giving back to Jamaicans who earn less than 3-million-dollars through the Reverse Income Tax Credit. This is made possible through sound financial policies and initiatives implemented by the Government.

The MOFPS also recognises that effective governance and strategic investment and partnerships are crucial to achieving our national objectives. We remain resolute in our mission to create a center of excellence that leads to the development of a prosperous economy. As we continue this journey, we also remain committed to transparency and accountability in managing the public purse.

In this edition of the **MOFPS Insider** we highlight the Climate Impact Risk Assessment Methodology Workshop as well as the signing ceremony between the GOJ and Jamaica International Cooperation Agency for advancing the Jamaica-Japan Partnership Initiative. We also bring highlights from the signing ceremony between GOJ and the International Finance Corporation along with other internal events and activities executed by the Ministry.

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

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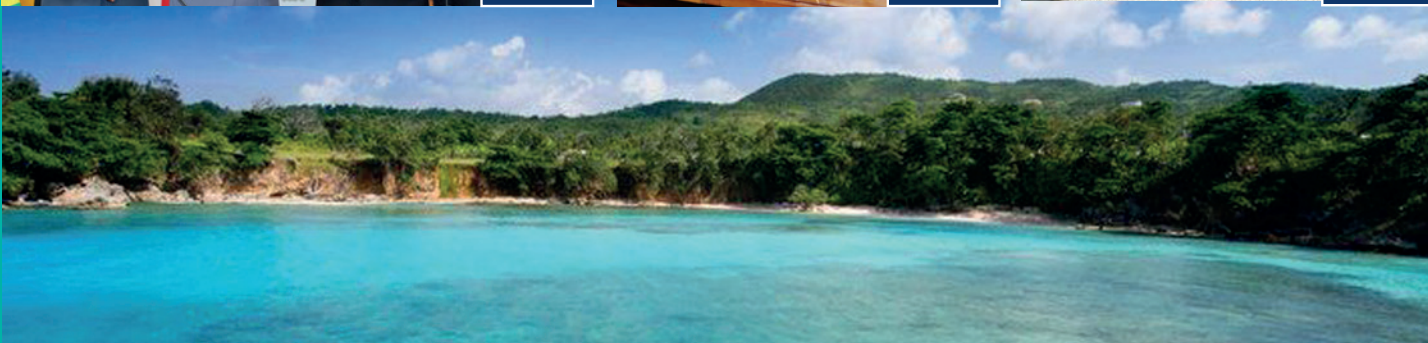
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GOJ LAUNCHES A ONE-TIME INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR TAXPAYERS EARNING LESS THAN 3 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY



Hon. Nigel Clarke (3rd left), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Ainsley Powell (3rd right), Commissioner General, Tax Administration Jamaica, Antoinette Hamilton (2nd left), President-Elect Medium Small and Micro Enterprises Alliance (MSME), Donovan Wignall (left), Outgoing President MSME Alliance, Madge Ramsay, (2nd right), Acting Deputy Financial Secretary, Tax Policy Division, MOFPS and Oneil Grant (right), CEO, Jamaica Employers Federation are all smiles following the launch of the Reverse Income Tax Credit at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

Press Release Dated: Wednesday, October 2, 2024

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is implementing a Reverse Income Tax Credit (RITC) which will provide a grant of \$20,000 to registered taxpayers who earned less than 3 million dollars during year of assessment 2023. The initiative was launched at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston on Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

The one-off payment is designed for individuals, including the self-employed, Pay-As-You-Earn

(PAYE) employees, as well as Domestic Workers, who earned less than 3 million dollars during year of assessment 2023 and who would have completed their tax filings and payments for the 2023 calendar year or NIS Stamp Card for 2022 by August 31, 2024.

**The GOJ has estimated
JM\$ 11.4 Billion
as the cost of this initiative.**

In his remarks, Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service said the initiative will provide relief to low-income earners by allowing them to enjoy the gains from Jamaica's macroeconomic stability.

