

Government Delivering Services at the Local Level



The Government is prioritising the delivery of services at the local level, with significant spending over the last five years to rehabilitate markets and parochial roads, upgrade water systems, improve disaster preparedness and garbage collection, and protect the most vulnerable, including the indigent and homeless.

Safeguarding Jamaica's Vulnerable

- In 2023, the capacity of the St. James Infirmary increased by 40 with the addition of a male ward, at a cost of \$45 million.
- A new male ward, valued at \$45 million opened the Portland Infirmary in 2023.
- The St. Elizabeth Infirmary also received a new administrative building last year, while \$50 million was allocated to undertake renovations at the St. Ann Infirmary.
- In 2022, a new \$12 million kitchen block was built at the Hanover Infirmary with state-of-the-art equipment and appliances, and a therapeutic park, constructed at a cost of \$5 million, was opened at the St. James Infirmary.
- A new 41-bed ward, valued at just over \$48 million opened at the Manchester Infirmary in 2021.
- Over \$300 million was allocated to upgrade infirmaries in 2018, and the new St. Catherine Infirmary was officially opened.
- Over \$700 million committed towards upgrading infirmaries and expanding social programmes at the facilities in 2019.

Caring for the Homeless

- In 2023, night shelters for the homeless were opened in Falmouth, Ocho Rios and Clarendon, totalling \$53 million. The night shelters can accommodate 20 persons, except for the Clarendon facility which has a capacity of 25.
- The \$140 million Desmond McKenzie Transitional Centre for the Homeless in downtown Kingston opened its doors in 2022 to accommodate 40 persons. Phase two of the development commenced in 2023, to increase occupancy to 100.
- Drop-in centres for the homeless were opened in Buckfield, St. Ann and Port Maria, St. Mary in 2018.



1. Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, tours the new female ward at the Manchester Infirmary with Matron, Nurse Tracy Thompson-McLean.
2. Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right), assists Denroy Rowe to enter his new studio unit, which was handed over in Hatfield, Manchester.



Prime Minister Holness (left), tours a section of the \$140-million Desmond McKenzie Transitional Centre for the Homeless. He is accompanied by (from centre) Minister McKenzie; and Mayor of Kingston, Senator Councillor Delroy Williams. The centre is the first adult transitional facility for homeless persons to ever be established in Jamaica.



Ninety-five year-old Nora Johnson (right) proudly displays the key to her new home, which was handed over to her by Local Government and Community Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (left), during a ceremony in Mendez District, Point Hill, St. Catherine.

- In 2016, two drop- in centres, valued at \$24 million were constructed in Hanover and St. Ann in partnership with Food for the Poor.

Indigent Housing

- In 2023, nine houses were handed over to indigent Jamaicans.
- Seven studio units were handed over to elderly indigent persons in Hatfield, Manchester; Lime Hall and Mile End in St. Ann; Palmer's Cross and St. John in Clarendon; and Point Hill, St. Catherine in 2019.
- A sum of \$1.2 million was allocated to the Trelawny Poor Relief Department to undertake repairs under the Indigent Housing Programme in 2019.

- In 2018, two Clarendon families were presented with keys to new homes, which were constructed under the Municipal Social Assistance Programme (MSAP).
- In 2016, 15 persons received new houses through partnership with Food for the Poor.

Upgrading Markets

- Works on markets continued in 2023, with the commencement of a \$17-million rehabilitation of Savanna-la-Mar Market in Westmoreland. The \$100-million multiphase renovation of the Charles Gordon Market in St. James also got underway.
- Restoration of Jubilee Market in downtown Kingston, which was



Local Government and Rural Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, and Mayor of Kingston, Senator Councillor Delroy Williams, cut the ribbon officially reopening the Red Rose Fish Market in downtown Kingston.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, converses with vendor, Kemeisha Lynch, during a tour of the Brown's Town Market in St. Ann in August.



The refurbished Red Rose Lane Market, downtown Kingston.

guttled by fire several years ago, was 90 per cent completed.

