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The Scientific Research Council extends hearty congratulations to our own Mrs. C. Marcia Henry who was awarded the National Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service - BH(M) with effect from Independence Day, Sunday 6th August 2023.

Agro-Industry

[Agriculture Ministry Allocates an Additional \\$104 Million to Assist Farmers](#)



The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining has allocated an additional \$104 million towards drought mitigation efforts for farmers. Portfolio Minister, Hon. Floyd Green, made the announcement during a statement to the House of Representatives on Wednesday (July 19). “To address the challenges of water scarcity and drought caused by climate change, we have initiated a comprehensive programme [...]

[Jamaica Calls for Greater Action to Build Resilience of Small-Scale Food Producers](#)



Jamaica has called for increased action to help small-scale food producers implement effective adaptation practices to strengthen resilience and reduce their vulnerability to climate change. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, the Hon. Floyd Green, in making the call at the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) High-Level Ministerial Event in Rome on Thursday (June 29), [...]

Government Commits \$35M to Support Organic Agriculture Movement



The Government has furthered efforts to boost the country's food security with the announcement of \$35 million in support for the Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM). Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Franklin Witter, made the announcement on Thursday (July 6) during the organization's annual 'Farming as a Business' conference [...]

Retreat for Judges to Deal with Praedial Larceny



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green, says a retreat will be held for judges to sensitize them on the harm being done to farmers due to praedial larceny. Calling it the biggest threat facing the agricultural sector, Mr. Green said one of the main problems is that the fines are too low, to the point where the offenders are not the least worried about facing the courts. [...]

Agriculture Ministry Tasked with Identifying Alternative Crops for Cultivation In Southern Clarendon



The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining has been tasked with identifying orchard crops that can be grown on lands in southern Clarendon owned by the Sugar Company of Jamaica (SCJ) that are not currently under cultivation. Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, made the disclosure while addressing residents during a brief tour of the area on Wednesday (July 12). [...]

Farmers Urged to Get Storm-Ready



The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) is urging farmers island wide to make preparations to protect their properties, crops and livestock against the impact of potential storms. Jamaica is now in the second month of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs from June 1 to November 30. Speaking to JIS News in a recent interview, Senior Plant Health and Food-Safety Officer at RADA, Francine Webb-Lawrence, said there are many risks that come with the season. [...]

RADA Tells Farmers to Keep Livestock Cool



The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) is encouraging farmers to keep their livestock cool during the summer months. With rising temperatures and repeated record-breaking highs, Livestock Specialist at RADA, Maxine Brown, said farmers can implement short-term measures to protect animals. "Because of the heat that we are having, what farmers need to do, immediately, is to make sure that their animals have access to cool water. [...]"

Business News

Entrepreneurs Receive Skills Training Business Support Through FAO Project



Ninety-one Jamaican entrepreneurs have received skills training and business support through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Inclusive and Resilient Agri-Food System in Rural and Peri-Urban Territories of Kingston Project. The project targeted vulnerable groups, mainly women and youth, in the Kingston Metropolitan Area. [...]

Environment

Importance of Stakeholder Partnerships in Preserving Water Resources Emphasised



The active involvement of private-sector entities, civil society and local communities is deemed paramount in tackling challenges relating to water, one of Jamaica's most precious resources. This, according to Clehan Williams, Advisor to the Minister Without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda. Mr. Williams was addressing the Draft Watershed Policy Townhall [...]

Forests Critical to Clean, Safe Water Supply



The Forestry Department is playing a key role in safeguarding the country's forests, which are vital in sustaining watersheds and ensuring access to clean, fresh, water resources for both human and ecological needs. Forests contribute to water regulation, soil conservation, water-quality maintenance, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and carbon sequestration, among other things. [...]

Health Issues

NHF Hailed as Cornerstone of Health Financing



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, has hailed the National Health Fund (NHF) as the cornerstone of healthcare financing in Jamaica. He noted that over its 20-year history, the agency has provided critical and transformative services, which have significantly improved healthcare access and affordability in Jamaica. [...]

CPFSA Providing Improved Psychological Care for Children



State childcare facilities across the island are set to benefit from a suite of programmes and initiatives, to better address the psychosocial and psychological needs of children. This will be achieved, following the successful pilot of the Trauma-Informed Cognitive Behaviour Modification (TICBM) project as part of the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) Behaviour Modification Programme (BMP). [...]

Government Tackling Mental Health Issues in Schools



Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams, says the Government has been moving aggressively to tackle the problem of mental health in schools. Responding to questions from educators at the Region Three Back to School Conference 2023, at the Ocean Coral Spring Hotel in Trelawny, on July 25, Mrs. Williams said the Ministry is cognisant that mental health issues pose a serious threat on the ability [...]