"This one-off grant of \$20,000 is designed for individuals who earn less than 3 million dollars [during assessment year 2023] and could benefit over 500,000 Jamaicans across a range of professions including but not limited to government workers, administrative professionals, members of the creative industry, warehouse staff, merchandisers, security guards, office attendants and quick service professionals," said Minister Clarke.

Minister Clarke also noted that the Reverse Income Tax Credit regime is also a demonstration of the Government's commitment to equity. Approximately 200,000 higher earning Jamaicans benefitted from the movement in the income tax threshold from \$1.5mn to \$1.7mn. The Reverse Income Tax Initiative ensures that lower income earners who contribute to Jamaica through statutory deduction also receive a benefit. The GOJ will always ensure that the gains of macroeconomic stability are shared with all the people of Jamaica.

Payment of the tax credit will be rolled out through an online system developed and operationalised by Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ) to ensure efficient processing and disbursement.

Speaking at the launch, Ainsley Powell CD, Commissioner General of TAJ highlighted that the online system is ready to accept applicants noting that any issues will be addressed quickly.

He indicated that TAJ demonstrated today how persons can apply and that support has been put in place to ensure that processing will run smoothly and that any issues will be resolved quickly to enable persons to receive the \$20,000 as provided for under the programme.

To qualify for the tax credit, **SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS** must have filed their Annual Return of Income, Taxes and Contributions payable (S04) for the year of assessment 2023 and paid the required statutory obligations in full by August 31, 2024.

FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS UNDER THE PAYE SYSTEM, their employer must have filed the Employer's Annual Return (S02) for the calendar year 2023 by August 31, 2024.

Additionally, to qualify for the tax credit, **DOMESTIC WORKERS** must have filed their National Insurance Scheme (NIS) Stamp Card for the year 2022 and their names appear in the NIS database by August 31, 2024.

All qualified persons must possess a TRN, valid email address, telephone number, and bank account details or remittance agency information.

Since the launch of the RITC 1,315 applications have been received and 1,157 have been accepted.

The application period will run from October 2 – December 2, 2024, and must be submitted online through TAJ's website at www.jamaicatax.gov.jm/ritc.

Visit mof.gov.jm or jamaicatax.gov.jm for more information.

Highlights FROM THE LAUNCH





GOJ COULD GIVE YOU \$20,000 UNDER THE REVERSE INCOME TAX CREDIT



Available to ALL eligible taxpayers who earn **below \$3 million** annually and:

- ***Their employer filed their S02 by August 31, 2024.***
- ***Self-employed individuals who filed their S04 and made payments for the period of January 2023 - December 2023, by August 31, 2024.***
- ***NIS contributors who have submitted their 2022 Stamp Card.****

Applies to both self-financing individuals and PAYE individuals*.



Scan here for more information.
Visit Tax Administration Jamaica's website at jamaicatax.gov.jm
OR email taxback@taj.gov.jm
Call Customer Service at **888-TAX-BACK**

See full requirements for eligibility on Tax Administration Jamaica's website*.

ON THE DISASTER RISK FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE



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



Press Release Dated: Friday, July 5, 2024

We are very fortunate that Hurricane Beryl did not make landfall in Jamaica as the trajectory of the centre of the hurricane Beryl passed 45 miles south of Kingston and continued just off Jamaica's south coast. Though there was significant damage in sections of the island, in many other parts, including much of Kingston, the ackees and mangoes remain on the trees.

The GOJ has strategically put in place a multilayered set of financial instruments to pre-finance the emergency response and recovery costs of natural disasters. While it is neither expected nor designed that all storms will trigger all instruments, the idea is that we should always be able to access resources from some instruments for every storm.

As such, the extent of the damage, as preliminarily and anecdotally assessed, will certainly mean that the GOJ will have to draw on all of the resources available in the first two layers: our Contingency Fund and the Natural Disaster Fund. This totals \$4.5 billion.

We may also have to access some of the next layer which consists of a Contingent Credit Claim with the IDB. As such, today I initiated the process for this access. While the maximum amount under this layer is approximately \$46 billion, it will take a few days to ascertain exactly how much of this Beryl will trigger as well as how much we will need.