- The Portland Municipal Corporation received \$10 million to undertake clean-up activities at Musgrave Market, which was destroyed by fire, and the popular Crab Circle outdoor eatery in Kingston was renovated.
- The Red Rose Fish Market in downtown Kingston was officially reopened in 2022 after extensive renovation works.
- A sum of \$21 million was spent on improvements at the Brown's Town Market in St. Ann; and repairs were completed the Black River Market in St. Elizabeth at a cost of \$8.5 million.
- Improvements were made to the Melrose Yam Park in Manchester.
- The renovated Stony Hill Market, St. Andrew and the Clark's Town Market Shops in Trelawny were opened.
- The new Hopewell Market in Hanover, built at a cost of \$23 million, was officially opened in 2022 to accommodate 24 vendors.
- \$150 million was allocated to repair markets island wide in 2018.
- The \$15 million Ackee Village vending park located along the Dyke Road in Portmore, St. Catherine, was officially opened in 2017.
- In 2016, renovations were carried out at the Papine, Ocho Rios and Santa Cruz, Buff Bay and Clarks Town markets.

Creating Green Spaces

- Residents of Pembroke Hall in St. Andrew received a \$16 million wellness park in 2023.
- In 2022, the Trench Town Entertainment Park was renovated by the Tourism



Twenty new garbage trucks that were officially handed over to the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) .

Product Development Company Limited (TPDCo) at a cost of \$39.7 million.

- Beautification work was undertaken in town centres across five parishes, under the \$300 million 'Paint the City' initiative in 2022.

Fleet of Garbage Trucks Increased

- The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) received a major boost in capacity in 2022, with the acquisition of 50 new garbage trucks and 10 motorcycles at a total cost of US\$6.9 million.
- Eight of the 50 new garbage trucks formed part of a roving team, dubbed Strategically Working to Enforce and Enhance Public Cleansing Operations and Programmes (SWEEP COP).
- The NSWMA purchased two garbage trucks through grant funding from Japan in 2022.



Caption

- NSWMA commenced the collection of e-waste at its regional offices in 2022.
- A solid waste reduction pilot programme was launched in Chambers Pen, Hanover in 2021.
- Plastic separation was extended to communities across the island, and a comprehensive public education drive was undertaken to promote proper disposal of garbage by Jamaicans in 2020.
- The NSWMA received 12 compactor trucks valued at US\$1.74 million in 2019, and also the year, WPM Waste Management Limited opened the Cambridge garbage holding area, in St. James.
- In 2018, the NSWMA carried out a \$60 million clean-up drive to remove bulky waste in major towns.
- The agency acquired three new garbage trucks valued approximately \$74.7 million in 2018, and a solid waste transfer station was built in Daniel Town, Trelawny.
- In 2017, the NSWMA fleet of vehicles was boosted with the addition of 28 garbage compactors valued at more than \$560 million. The new compactor trucks were assigned to each of the four regional entities of the NSWMA.
- NSWMA received two new tipper trucks valued at \$21 million from the Government of Japan to improve garbage collection in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA).
- Sanitation workers were outfitted with professional uniforms through a \$20 million allocation from the Government.



Minister McKenzie (left) in conversation with Executive Director of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), Audley Gordon, at the handover of three new garbage trucks for the Authority's regional offices.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, tries out the controls of one of the six new garbage trucks acquired for three of the National Solid Waste Management Authority's (NSWMA) regional offices.

- A garbage disposal site was opened in Norwood through collaboration with the St. James Municipal Corporation.
- In 2016, a nine-member Enterprise Team was established to manage the establishment of a waste-to-energy system as well as to outsource solid-waste collection and solid-waste management.
- Just over 2,000 bins and two wood-chipping machines, valuing nearly \$22 million were provided to the NSWMA to assist in improving garbage collection and disposal in 30 communities under a waste separation and compost project,
- The NSWMA removed debris which partly contributed to flooding along sections of lower Marcus Garvey Drive in Kingston.
- The communities of Rollington Town in Kingston and Caribbean Estates and Caymanas Country Club in St. Catherine participated in a \$7.5 million recycling pilot project, which impacted 2,000 households.

