



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE



October 2025 || Volume 4 || Issue 04

MISSION POSSIBLE: AGENTS OF *Excellence*

**OVER 200 PARENTS
SENSITISED ON THE
NATIONAL BUDGET
AT ALPHANSUS DAVIS HIGH**

**STANDARD AND
POOR'S UPGRADES
JAMAICA FROM "BB-"
TO "BB", OUTLOOK
REMAINS 'POSITIVE'**



Editorial

Prepared by the Corporate Communication
and Public Relations Branch

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

Website: mof.gov.jm
Email: mofps.pr@mof.gov.jm

Tel: (876) 932-4655
Fax: (876) 922-2669



The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) continues to champion initiatives that strengthen our nation's development and reaffirm our commitment to service excellence. The past quarter has been one of growth, recognition and engagement, all anchored in our vision to lead the development of a prosperous Jamaican economy.

The Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Engagement Session once again underscored the importance of investing in human capital development. Twenty-eight (28) public sector scholars were awarded this prestigious scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies at local and international universities. These awards represent more than an academic opportunity; they reflect our belief that fostering human capital development is the ideal strategy to build a productive public service.

In addition, Jamaica achieved a key milestone in its financial reform journey as our country was invited to participate in the Financial Action Task Force Global (FATF) Initiative. Jamaica's invitation to sit at the FAFT table is a clear indication of our national priorities to build and maintain investor confidence in our financial system.

The Ministry also remained focused on public engagement and involvement in the roll-out of its policies and programmes. As such, parents at the Alphansus Davis High School were sensitised about the national budget during an orientation session held for new parents. Initiatives like this form part of our efforts to ensure Jamaicans understand the policies and reforms that shape our nation's growth and progress.

In this edition of the **MOFPS Insider**, we highlight the Revenue Appeals Division's 10th Anniversary Luncheon as well as highlights from the Ministry's Emancipence Jam and our new feature, Branch Spotlight.

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



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TWENTY-EIGHT OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANTS AWARDED AT

Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship Awards Ceremony



Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, CFA (3rd left), Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Audrey Sewell, OJ, CD, JP (2nd left), Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Cabinet, Dr. Wayne Henry, CD, JP, (left) Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Nickeisha Walsh (center), Executive Director, Students' Loan Bureau, Mrs. Jacqueline Mendez, JP, (3rd right), Chief Personnel Officer, Office of the Services Commission, Milton Bernard (2nd right), Chairman, Marcus Garvey Scholarship Selection Committee and Dr. Diana Thorburn (right), Director of Research, Caribbean Policy Research Institute, are all smiles along with the beaming 2025 Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship recipients during an Awards Ceremony and Engagement Session held at the Jamaica Pegasus on August 13, 2025.

Twenty-eight (28) outstanding public servants were officially awarded the prestigious Marcus Garvey Public Sector Graduate Scholarship at an awards ceremony and engagement session held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

The awardees form part of the 2024 and 2025 cohorts of the programme and will benefit from fully funded scholarships to pursue master's and doctoral studies from approved local and international universities.

Named after Jamaica's first national hero the Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the scholarship has benefitted sixty-five (65) public servants since its inception under then Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Nigel Clarke.

Members of the Marcus Garvey Scholarship Committee, chaired by Mr. Milton Bernard, were also awarded and recognised for their hard work and contribution throughout the duration of the programme. The Marcus Garvey Technical Secretariat and Peer Evaluators who were also integral throughout the programme were also recognised.





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OVER 200 PARENTS GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE NATIONAL BUDGET AT ALPHANSUS DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL'S ORIENTATION



The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service hosted a National Budget Sensitisation Session for new parents at Alphansus Davis High School on Thursday, July 10, 2025. Over 200 participants listened attentively as representatives from the Ministry's Corporate Communication and Public Relations Branch, Public Expenditure Division and Economic Management Division led the presentations.





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**A MILESTONE IN OUR
FINANCIAL REFORM JOURNEY
AS JAMAICA INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE IN**

FATF GLOBAL INITIATIVE



Press Release Dated: Friday, July 11, 2025.

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service welcomes Jamaica's invitation to participate in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) "FSRB Jurisdictions Guest Initiative." This prestigious invitation was extended by FATF President Ms. Elisa de Anda Madrazo and will allow Jamaica to sit at the FATF table under its own flag and contribute to the organisation's key policy discussions and working groups over the course of one year.