We have a tropical cyclone and excess rainfall policies with the Caribbean Catastrophe Reinsurance Facility. We will know by end of business on Friday on possible payouts from the tropical cyclone policy but we have to wait until early next week to receive feedback regarding the excess rainfall policy.

Regarding the top layer in our disaster risk framework, the path and intensity of Hurricane Beryl did not trigger Jamaica's Catastrophe Bond, which essentially serves the purpose of providing financial protection against a Category 5 or very intense Category 4 hurricane making landfall in Jamaica. Had Hurricane Beryl made landfall in Jamaica or had Hurricane Beryl retained its intensity as observed on Tuesday (as measured by centralized air pressure) it would have certainly triggered the Catastrophe Bond.

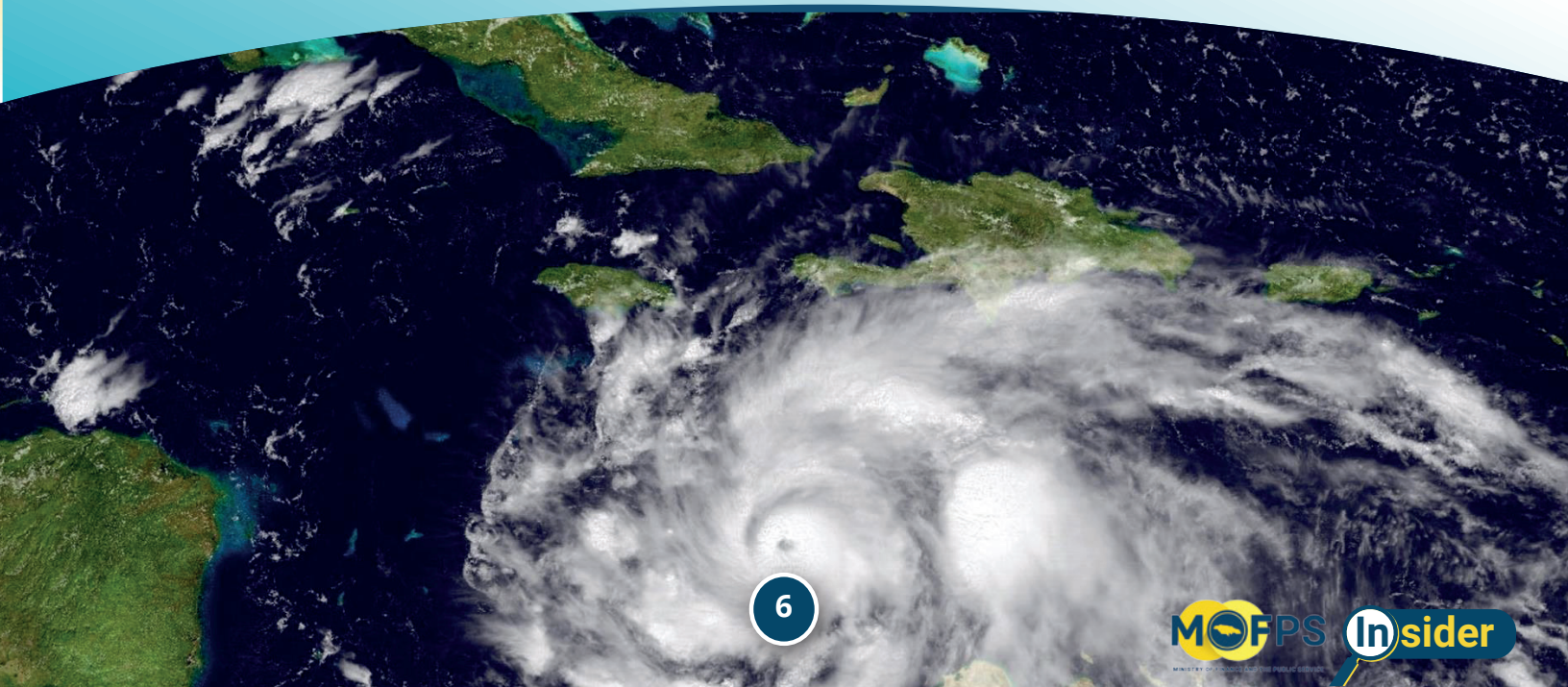
In addition to the above, the GOJ has a \$140 billion precautionary and liquidity line ("PLL") with the IMF. The PLL is intended for countries with strong fundamentals and can be drawn in the event of liquidity problems that emerge from natural disasters or economic shocks. While it is too early to rule