Fire Stations Built, Renovated and New Fire Units Acquired

- In 2023, the Black River Fire Station in St. Elizabeth was renovated at a cost of \$70 million.
- Upgrading works, valued at \$70 million, commenced at the Annotto Bay Fire Station in St. Mary in 2023.
- New fire stations were opened in Montego Bay, St. James; Old Harbour, St. Catherine; and Yallahs, St. Thomas in 2022.
- A \$258-million fire station opened in Port Maria, St. Mary in 2021 and the Montego Bay Fireboat Station in St. James opened in 2019, where two fire units and a fireboat handed over.



Caption

- The Ocho Rios Fire Station in St. Ann received a facelift to create a more comfortable environment for the fire-fighters in 2021, and in 2023, the facility was renamed the Ocho Rios Fire Lorenzo Garnet Douse Memorial Building, in honour of the late fire-fighter.
- A standby generator was installed at the Savanna-la-Mar Fire Station in Westmoreland in 2021 and a 10,000-litre water tender was secured to increase the capacity of the May Pen Fire Station in Clarendon, along with a dinghy for use in rescue operations during times of flooding.
- In 2020, ambulances assigned to the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) were equipped with protective gear to transport persons displaying respiratory and flu-like symptoms.
- The JFB received 15 new trucks in 2021, adding to the eight trucks acquired at a cost of \$400 million in 2019.
- In 2018, the JFB acquired six new emergency response vehicles valued at \$385 million. The units included two firefighting boats, fire trucks; and two pumper tankers. A total of \$189 million was allocated in the 2018/19 budget to purchase more fire trucks.
- Renovations were carried out at York Park Fire Station, downtown Kingston.
- 106 new recruits joined the JFB.
- The first cohort of 150 persons graduated from a special volunteer introductory firefighting training course – a collaboration between the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) and Government of Japan.
- \$58 million was allocated for repairs to fire stations in 2017.



The new Montego Bay Fire Station in Montego Bay, St. James.



Superintendent, Kingston and St. Andrew Fire Service, Mrs. Julian Davis-Buckle is assisted by Local Government and Community Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right) and Chargé d'Affaires, United States Embassy, Eric Khant (left), to remove a fire proximity jacket from a clothing hanger. Occasion was the handover ceremony for fire equipment on Monday (July 15), at the Ministry, Hagley Park Road in Kingston, donated by the United States Embassy in Kingston.

- An Emergency Medical Service (EMS) has been set up at the Portmore Fire Station in St. Catherine. The EMS has the use of two ambulances that were acquired at a cost of \$17.2 million through funding from the NHF and the CHASE Fund.
- Three new fire trucks valued at US\$1.36 million were added to the JFB's fleet in 2016. The trucks were deployed to the parishes of Kingston, St. James and St. Ann.
- Numerous safety and security equipment were provided to the Brigade.



New skid unit at the Santa Cruz Fire Station in St. Elizabeth.

- The JFB expanded its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to offer a range of first responder services at the station level. These include: basic burn and wound care, blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, general first aid and advice on minor trauma incidents. Ambulances were also procured.
- A \$1.7 million disaster risk-reduction sensitisation programme was launched in 2016, targeting primary school students island-wide. It aims to heighten the youngsters' awareness of the dangers and challenges posed by natural and other hazards. The project will be undertaken in four phases, beginning early this year.
- Fire fighting kits were handed over to teams in two communities which completed critical training in Bush Fire Management in 2016.
- 100 recruits were trained and deployed while hydrants were repaired.

Providing Water to Rural Communities

- In 2023, a 50,000-gallon community catchment tank in Ashton, Westmoreland, was restored at a cost of \$10 million and a \$12-million water shop was commissioned in Fairfield, St. Elizabeth.
- A water shop with a 16,000-gallon storage capacity was established in Mile Gully, Manchester, at a cost of \$14 million, and \$21 million a 40,000-gallon water shop opened in Somerset, Manchester in 2023.
- Water shops were commissioned in Commodore, Portland, at a cost of approximately \$13.5 million and in Fairfield District, St. Elizabeth, at a cost of \$12-million in 2023.



Top Hill resident, Marilyn Thomas, takes a sip of water from the Top Hill Water Shop in St. Elizabeth that was officially opened by Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie.

