

# ***STRONGER FUTURE***



***THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY***

# ***MANIFESTO 2020***

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# **MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER**

The Jamaica Labour Party remains committed to our founding principles of equal rights and justice – they are as relevant today as they were 76 years ago when we were formed. We are committed to the principles of equal opportunity for all Jamaicans enabling everyone to achieve their full potential as healthy and productive citizens in a safe and just society, fortified by strong, resilient institutions.

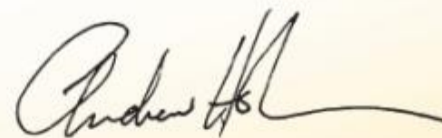
We are now in challenging times, but I am grateful that four and a half years ago, Jamaica put its trust in us to move our country from Poverty to Prosperity. In partnership with you, we worked hard to honour this mandate by improving the economy and using our limited resources carefully and strategically to benefit the largest number of people – young and old, rural and urban, employers and employees, families and communities, as possible.

My team and I invite you to quickly review the list below which sets out just “a few” of the results of our efforts and the summary statement of our focus on the way forward. Take a breath, and then review our Ten Point Covid 19 Recovery Plan before diving into the wider sector presentations.

Covid-19 has created unprecedented challenges for Jamaica and the world. Should you trust us again with your vote, we will, as we have done since March of this year, take the necessary measures to protect the health of our people, and to protect their livelihoods, while supporting the most vulnerable. We will ensure a whole-of-country approach to dealing with this crisis, appealing to the unprecedented discipline exhibited in the early stages of Jamaica’s response, enforcing where necessary, and making every effort to use the limited resources of the government in a strategic way, to not only cushion the most vulnerable, but to ensure that employers are supported as best as possible with an enabling framework for Jamaica’s necessary return to productive activity.

We are the stronger team and government that has delivered and brought us through. We are seeking the privilege of continuing to work in partnership with you, to build back stronger for the betterment of all Jamaicans. The power is in your hands and so we ask that on September 3, having examined our record and considered our plans, you exercise your democratic right in favour of the Jamaica Labour Party.