anything out, we do not anticipate that Hurricane Beryl has led to, or will lead to, liquidity issues for the GOJ. At the current time therefore, this facility is therefore unlikely to be drawn.

Over the next few days, the GOJ will aggregate the estimates of damage and interventions required and finalise the total resources from disaster risk financing sources.

The GOJ has been proactive in arranging disaster risk financing that is contingent on the occurrence of natural disaster, in advance. As such we do not need to scramble in the aftermath of Beryl to finance the emergency response required.

Finally, it is important for us to bear in mind that Hurricane Beryl is only the first hurricane in the 2024 hurricane season. We will therefore need to continue to be prudent with resources, including the disaster risk financing resources, to ensure that we are also prepared for storms or hurricanes that may come later in this year's hurricane season.





The Statistical Institute of Jamaica Celebrates the
16th Observance of Caribbean Statistics Day



CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY 2024



Theme: Improving Lives through Statistics: Strengthening and Innovating Together

"STATIN proudly joins the rest of the Caribbean in celebrating Caribbean Statistics Day, observed annually on October 15th. This year's theme, "Improving Lives through Statistics: Strengthening and Innovating Together" highlights the crucial role of statistics in shaping a sustainable future. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our development partners and commend the unwavering dedication of our staff members. From statisticians and data professionals to our administrative and support teams, each member plays a crucial role in our mission. Together we continue to strive to make timely, accurate and reliable data available for informed decision-making."

- Leesha Delatie-Budair, Director General (Acting)

MOFPS HOST CLIMATE IMPACT RISK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP

The Public Investment Appraisal Branch within the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service hosted a Climate Impact Risk Assessment Methodology Workshop at the Medallion Hall Hotel from July 23 – 25, 2024.



Doing CASH Transactions?

When entering Jamaica, you **MUST** declare any amounts exceeding **US\$10,000*** in cash or in any other form.

With limited exceptions, **DO NOT** pay/receive any amounts exceeding **J\$1,000,000*** in cash.

*or its equivalent in any other currency

See Proceeds of Crime Act - Section 101 & 101(a)





TEMPORARY RELIEF FROM

CUSTOMS DUTY AND GENERAL CONSUMPTION TAX ON GOODS IMPORTED FOR BERYL RELIEF AND REHABILITATION



Press Release Dated: Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Arising from activation of the Disaster Risk Management Act and the impact of Hurricane Beryl on Jamaica, the Minister of Finance and the Public Service granted approval for goods, **which the Commissioner of Customs is satisfied are being imported for relief and rehabilitation**, to be relieved of import duty and general consumption tax (GCT), in accordance with item 30B of the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff and section 47 of the GCT Act, **over the period July 4, 2024 through August 23, 2024.**



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All investors must have a relationship with a broker to participate in online trading. The broker must open the account, thereafter the investor will be able to enter online transactions that are routed through their broker.

For details and user guide visit: jtraderpro.jamstockex.com



HARMONISATION LIMITED REACHES NEW AGREEMENT WITH TAVISTOCK GROUP TO KICKSTART THE HARMONY COVE DEVELOPMENT

Press Release Dated: Friday, July 26, 2024

The Government of Jamaica, through Harmonisation Limited, an entity within the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, entirely owned by the Government of Jamaica, has entered into a definitive framework agreement with Tavistock Group Inc. (Tavistock Group) for the development of Harmony Cove as a major integrated resort in Trelawny.