- More than 7,000 residents in Watermount, St. Catherine, now have access to potable water following the commissioning of a \$220 million upgraded system in 2023.
- In 2023 and 2020, \$60 million and \$120 million, respectively, was spent to improve access to potable water for residents in several communities across the Jamaica that were severely impacted by drought.
- A new water supply system was commissioned in Top Aberdeen, St. Elizabeth, to benefit over 1,600 residents, and a rain-water harvesting system was constructed at Springfield Primary and Infant School in St. Elizabeth in 2022.
- In 2021, the Innswood underground water recharging station in St. Catherine was renovated, \$325 million was spent to provide water to rural communities and \$110 million was allocated to construct new water shops.
- A number of residents received 500-gallon water tanks in 2020 to assist with the impact of the drought.
- A sum of \$11 million was spent to construct a water shop in Tryall, St. Elizabeth.
- Several 1,000-gallon tanks were installed in six communities in St. James, through a partnership with Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL) in 2020.
- In 2019, two water shop were opened in St. Elizabeth to serve 4,500 residents of Top Hill and Retirement District at a cost of \$18.6 million.
- A \$9.5 million water shop was opened in Central Manchester to serve citizens of Bellefield, Banana Ground, Blue Mountain, Bombay, Virginia, Top Bellefield, Davyton and Coffee Grove in 2019.
- The community of Pennants in Clarendon received its first water shop, which was built at a cost of \$8 million.
- Over \$250 million was spent to truck water to communities across the island.
- A water shop was opened in Marlie Hill, Manchester, to alleviate chronic shortage of the amenity in the community.
- Repairs were undertaken on existing catchment systems to ensure that adequate water is provided to areas in need.
- In 2017, A sum of \$40 million was made available to provide potable water for residents of communities severely affected by drought conditions in Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland and Hanover.



Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (2nd left), officially commissions the \$200-million upgraded Watermount Water Supply System in St. Catherine, recently. Others participating (from left) are Mayor of Spanish Town, Councillor Norman Scott; Managing Director of the Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL), Audley Thompson and Member of Parliament for St. Catherine West Central, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton.



Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (fourth left), officially turns on the Top Aberdeen St. Elizabeth water supply in 2022. Sharing in the moment (from left) are Deputy Chairman of Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL) Peter Clarke; Member of Parliament for St. Elizabeth Northeastern, Delroy Sloley; Acting Regional Manager for the National Water Commission (NWC) - Manchester and St. Elizabeth, Caudel Daley; and Councillor of the Siloah Division, Audie Myers.

- In 2016, repairs were undertaken on minor water systems in St. Thomas and Portland which were damaged during heavy rains in May.

\$7 billion Streetlight Debt cleared

- In 2018, the Government cleared the \$7 billion debt owed to the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) for street lights.
- 446 households in five communities (Jones Town, Standpipe, Steer Town, Maverley and Passagefort) had their houses wired for electricity under a \$189-million programme in 2021.



Parochial Roads/Bridges Repairs

- In 2022, a disability-friendly sidewalk was built in Portmore, St. Catherine to accommodate persons using canes and wheelchairs.
- The Trelawny Municipal Corporation and the St. Ann Municipal Corporation received \$25 million and \$30 million, respectively, to rehabilitate roads in 2019.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (left), and Member of Parliament for Eastern Portland, Ann-Marie Vaz (2nd left), walk across the \$7.1 million swing bridge in the community of Ginger House, Portland.



The rehabilitated Grierfield Road in St. Ann was opened in 2018.

- Sidewalk restoration and improvement continued under the St. James Municipal Corporation's \$100-million rehabilitation project in 2019.
- Some 1,500 residents of Ginger House and surrounding areas of Portland were provided with easier access to their communities, following the installation of a new swing bridge at a cost of \$7.1 million in 2019.
- In 2017, the Pennants back road in Clarendon was repaired at a cost of \$13 million.
- \$20 million was provided to rehabilitate the road leading to the birthplace of National Hero, the Right Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante in Blenheim, Hanover.



Improvement works on the Retrieve to Marchmont roadway in Westmoreland in 2022.



Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (4th right), cuts the ribbon to officially open the \$109 million Epworth rural feeder road in St. Ann. Looking on are (from left) Epworth CDC member, Edris Taylor; Mayor of St. Ann's Bay, Councillor Sydney Stewart; Councillor Caretaker, Beecher Town Division, Natalie Wilmot; Vice President of Operations, Caribbean Development Bank, Isaac Solomon; and Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), Omar Sweeney. They are joined by Epworth Primary School's Ramardo Davis (4th left) and Kasari-Ann Pitterson (3rd right).