Sincerely,



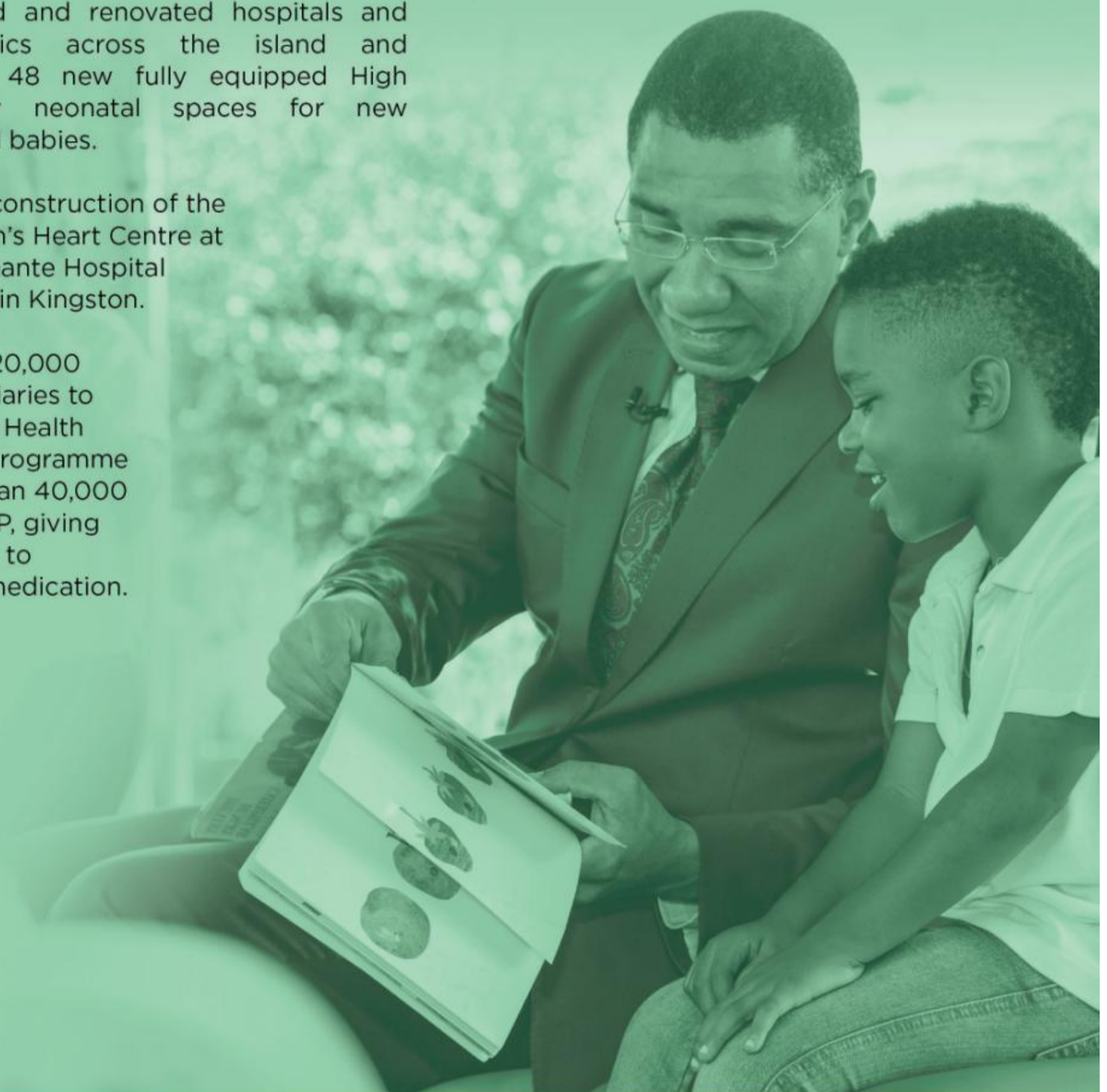
Andrew Holness



# ***DELIVERY ON OUR 2016 MANIFESTO***

- ▶ We delivered on our “1.5” promise – removing income tax payments for persons earning up to \$1.5 million so that they would receive more from their salaries each month. 80% of PAYE wage earners now no longer pay income tax.
- ▶ We created close to 100,000 jobs bringing Jamaica’s unemployment rate to a historic low of 7.2%.
- ▶ The incidence of poverty was lowered by 40%, the lowest level in 10 years.
- ▶ We reduced the rate of General Consumption Tax (GCT) from 16.5% to 15%.
- ▶ We increased the GCT threshold from \$3 million to \$10 million, relieving thousands of micro and small businesses of the obligation to file GCT monthly returns.
- ▶ We abolished distortionary taxes such as the Minimum Business Tax and the Asset Tax.
- ▶ We abolished ad valorem Stamp Duty on real estate and financial transactions and replaced it with a flat \$5,000 Stamp Duty and we reduced Transfer Tax from 5% to 2% making it easier for persons to buy and sell land.
- ▶ We raised the exemption threshold for Estate Duty (“Death Taxes”) from \$100,000 to \$10M to allow families to unlock wealth in Estates left to them and to clear the backlog at the Administrator General’s Department caused by inability to afford estate transfer.
- ▶ We re-instated the incentives for listing on the Junior Stock Exchange to encourage small and medium businesses to grow.
- ▶ We implemented the CARE Programme which has thus far provided temporary social and economic support in the form of cash grants to approximately 440,000 Jamaicans to soften the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ We trained more than 25,000 unattached youth through the new HOPE Programme.
- ▶ We trained more than 2,000 youth in the new National Youth Service Corps, more than 90% of whom were recruited into the JDF.
- ▶ We merged the NYS, HEART, and JFLL to improve cost, quantity, scope, and quality of training programme delivery by the new HEART National Service Training Agency.
- ▶ We increased the allocation to the PATH and School Feeding Programmes by 83%.
- ▶ We increased the provision of school lunches from 3 days per week to 5 days’ week.
- ▶ We completed cancer treatment centres at the St Joseph’s and Cornwall Regional Hospitals respectively.