Participation begins with the FATF Plenary scheduled for October 20–24, 2025, in Paris, France. As part of the initiative, Jamaica will be represented by a national delegation in three consecutive plenary meetings and related technical working sessions, helping to shape international financial integrity standards and practices and providing guidance to other states.

Minister of Finance and the Public Service, the Honourable Fayval Williams, welcomed

the invitation, describing it as "a strong vote of confidence in Jamaica's ongoing financial reforms and a significant opportunity to contribute to global policy direction on anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT).

"Our journey to this point has not been without challenges. Just a few years ago, Jamaica was listed by the FATF as a jurisdiction under increased monitoring. Through sustained will, inter-governmental collaboration, and targeted legislative reforms over many years, we successfully addressed all identified strategic deficiencies and exited the 'grey list.' This invitation to participate in the FSRB Guest Initiative reflects the international community's continued recognition of our progress," Minister Fayval Williams.

Jamaica was officially removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in June 2024, marking the culmination of a rigorous and sustained national effort to strengthen our anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework. The European Parliament recently voted to remove Jamaica from Europe's list of high-risk nations.

The FATF's FSRB Guest Initiative seeks to strengthen global collaboration by including voices from regions with limited representation. As a guest member Jamaica will contribute technical insights and share national experiences, enriching the FATF's deliberations on financial integrity, risk, and global standards.

Jamaica's participation aligns with national priorities to maintain international confidence in our financial system, deepen our engagement with multilateral institutions, and enhance our role as a leader within the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF).

The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service will work closely with key stakeholders to ensure the country's effective and constructive participation in this global forum.



EXCERPT FROM AN EY REPORT ON THE TOP 10 RISK IN GOVERNMENT

GLOBAL TRENDS IN ERM WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Five megatrends

undermining public resilience and driving the need for strategic risk management

In 2025, governments and public sector organizations face a series of external forces that are changing what it means to govern effectively.

Each of these megatrends plays a role in accelerating the pace of change. In turn, this is contributing to zero-sum thinking while decreasing public trust and social cohesion. These dynamics make it more difficult to track and forecast risks.

1 Macroeconomic headwinds

from higher costs of living and doing business to higher debt-to-GDP ratios, slower economic growth and rising inequality, are creating a global fiscal crunch. This is constraining fiscal policy and presenting a threat to countries' economic resilience and social stability.

2 Geopolitical complexity

is increasing globally as trade fragments, the global balance of power shifts to multipolarity and inter-state competition, and tensions increase. These have critical implications for national defense and cybersecurity, along with the resilience of supply chains, infrastructure and alliances.

3 Accelerating climate change

continues to increase unforeseen costs and crises as more frequent climate-related natural disasters and changing weather patterns drive food insecurity, migration and public health emergencies.

4 Advancing digitization

is once again outpacing government policy and regulation. Social media, artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing are changing how we interact with the world, how the economy works and what the strategic threat landscape looks like.

5 Demographic shifts

from aging populations to demographic dividends, are changing the structure of economies around the world. This is increasing the pressure on markets, health care, pensions and social security systems. At the same time, it's creating the need to prepare for the next generation of leadership, skills and jobs.

About this report

Between July and November 2024, the EY collected a variety of inputs to inform the selection of the top 10 risks for the global government and public sector in 2025. We conducted a horizon-scanning exercise based on the EY Risk Universe framework, which divides government and public sector risk into four areas:

1. Compliance threats that originate in policies, regulations or governance.
2. Operational threats that impact the processes, systems, people and overall value chain of government organizations.
3. Strategic threats that are related to constituents, politics, the private sector and the natural environment.

More broadly, we considered these threats in the context of governments seeking to build a better working world by shaping the future with confidence. Based on this analysis, we identified the key megatrends and signature issues driving risk and the need for strategic transformation in the government and public sector globally. Interviews with EY professionals around the world, along with proprietary and external data, also informed how we chose the top 10 key risks for this year. Our 2025 risk radar ranks each risk based on how likely it is to occur, along with the breadth of its impact should the risk become a reality (in other words, how many governments would be affected).