A workman uses a weed wacker to remove overgrown shrubs along a section of the Dyke Road in St. Catherine, during a clean-up exercise, which began in the area on Thursday (August 11). The activity forms part of the national 'Clean Jamaica' campaign being undertaken by the Government.



Students at Allman Town Primary School in Kingston participate in an earthquake drill in January 2023.

- More than \$175 million in emergency funding was approved to address critical infrastructural repairs in six parishes that have been worst affected by weather conditions.
- The 2.2 kilometres of upgraded roadway in Lime Hall, St. Ann, was officially opened in 2016. The road, repaired at a cost of \$16 million, will benefit over 2,000 residents.
- The Lyndale Housing Scheme road was rehabilitated in 2016 at a cost of over \$13 million.
- Access to the Riverton City disposal site in West St. Andrew has significantly improved in 2016, with the completion of rehabilitation work on the 1.65 kilometres of roadway leading to the area. The project included the concrete paving of the roadway and installation of a proper drainage.

Disaster Preparedness and Relief

- A sum of \$50 million was committed for the national response to the meteorological drought that impacted Jamaica in 2023.
- In 2021, Municipal Corporations rolled out their disaster risk management programmes, which saw the comprehensive cleaning of drains and gullies and a National Tsunami Response Plan and Standing Order Procedure for Jamaica was developed.
- Earthquake and tsunami sensitisation exercises were held in communities, and earthquake safety and emergency numbers in braille were developed and distributed for visually impaired and blind Jamaicans.
- Funds were provided to municipal corporations for drain cleaning and



Workers from the National Works Agency (NWA) clearing the Blue Diamond gully in Montego Bay, St. James.

other mitigation exercises in preparation for the Atlantic hurricane season.

- More than \$8 million was provided to assist small business operators in Port Maria and its environs who suffered losses due to severe flooding in early 2022.
- In 2018, \$70 million spent to carry out major drain cleaning across Kingston and St. Andrew.
- \$10 million allocated to improve shelters in communities islandwide.
- \$50 million allocated for islandwide clean-up programme to minimise flooding.
- Jamaica's communication capability before, during and after disasters was boosted in 2017, through a \$1.6 billion



Local Government and Community Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (left), is joined by Lucea's Mayor, Councillor Wynter McIntosh (2nd left) and community members from Johnson Town, Hanover, in removing an old freezer as part of the five-day clean-up programme in the parish.



Local Government and Community Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (centre), and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Denzil Thorpe (left), assist a resident of Majesty Gardens in South West St. Andrew to place an old refrigerator, being disposed of, on to a truck during the recent implementation of the national clean-up programme in the community.

National Clean Up

Measures were undertaken in 2016 to contain the spread of mosquito-borne diseases such as the Zika and ChikV, by eliminating mosquito breeding sites in and around communities. These included drain and gully cleaning; removal of garbage and old tyres, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines and other bulky items; bushing, distribution of nets to cover water drums; as well as mobilisation and training of health information and public education through town hall meetings, distribution of flyers and town criers.

Supporting Local Enterprises

- Some 400 small entrepreneurs in St. James received grants totalling \$10 million through the St. James Municipal Corporation's Local Economic Development (LED) Programme in 2022.
- The Social Development Commission (SDC) provided grants, totalling \$1.1 million to 22 small entrepreneurs and micro-businesses in St. James in 2019.
- Some 200 micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) owners were trained in business continuity planning in 2019.
- In 2016, approximately 4,500 jobs were created at the community level under the Local Economic Development (LED) Support Programme.
- Also in 2016, hundreds of persons in various communities were trained in project, financial and money management, leadership, record keeping and organisational strengthening.

investment to procure equipment over four years.

- Approximately \$40 million was set aside to carry out major drain cleaning across Kingston and St. Andrew.
- 300 health workers received Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training in 2017, and community volunteers received training in the areas of car-

diopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, search and rescue as well as shelter management.

- Some 300 schools in Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Thomas and St. Catherine simultaneously staged earthquake drills in 2016
- The Jamaica Educational Seismic Network 2016 to facilitate installation of seismographs in schools.