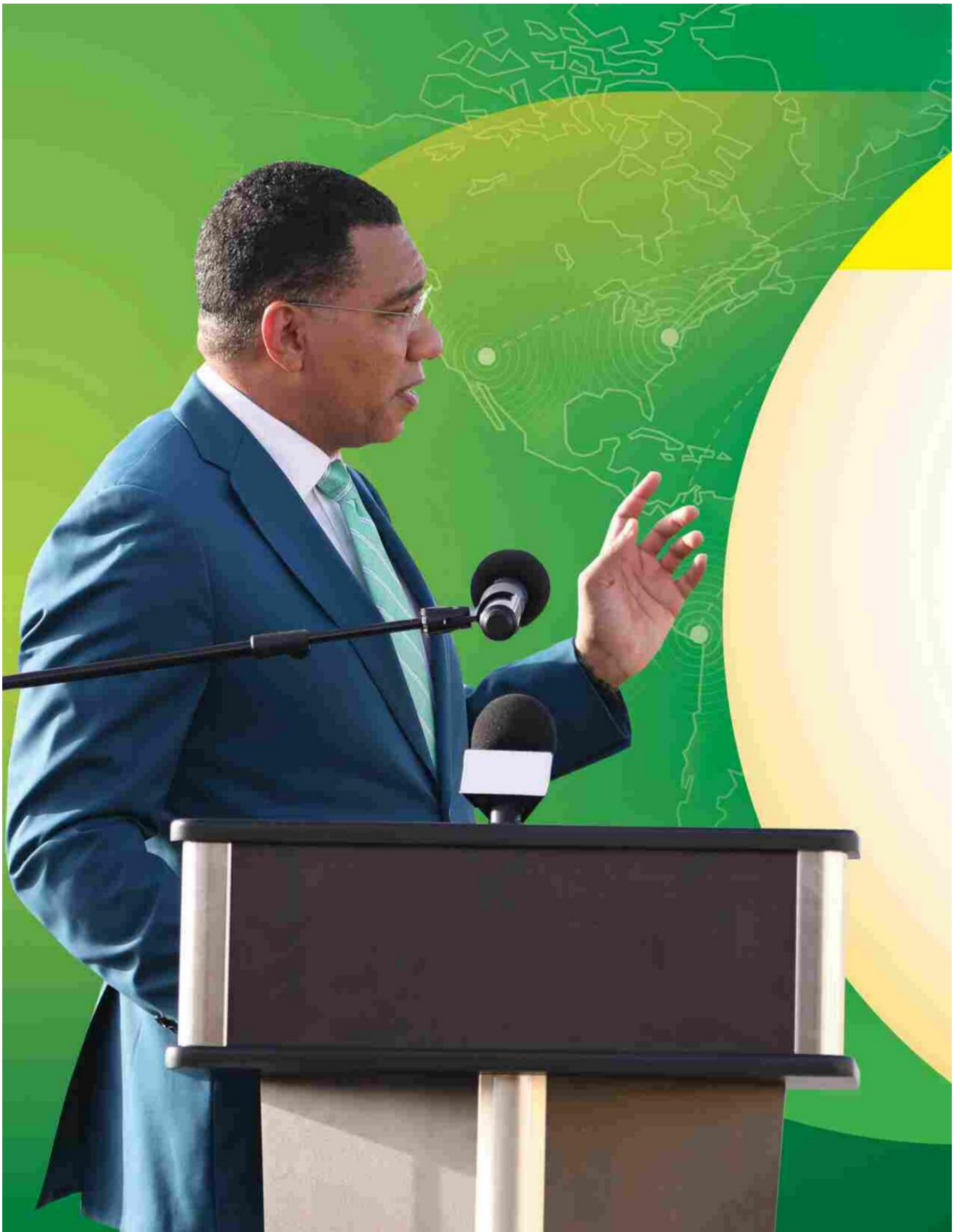
- ▶ For the first time since the creation of the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) more than a decade ago, we certified over 200 Early Childhood Institutions, and provided more community services through the Parenting Support Commission to ensure our children get the best start in life.
- ▶ We merged the Child Development Agency and Office of the Children's Registry to create the Child Protection and Family Services Agency and implemented new management systems to deliver better care to our children in State care.
- ▶ We repaired and renovated hospitals and health clinics across the island and established 48 new fully equipped High Dependency neonatal spaces for new mothers and babies.
- ▶ We started construction of the new Children's Heart Centre at the Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston.
- ▶ We added 120,000 new beneficiaries to the National Health Fund Card programme and more than 40,000 to the JADEP, giving them access to subsidised medication.
- ▶ We started construction of the seven-storey Western Children and Adolescents Hospital in Montego Bay.
- ▶ We delivered a robust public health system which dealt effectively with Zik-V, dengue, and flu outbreaks, as well as the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ We delivered thousands of titles to landowners and passed a new law to rationalize the titling system which is now set to deliver 20,000 titles over the next 3 years.