Health Ministry Monitoring Uptick In COVID-19 Cases



The Ministry of Health and Wellness is monitoring the uptick in COVID-19 cases and continues to urge persons, particularly the most vulnerable, to take the necessary precautions. “Our message continues to be if you are vulnerable, if you are in doubt, if you are concerned, to see your doctor,” said portfolio Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton. [...]

Persons Urged to Protect Themselves from the Heat



The Westmoreland Health Department is urging residents to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves from heat-related illnesses as the country continues to experience higher-than-normal temperatures. In an interview with JIS News, Parish Health Promotion and Education Officer, Gerald Miller, says the combination of high temperatures and prolonged sun exposure can pose serious health risks, [...]

Campaign to Educate Persons About Food Nutrition Facts Launched



The Ministry of Health and Wellness has launched the Nutrition Facts Panel Media Campaign, which is aimed at helping consumers make healthier food choices. The campaign will assist persons to use the Nutrition Facts Panel on packaged foods, which provides information on serving sizes, recommended number of servings, calories, nutrients, and percentage of daily value for each nutrient in a serving. [...]

Science and Technology

Government Launches STEM Tertiary Scholarships



New students enrolling at the University of Technology (UTech) Jamaica, commencing September 2023, will be eligible for the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarships. The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, in collaboration with the Students' Loan Bureau (SLB), will be offering full tuition need-based scholarships valued \$2.4 billion to 1,000 students at the tertiary institution over the next five years. [...]

Education Ministry Looking to Introduce Integrated STEM Teaching Methodologies for Students



The Ministry of Education and Youth is looking to introduce and implement integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education teaching methodologies to enhance student learning experiences. Portfolio Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams, says this will see students working hands-on or in groups on STEM-related activities to promote practical problem-and project-based learning. [...]

Post Offices to Serve as Digital Service Centres



Post offices across Jamaica will be transformed into digital service centres as Jamaica moves towards becoming a digital society. Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with oversight for Skills and Digital Transformation, Senator Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon, said that this is in addition to their use as enrolment sites for the National Identification System (NIDS). [...]

Government to Set Up AI Task Force



The Government is in the process of forming an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Task Force, whose main functions will be to conduct research in the area and provide an evidence-based foundation for the development of a National AI Policy. Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, Senator Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon, made the disclosure during her contribution to the State of the Nation Debate in the Senate on Friday (July 14). [...]

Significant Achievements on National Broadband Initiatives



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, has said that work on the national broadband initiatives saw significant advancement during the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Senator Johnson Smith informed that the emergency fibre-optic ring achieved almost 90 per cent completion, and approximately 118 additional public educational institutions were connected via the fibre-optic ring [...]



Transportation

Reckless PPV Drivers Should Not be Allowed to Switch Owners Easily – Minister Vaz



Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Hon. Daryl Vaz, says drivers of public passenger vehicles (PPV) who commit serious infractions that leave owners in trouble, should not be allowed to easily get another PPV vehicle to operate. “The driver cannot cause the problem and then leave the owner [of the vehicle] with the problem and migrate [to another PPV vehicle], because he should not be allowed to migrate. [...]

Drivers of Public Passenger Vehicles Implored to Exercise Greater Caution



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Carol Palmer, is imploring drivers of public passenger vehicles to exercise greater caution on the island’s roads. She was addressing a retreat for transport operators hosted by Portfolio Minister, Hon. Daryl Vaz and the Transport Authority, on July 13 at the Moon Palace Hotel in Ocho Rios, St. Ann. Mrs. Palmer emphasised that there needs to be more discipline on the roadways and respect for the safety of other road users. [...]

Transport Minister Outlines Implementation of A Rural School Bus System



Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Hon. Daryl Vaz, has outlined the implementation of a rural school bus transportation system as a major part of his vision for the transformation of the sector. “You’re talking about kids that are leaving their homes from two o’clock in the morning to walk for miles to get to the nearest point where they can get public transport. [They can be] disrespected and abused or left because their fare is much less than adults. [...]

Vessel Carrying New JUTC Buses Will Arrive Soon



The 50 new buses to be added to the fleet of the Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) are to arrive shortly. Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Hon. Daryl Vaz, updated a post-Cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House on July 5 on the vessel carrying the vehicles. “Before I came here this morning, I got the name of the vessel and tracked it for myself, and I can indicate that [it] is now entering the Panama Canal. Once it passes through there, it will take about two days to get to Jamaica. [...]



ATTENTION!

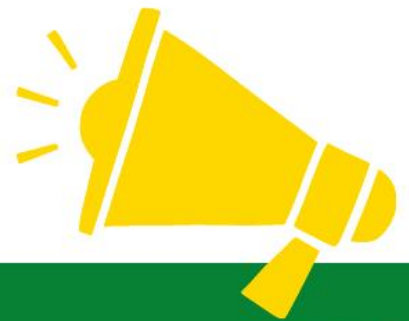
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