The large-scale investment by Harmony Cove Limited is expected to be a transformative project for the hospitality sector in Jamaica. Tavistock Group has indicated that the investment capital and start-up costs associated with the project will be approximately US\$1 billion. The joint venture partners are the government-owned Harmonisation Limited and Tavistock Group.

The joint venture agreement for development of Harmony Cove has been significantly revised and updated to reflect a balance of responsibilities and interests between the Government of Jamaica and global private investors who bring an established track record in large scale resort development. The agreement now includes a defined timeline with development milestones.

Tavistock Group and Harmonisation Limited will begin work immediately – through Harmony Cove Limited — with the appointment of leading global architectural, engineering, and construction management firms to finalise and implement the agreed development plan.

Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke commented: “We are pleased that the

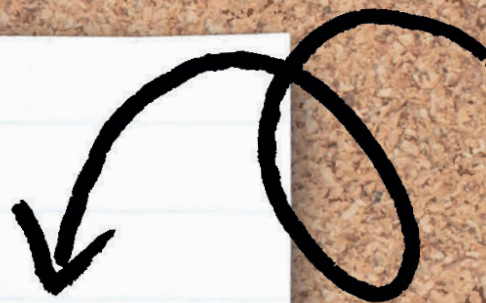


parties were willing to update the agreements to reflect the current fiscal environment, while re-affirming the commitment to bringing this landmark investment to Jamaica.

The arrangement stands as evidence of the attractiveness of Jamaica as a destination for investment and development. Our hope is that this project and its structured framework for working with government, will catalyse other comparable large-scale projects in the future.”



ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S
DEPARTMENT



Reminder!

Current Life Certificate
must be submitted by
October 31st, 2024.



For more information call us

876-922-820-7 or email info@treasury.gov.jm

GOJ AND THE JICA SIGN AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS



Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, (2nd left) Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr Akihiko Tanaka (2nd right), President, Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Hon. Alando Terrelonge, MP, (left), State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Yasuhiro Atsumi (right), Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Jamaica are all smiles following the Signing Ceremony for the Memorandum for advancing the Jamaica-Japan Partnership Initiative at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

Press Release Dated: Wednesday, July 31, 2024

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) for advancing the Jamaica-Japan Partnership Initiative at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

This partnership seeks to promote collaboration in a number of areas, including Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change, Civil Security, Economic Development, Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Maritime and Oceanic Issues.

The MOC is not legally binding and does not require any commitment for the transfer of financial or material resources between the GOJ and JICA. The MOC is intended to remain in effect for five (5) years and may be renewed for an equivalent duration, unless terminated by either party.

Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service in his remarks at the ceremony underscored that Japan has been a solid and committed supporter of Jamaica.

He noted, "Japan although an industrialised country shares a sensitivity vulnerability to climatic events and adverse geological occurrences. Japan has developed an advanced means and methods of adapting and mitigating the vulnerabilities that it faces".

"Jamaica no doubt in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl is reminded yet again of the vulnerabilities that we face and the need to plan and prepare in advance for the damage that can be caused by these natural disaster events. Jamaica has advanced a multilayered disaster risk financing framework, with the cooperation of multilayered partners, and we are pleased that one of the main areas of this memorandum of cooperation has to do with disaster risk management," Minister Clarke said.

Minister Clarke also mentioned that the signing of this MOU will allow Jamaica to establish a contingent emergency credit facility which will be triggered in the event of a natural disaster. This will be added to the existing suite of instruments for Jamaica.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Hon. Alando Terrelonge, MP, State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade who mentioned that the significance of this engagement is highlighted by the fact that at the regional level, Jamaica and Japan are vibrant partners who are celebrating 30 years of Japan-CARICOM Friendship.

He said, "The memorandum of cooperation that we will sign today, aptly identifies critical areas for cooperation in the sectors that are at the core of our vision for Jamaica's development. For this reason, we look forward to working with JICA in the areas of security, including community policing and maritime security; disaster risk management; energy efficiency and tourism crisis management, so that we can build a lasting legacy for this and succeeding generations". Minister Terrelonge further noted, "We look forward to its [MOC] effective implementation and stand ready to 'Gemba' (dive into the field) with JICA and its invaluable volunteers, who continue to make such a difference in the lives of ordinary citizens".