- ▶ We delivered approximately 20,000 NHT housing starts, more than 2.5 times the number under the four years of the previous administration.
- ▶ We reduced NHT interest rates to as low as zero percent for the lowest earning contributors, extended special discounts for public servants and introduced discounts for certain vulnerable citizens
- ▶ We created the NHT inter-generational mortgage programme.
- ▶ We increased the construction grant available as well as the maximum amount that contributors can borrow from the NHT.
- ▶ We completed major infrastructure improvements including highways and roads. Significant project completions include the upgrades of the Mandela Highway, Constant Spring Road, Barbican Road and Hagley Park Road as well as Ferris to Mackfield.
- ▶ We commenced the expansion of the East-West Highway and the construction of the new South Coast Highway under the South Coast Highway Improvement Project.
- ▶ We renovated infirmaries and constructed housing for the indigent to provide more dignified care for our seniors and poor
- ▶ We increased the allocation to rural water seven-fold which allowed for the implementation and completion of several projects that brought potable water to unserved and underserved rural communities.
- ▶ We fixed pumps and tanks, laid and connected pipes, established water shops-provided potable water to communities benefiting more than 50000 Jamaicans
- ▶ We repaired more than 200 farm roads which helped more than 20,000 farmers get their produce to market.
- ▶ We established the new Agri-linkages portal so farmers can get their produce directly to hotel purchasers
- ▶ We created a new Praedial Larceny Unit and provided 10 police vehicles dedicated to the fight against praedial larceny. We also upgraded management of praedial larceny matters to be headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police.
- ▶ We increased the fines and penalties for theft of agricultural commodities, regulated by JACRA, including:
  - (i) orders to repay farmers;
  - (ii) fines up to \$3m at Parish Courts and up to \$20M at Circuit Courts.
- ▶ We repaired and renovated 103 police stations to improve working conditions of the police force, including brand new stations at Buff Bay and Gayle.
- ▶ We expanded and renovated police training facilities at Tranquility Bay, Western Branch, Horman Barracks, and Twickenham Park, which facilitated increased recruitment and training of police officers.
- ▶ We also enhanced training in human rights, to ensure respectful engagements and proportionate use of force, and to improve their relationship with the public
- ▶ We increased the mobility of the police to improve responsiveness by providing more than 1,450 vehicles - a record number of cars, motorbikes, vans and purpose-built vehicles.