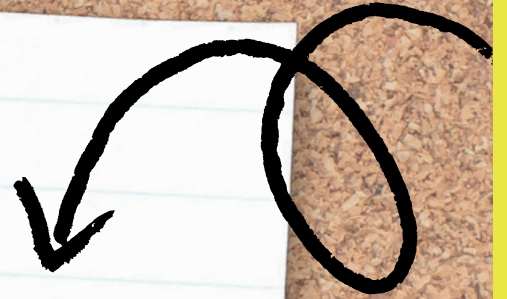
RAD

10th Anniversary Luncheon

The Revenue Appeals Division marked its 10th anniversary during a luncheon held at the AC Hotels by Marriott in Kingston on Friday, September 5, 2025 under theme, 'Reflect. Recognise. Rise.' The milestone event honoured 12 individuals for their leadership and contributions in strategic, legal and administrative areas while five standout staff members were recognised for exceeding performance targets during the 2024/2025 fiscal year.



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DEPARTMENT



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FINANCE MINISTER DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT *Access Financial Services Limited* *25th Anniversary Gala and Awards Ceremony*

Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, CFA delivered the keynote address at the Access Financial Services Limited 25th Anniversary Gala and Awards Ceremony held at Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Saturday, September 20, 2025. The anniversary celebration was held under the theme "Celebrating 25 Years of Pioneering Growth in the Microfinance Sector." The event honored employees, pioneering customers and female business owners who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Minister Williams, in her address to attendees, highlighted the importance of micro financial institutions like Access Financial Services Limited in building the entrepreneurial dreams of Jamaicans while underscoring the Government's commitment to supporting the sector.





GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

SERVICE EXCELLENCE MONTH 2025

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES:

1.

NATIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK

October 5 - 10

4.

SERVICE EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

Submission Deadline, November 30

2.

PUBLIC SECTOR VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

October 8

5.

FRONT OFFICE DECOR COMPETITION

Submission Deadline, November 30

3.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES MOBILE FAIR

October 31, at the Negril Beach Park
(Norman Manley Blvd., Negril Jamaica)



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MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

For further information please contact via email:
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876-929-8880-5 EXT. 3124/3123



STANDARD AND POOR'S UPGRADES JAMAICA FROM "BB-" TO "BB", OUTLOOK REMAINS 'POSITIVE'

Press Release Dated: Thursday, September 25, 2025.

Standard and Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings, today, September 25, 2025, upgraded Jamaica's long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings from 'BB-' to BB, while its outlook remains "Positive". The rating reflects S&P's assessment of Jamaica's strengthening institutional and policy frameworks, supported by consensus across both political parties and various economic sectors on macroeconomic policies focused on debt reduction. It is the Agency's expectation that the Government will remain committed to the legislated debt-to-GDP target of 60.0 percent or less by March 2028, following a track record of sustained primary surpluses, that has supported the steady reduction in debt.

S&P further noted that Jamaica stands out as the only country among 141 rated sovereigns to achieve an annual primary surplus above 3.0 percent of GDP for 10 consecutive years, despite experiencing major shocks such as the pandemic and climate-related events.

The positive outlook stems from S&P's expectation that continued primary surpluses will allow the Government to meet the debt target in the fiscal responsibility law earlier than planned, with expected continued declines in the Government's debt burden.

The Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, commented on the rating action stating,

"The Standard & Poor's credit rating upgrade to double B ("BB") is a very positive development for Jamaica and puts us closer to hurdling the bar to an investment-grade rating.

This rating action acknowledges the government's unwavering commitment to fiscal discipline, while also focusing on making investments that will lead to higher GDP growth and thus provide a sustainable and improved quality of life for Jamaicans."

Minister Williams also said the continued Positive Outlook is a strong signal from S&P about Jamaica's prospects.



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FRIDAY
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MOFPS HOSTS **COMMUNICATORS' MEETING**

**WITH ITS DEPARTMENTS
AND AGENCIES**



The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's (MOFPS) Corporate Communication and Public Relations Branch hosted a Communicators' Meeting with representatives from the Ministry's departments and agencies on Tuesday, September 30, 2025. The communication professionals presented on major programmes and initiatives being spearheaded by their respective entities and explored fresh approaches to digital engagement. The session underscored the importance of unified messaging, creativity and collaboration in driving effective public communication.





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20.10.2025
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AND DATA
FOR EVERYONE

STATE MINISTER DELIVERS REMARKS AT *FSC Celebration of Service and Excellence*

Hon. Zavia Mayne, MP, State Minister within the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, delivered remarks at the Financial Services Commission's (FSC) Celebration of Service and Excellence held at the FSC on Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

The event was held under the theme "Saluting Service, Showcasing Excellence" and recognised the FSC team that worked assiduously in making the 59th Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) Plenary and Working Group Meetings held in December 2024 a success.

Minister Mayne, in his address to attendees, commended the work of the FSC and underscored the entity's integral role in providing oversight of Jamaica's robust financial system.