In his response, Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of Japan International Cooperation Agency is elated that the Government of Jamaica is ready for advancement in the priority areas since both countries share core values of human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

"On the basis of this MOC, JICA will continue to promote cooperation with Jamaica for the benefit of the Jamaican people and strive to cultivate an even richer partnership between Japan and Jamaica over the next 60 years," said Dr. Tanaka

Notably, this is the first time that a president of JICA has visited Jamaica.

The visit to Jamaica by the President of the JICA coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jamaica and Japan, the 30th Anniversary of the Japan- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Friendship Year and the 35th Anniversary of JICA's presence in Jamaica.



PUBLIC BODIES'

CGA

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AWARDS

THEME:

“Fuelling Change for Global Impact”

WEDNESDAY
DEC.

4

AT THE JAMAICA
PEGASUS HOTEL

6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

TICKETS

\$15,000

A BLACK TIE AFFAIR

For more information

email: taniesha.campbell@mof.gov.jm or call 876 517-0805

email: Sachar@psoj.org or call 876 809 - 2057

GOJ SIGNS MOU WITH IFC

TO SUPPORT MULTIPLE PPP PROJECTS



Hon. Nigel Clarke (centre), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Darlene Morrison, CD (left), Financial Secretary, Makhtar Diop (right), Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation and Michelle Ottey, (right) Caribbean Hub Lead, Public Private Partnership, of the International Finance Corporation during the Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony for collaboration under the Public Private Partnership at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Press Release Dated: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to streamline the development and execution of multiple Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects across different sectors in Jamaica.

The MOU was signed in Kingston at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, by Hon. Nigel Clarke, DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Makhtar Diop, IFC's Managing Director.

The agreement establishes a strategic framework to scale up PPPs through a programmatic approach. The agreement contemplates five PPP transactions for road and water projects for which Transaction Advisory Services Agreements between the parties are under negotiation and the preparation of another five PPP transactions for projects in healthcare, water and sanitation, and renewable energy.

Minister Clarke noted that by, “Leveraging IFC’s experience and expertise, we are setting the stage for a new era of programmatic engagement in PPPs.” “Designed to increase market interest and capacity, this new approach will allow the Government of Jamaica to attract top quality bidders and deliver infra solutions that will improve the quality of life for the Jamaican people,” he further said.

Meanwhile, Makhtar Diop stated, “This agreement marks another significant milestone in the partnership between the Government of Jamaica and IFC, one that will have a lasting impact on Jamaica’s infrastructure development and economic growth.”

He also added, “The framework, encompassing multiple PPP projects to be executed concurrently, is expected to contribute over US\$2 billion in private sector investment to Jamaica in the next few years and, ultimately, deliver better outcomes for the people of this country.”

This programmatic approach, which includes multi-sector projects prepared under single or grouped mandate agreements to enhance efficiency and results, builds on previous engagements in the PPPs space to accelerate the development of critical infrastructure.

IFC advised the GOJ on the successful concession of the Norman Manley International Airport operations in 2018, with financial close achieved in 2019 and is currently supporting authorities in the development of three road projects on the North Coast and the National Broadband Network project.

In the last 10 years, IFC has made several investments in Jamaica to boost the role of the private sector and foster productivity, inclusion, and sustainability. In addition to its extensive work in PPPs, the institution is currently targeting investments in the energy and financial sectors.

Notably, this is the Managing Director’s first mission to the Caribbean in his current role.



Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service shares a light moment with Makhtar Diop (right), Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation during a signing ceremony for collaboration under the Public Private Partnership at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

SELECTED PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS



Jamaica National Development Plan: geared towards social transformation over the 21 years, 2009–2030, with the objective of advancing the achievement of developed country status



Sustainable Development Goals Secretariat: monitor targeted actions and benchmarks with regards to Jamaica achieving Agenda 2030 and the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals



Community Renewal Programme: provide an effective and efficient platform for coordinating and monitoring initiatives that facilitate social transformation and economic development, strengthened governance, and improved safety and access to justice in targeted communities



National Poverty Reduction Programme: provide oversight for the monitoring and evaluation of the National Poverty Reduction Programme.