Youth Development

- In 2023, a total of 4,000 youngsters were employed and there was also a 50 per cent increase in emolument in 2023.
- In 2019, the Youth Summer Employment Programme (YSEP) was expanded to include approximately 4,000 additional youths.
- By 2021, the numbers were increased with approximately 6,000 youth engaged for the summer.
- More than 3,500 young people participated in the Youth Summer Employment Programme (YSEP) in 2018.

- 2,500 young people were employed over a seven-week period to collect data on street lights and identify vulnerable persons within communities who may require assistance during periods of natural disasters and other forms of emergency.

Municipal Corporations

- Following amendments to legislation, parish councils were renamed municipal corporations in 2016, with secretary managers or town clerks renamed chief executive officers.



Murals of musical icons have been painted on walls along Mark Lane, downtown Kingston, and paving stones laid by the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation (KSAMC).



Customer Relations Officer at WPM Waste Management Limited, Sharon Williams (left), and WPM Sanitation Officer, Roshaun Dick, participate in beautification work after the agency eliminated a dump site in Clark's Town, Trelawny.

- Audits were undertaken in several of the island's municipal corporations including, Manchester, St. Catherine, Hanover.
- The Trelawny Municipal Corporation received \$29 million from the Equalization Fund to undertake beautification, road maintenance, drain cleaning and garbage disposal in the parish.
- The St. James Municipal Corporation received \$13 million from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) to upgrade and beautify sidewalks along two major thoroughfares in Montego Bay.

Areas under the project included Sam Sharpe Square, City Centre, St. James Parish Library grounds, the historic Dome and the 'The Clock' at the top of Barnett Street.

- The St. James Parish Municipal Corporation beefed up its cadre of mobile municipal wardens, who work with members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to ensure that law and order is maintained across Montego Bay. The Council also employed approximately eight anti-litter wardens.

Capacity Building

- Councillors and Poor Relief Officers attached to the Westmoreland, St. Mary and Clarendon Municipal Corporations were provided with state-of-the-art tablet and desktop computers and printers to enhance service delivery.
- Several regional sensitisation sessions for elected local government officials were held.

COVID – 19 Measures

As the country grappled with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 160,000 meals were provided to homeless persons and care packages distributed to thousands of individuals classified as the “outdoor poor” through the Poor Relief Department.

- A \$19 million Drop-In Centre for homeless persons in Falmouth, Trelawny, officially opened.
- Three houses, built at a cost of \$1.8 million each under the Government’s Indigent Housing Programme, were handed over to beneficiaries in Trelawny and Portland.



Employees of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) sanitize the Marie Atkins Night Shelter on Hanover Street in downtown Kingston. Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, last month, announced that a special sanitization program will be undertaken at all infirmaries and Golden Age Homes islandwide.