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THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE MOFPS

Aayon Cruickshank

Meet Mr. Aayon Cruickshank, Acting Deputy Financial Secretary, Taxation Policy Division at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. Mr. Cruickshank has been employed to the public service for over 19 years.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS ABOUT HIM:

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

I would change our value system. We have forgotten how to value each other, and at times even how to value ourselves. We as a people have become selfish and self-centered, forgetting to show respect and even to reverence God.

When a person's value system is developed, the likelihood of him trying to deceive others will be reduced, scamming is reduced, defrauding is reduced, corruption is reduced and crime in general will reduce.

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

A day off without answering phone or email; perhaps driving out of town, enjoying the countryside, listening to the flow of the river or the sea crashing against the hillside and eating two fish with family and friends.

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

I am a simple guy, whatever state I am in I try to be contented. So, whether there is money or not, I try to help others and make myself happy.

4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

Helping others to grow, to see a different perspective on life and hearing someone say "thank you" upon being satisfied. My job allows me to impact others, whether through policies or just sound advice. Then when the thank you comes and sometimes, I can really feel the gratitude, you know a life has been impacted. It is the best feeling ever.

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

- 1) Light is always at the end of the tunnel: things may seem difficult now but keep your chin up and work hard.
- 2) Invite the lord in all you do and give thanks: not because things may not be working out as we plan it, it does not mean we should not be thankful.
- 3) Life is a journey, learn from it and enjoy it: many times we plan and look at outcomes, but we neglect to learn from the things/process we go through. These things/processes will shape who we become and build our character.



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MINISTRY MATTERS



Emancipendence Jam

The MOFPS celebrated Jamaica 63 in style with Emancipendence Jam under the theme 'Back to Wi Roots' at the Ministry of the Finance and the Public Service on Friday, August 8, 2025. Staff celebrated Jamaica's Emancipation and Independence while enjoying sweet treats, vintage displays, storytelling, live performances and more.





Branch SPOTLIGHT

MOFPS CUSTOMER SERVICE BRANCH



The team is led by
Mrs. Kerrian Hope-Harris,
Director, Customer Service Branch.

Meet the Customer Service Branch within the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service

- The branch has 12 staff members currently.
- The Customer Service Branch plays a central role in ensuring quality service delivery to both external and internal stakeholders. They are tasked with managing the Ministry's Customer Service Charter, setting clear standards and service commitments while also handling inquiries, complaints and feedback across multiple channels such as face-to-face interactions, telephone, email and digital platforms.
- The Customer Service Branch is Driven by Service Excellence through their commitment to putting the needs of citizens and internal stakeholders at the centre of their operations. This means aligning all service delivery with the principles of courtesy, respect, responsiveness and professionalism. By maintaining and updating the Ministry's Customer Service Charter, the branch defines clear service standards that not only set expectations for staff performance but also empower customers to hold the Ministry accountable to high levels of service.



Shanice Morris
Manager,
Customer Care



Tamalcia Johnson
Host

COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS

Coffee and Conversations highlights the Ministry's programmes and policies with the people who are tasked with developing them.



► **EPISODE 1**
Strategic Management
Sheena Perriel



► **EPISODE 2**
Internal Audit and Risk
Richard Dillon



► **EPISODE 3**
MOFPS Procurement
Shanique Gordon McLean



► **EPISODE 4**
Human Resource Management and Development
Lavern Brown



► **EPISODE 5**
HR Policy and Information
Lois Walters



► **EPISODE 6**
Corporate Governance
Taniesha Campbell



► **EPISODE 7**
Debt Management
Rachel Applewhaite



► **EPISODE 8**
Taxation
Odette Perry

MOFPS Play & Sip

The MOFPS Play and Sip event series was hosted by the Staff Social Outreach Committee every Friday from July 18 to August 8, 2025 and featured games, giveaways and a vibrant social atmosphere.



MOFPS SPEARHEADS ORIENTATION SESSION WITH INDEPENDENT FISCAL COMMISSION

The MOFPS hosted a two-day Staff Orientation Session with the Independent Fiscal Commission (IFC) from September 23-24, 2025 at their 6 Saxthorpe Avenue, Kingston location. Staff collaborated across teams, shared ideas and built connections. The IFC is tasked with monitoring the government's macroeconomic and fiscal policy and providing the public with independent assessments of government's macroeconomic and fiscal management.



FARMERS' MARKET

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