The National Poverty Reduction Leaving No One Behind Toolkit, launched in March 2024, identifies and supports vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind



Unemployment Insurance: researched and prepared a white paper which was tabled in Parliament in March 2024.

Growth Inducement Programme

Growth Inducement Programme: implement the growth inducement strategy to support initiatives that would promote economic growth



Foundations for Competitive Growth Programme: coordinate programmes that are advancing the business environment reform agenda

JAMAICA CATASTROPHE BOND

Jamaica Catastrophe Bond for increased Financial Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate Shocks project: The World Bank and Bilateral Partners, including Canada, in 2021 approved and fully disbursed a total of US\$21.3 million (\$3.2 billion) in grant resources for insurance premium payments, as well as technical assistance



Government of Jamaica Adaptation Fund: execute projects to strengthen coastal resilience, improve land and water management for the agricultural sector and build institution and local capacity for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

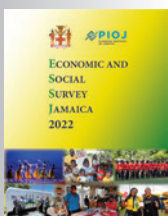


A Jamaican Path From Hills to Ocean: in partnership with the European Union, supports projects in specific vulnerable communities to increase resilience in climate change and reduce poverty by protecting livelihoods



Improving Climate Data and Information Management Project: programme ran from 2015 to 2022 and improved the quality and amount of climate data available to agencies

PUBLICATIONS



- **Economic Update & Outlook**, provides quarterly reviews on the economy
- **Economic and Social Survey Jamaica**, provides an annual review of the social, economic and environmental sectors
- **Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions**, a series of living standards measurement surveys aimed at monitoring the effects of social and economic programmes implemented by the Government of Jamaica

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Wesley Hughes Documentation Centre:

- Ask The Librarian portal at www.pioj.gov.jm
- Email: info@pioj.gov.jm
- Visits by appointment Mondays to Fridays



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GOVERNMENT AND JAMAICA CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS REACH AGREEMENT ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS



Hon. Nigel Clarke (center), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) signed a memorandum of understanding under the new compensation agreement with St. Patrice Ennis (3rd left), President of the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions at the MOFPS on Thursday, September 12, 2024. The other signing members included, Senator Lambert Brown (left), Trade Unionist, Granville Valentine (2nd left), CD, JP, General Secretary, National Workers Union, Techa Clarke-Griffiths (3rd right), President of the Jamaica Civil Service Association, Senator Kavan Gayle (2nd right), OD, President General, Bustamante Industrial Trade Union and Dr. Mark Nicely, Secretary General, Jamaica Teachers' Association.

Press Release Dated: Friday, September 13, 2024

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU) concluded the Agreement on items carried over from the implementation of the new Compensation Structure for the Public Service with the signing of a Heads of Agreement on September 12, 2024.

This marks a significant milestone in the journey embarked upon approximately seven years ago when unions and the government agreed to the restructuring of the compensation system of the public sector.

The mutual achievement, on behalf of diligent and hard-working public sector workers who continue to contribute to the advancement of Jamaica, is highly significant.

This agreement complements the Compensation Restructuring agreement signed two years ago, and which was implemented over the period 2022/23 - 2024/25, and restructures Conditions of Service including compensation for extra hours worked, among other conditions of service.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the President of the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions, St Patrice Ennis for his determined leadership and to Vice Presidents Ms. Techa Clarke-Griffiths, Mr. Granville Valentine, and JCTU Board Members Mr. Lambert Brown, Mr. Kavan Gayle, Mr. Clifton Grant and Dr. Mark Nicely, who together, along with the President, comprised the JCTU negotiating team, for their collaborative, solution-oriented approach.

Though these negotiations have required many rounds of discussions which have taken many months, and have been challenging and difficult at times, they have always been conducted professionally and respectfully. It took tremendous determination on the part of both parties and a solution-oriented atmosphere where concerns of both parties could be aired and addressed.