Caption



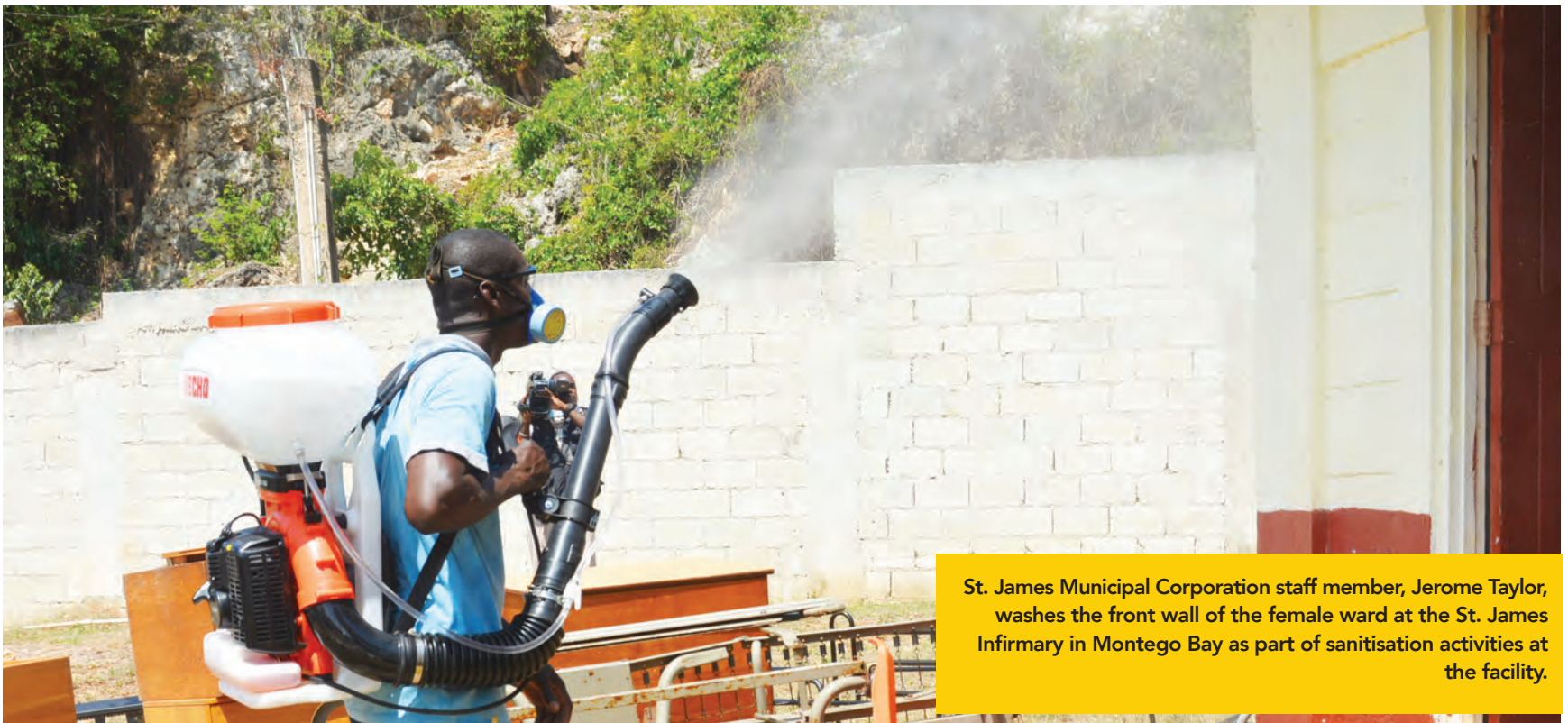
- A 100-bed shelter for homeless persons was opened on Church Street, downtown Kingston.
- A soup kitchen was also established on Church Street, Kingston to support the Government's feeding programme for vulnerable persons.
- Cleaning and sanitising carried out at golden age homes and infirmaries islandwide.
- Nine wash stations installed at the St. James Infirmary to promote frequent hand washing
- More than 200 temporary workers recruited to continue the cleaning and sanitisation exercise being carried out at infirmaries and golden age homes.
- \$140 million allocated to Councillors islandwide to aid in fighting COVID-19 at the community level. and the comprehensive cleaning and sanitising of public spaces was undertaken to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Comprehensive cleaning and sanitising of public spaces undertaken to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- 600 temporary workers employed by the Social Development Commission (SDC) to conduct assessments at bars

for compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.

- RONA Helpline Senior Care Response initiative activated to assist persons over 70 years old, who are mandated to stay at home due to COVID-19.
- Work continued to strengthen the national shelter management protocols.
- ODPEM activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) to coordinate efforts to address COVID-19.
- and \$50 million was allocated to truck water to municipalities islandwide as part of the national COVID-19 response in 2020.
- In 2021, as the country continued to implement COVID-19 prevention measures, an additional 500 street sweepers and 300 private dumper and garbage trucks were engaged to assist in the public cleansing drive.



Local Government and Rural Development Minister, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (right) and Public Relations and Communications Manager, Digicel Jamaica, Elon Parkinson, use one of the hand-washing stations provided by Digicel Jamaica to safeguard the health of homeless and indigent persons amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The stations, which will be installed at infirmaries, municipal buildings and town centres, were handed over at the Golden Age Home in Vineyard Town, St. Andrew.



St. James Municipal Corporation staff member, Jerome Taylor, washes the front wall of the female ward at the St. James Infirmary in Montego Bay as part of sanitisation activities at the facility.