I want to thank Minister of State Zavia Mayne, Financial Secretary Ms Darlene Morrison and Maria Thompson Walters of the MOFPS's Transformation Unit for their support. I would like to specifically recognise Deputy Financial Secretary Mr. Wayne Jones and his team in the Strategic Human Resource Department of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service for their hard work, diligence, analysis and professionalism during this process.

This process has again shown our capacity as Jamaicans to continually improve our country through social dialogue, a capacity that is institutionalized in our structures and systems that will serve Jamaica for decades to come.



THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

Andrei Bennett

Meet Andrei Bennett, Chief Public Procurement Policy Officer in the Public Expenditure Policy Co-ordination Division at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. Mr Bennett has been employed to the public service for over 16 years.

Here are some things about him:

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

The inequality and injustice in our society. I think these are the root of most of the negative aspects of Jamaica and the bane of our development efforts.

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

These days chilling at home, reading or scrolling. Everything else makes me so exhausted so a bit of quiet time is always welcome.

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

I really enjoy traveling and learning about the world. And when I've exhausted earth, I'd take a trip to outer space.

4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

I'm one of the lucky few that works directly in an area in which I have specialised. Applying and developing my technical skills is exhilarating.

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

- Christian disciplines are going to always help especially in dealing with difficult interpersonal situations. So spending more time in prayer, devotions and reading the bible is critical;
- School is important but it's not that serious. Do it well, but a live a little;
- Prioritise your mental health by finding the balance between serious and responsible work, exercise, meditation and fun.

MINISTRY MATTERS

MOFPS ASSET MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICES ASSETS

Public Auction Sale

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's Asset Management and Disposal Services Branch hosted a Public Auction Sale at 1 Shalimar Avenue on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.



MOFPS AND AGMC SIGNS AGREEMENT



Hon. Nigel Clarke (center), DPhil., MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) signed memorandum of understanding under the new compensation agreement with Dr. Konard Lawson (2nd left), President of the Association of Government Medical Consultants at the MOFPS on Friday, September 6, 2024. Also among the signing members of the Association are Dr. Dutris Bourne, Vice President and Dr. Collin Abel, Treasurer.

CHINESE EMBASSY HOSTS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY



H.E. Chen Daojiang (center), Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica shares a photo with recipients of the 2024 Chinese Scholarship along with representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's Strategic Workforce Planning and Improvement Branch and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade during a scholarship award ceremony held at the Ambassador's residence on Thursday, August 15, 2024.

THE MOFPS CELEBRATES EMANCIPENDENCE

The spirit of Independence was at Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. The Ministry hosted its Emancipation Jam on Friday, July 26, 2024 and its Emancipation Lyme on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 which allowed staff to celebrate Jamaica's Emancipation and Independence with a time of fun and games.







MOFPS AND UWI BASED LABOUR INSTITUTE HOSTS SEMINAR FOR LABOUR MANAGEMENT

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's Transformation Implementation Unit and Strategic Human Resource Management Division has collaborated with the Hugh Shearer Labour Studies Institute and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions to host a series of seminars for union leaders, industrial relations specialists and select HR practitioners to strengthen labour management relationships in Jamaica on September 24 – 25, 2024.

Highlights





Dave Thomas

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**
Pensioners Relief Programme
Natalee Kinglock



► **EPISODE 2**
Public Sector Employee Assistance
Shané Cummings



► **EPISODE 3**
Career Pathing Programme
O'Neil Thomas



► **EPISODE 4**
Loans and Grants Administration
Julia Campbell



► **EPISODE 5**
Data Protection
Pedroy Garvey



► **EPISODE 6**
Public Bodies' Database of Prospective Directors
Nophia Morgan



► **EPISODE 7**
Public Sector Financial Management
Barrington Thomas



► **EPISODE 8**
A Technologically-Driven Information Management Branch
Helen Rumbolt



► **EPISODE 9**
Certification in Pensions Administration
Donna Robinson

FARMERS' MARKET

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