- ▶ We increased the use of technology to improve investigative capacity, prevent and solve crimes; established a new Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine, modernized equipment for the ballistic centre, and expanded infrastructure for a more efficient and productive DNA lab, and a new autopsy suite.
- ▶ We opened new Family Courts in Trelawny and Clarendon renovated courthouses across the island making them more comfortable and dignified for the public and staff.
- ▶ We installed audio and video technology in 19 courts islandwide to allow remote witness testimony and installed an Electronic Case Management System to accelerate the pace of justice
- ▶ We opened 8 Justice Centers, and increased the number of mobile justice clinics to bring legal advice to people where they are in Jamaica.
- ▶ We passed the Child Diversion Act and established 13 Child Diversion Offices and 13 Parish Committees to change the path of children who come into conflict with the law.
- ▶ We saved Goat Islands, in addition to passing 14 Forestry Protection, defined the No-Mining boundaries of the Cockpit Country, banned single use plastics and styrofoam packaging, supported fish sanctuaries and coral protection projects.



# OUR FOCUS GOING FORWARD



**A new Jamaica Labour Party administration will ensure accountable government that promotes unity and partnership while faithfully serving all Jamaicans.**

We will focus on:

- **Recovering Stronger** – ensuring that our economic output is restored to pre-COVID levels in the shortest period of time and that our recovered economy is more diversified and even more resilient.
- **Ensuring Jamaicans are working again** at the same record levels or better, through a consistent and cross-cutting drive for job creation with supporting elements of innovation, training, and apprenticeship.
- **Transforming our education system** to provide our children with access to quality care, education and training so they all have the best start in life.
- **Building the safe, secure and just Jamaican society for which we all yearn.**
- **Improving access to healthcare** and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- **Investing in our people** so they can realize their full potential.
- **Enabling and empowering all Jamaicans** through the provision of national identification; access to the internet, and more effective and simplified delivery of services using technology.
- **Supporting our most vulnerable** by strengthening the social safety net.
- **Taking Climate Action locally and globally,** by promoting and implementing clean and green policies to secure sustainable development and a healthy environment for our future generations.

# 1. MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY

We will maintain and strengthen macro-economic stability which is vital and necessary to recover stronger. We will build and strengthen the institutions that safeguard sustainability of government finances, low and stable inflation, foreign exchange reserve adequacy and financial sector stability. Furthermore we will improve Jamaica's resilience to the financial cost of natural disaster.

Actions will include **(i) Implementing a Fiscal Council** to further strengthen Jamaica's fiscal responsibility framework; **(ii) Bringing operational independence to the Bank of Jamaica** to institutionalize low and stable inflation **(iii) Reducing Jamaica's vulnerability to the cost of natural disaster** by capitalizing the Contingencies Fund and building resilience including by purchasing catastrophe risk insurance and (iv) we will continue to build foreign exchange reserve buffers and develop the foreign exchange market by increasing trading transparency through a common trading platform, and develop a forward market for risk management.

# 2. IMPROVING THE BUSINESS CLIMATE & DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY TO DRIVE GROWTH

To Recover Stronger we will improve the business climate and invest to improve competitiveness. We will diversify our economy to increase resilience, promote innovation, support youth entrepreneurs and explore opportunities within the Green and Blue Economies. We will reduce our reliance on traditional sectors and imported foods by strengthen our food production and agro-processing.

- ▶ We will repeal and replace the Customs Act modernizing Jamaica's border crossing procedures that places as much emphasis on facilitating cross-border commerce as on revenue collection.

- ▶ We will implement a GOJ Land Bank that provides a comprehensive database with key information on all available land across Government so that local and other investors can easily identify and apply for the sale/lease of lands. This will promote greater transparency, simplify the process, and simultaneously reduce the time taken to identify land, identify the specific landowners, and then transact a sale/lease.
- ▶ We will create a National Business Portal to host many Business-to-Government (B2G) transactions, allowing MSMEs and other investors to i) submit applications online for various licenses, permits and other approvals, ii) have them reviewed by the relevant Government entities, and then iii) obtain decisions online, all in a timely manner that can be transparently tracked. We will fund a project designed to improve Jamaica's Doing Business absolute rankings in the areas of trading across borders, tax administration, minority protection, registration of property and enforcement of contracts.
- ▶ We will support the development of coding, animation, film, logistics & fulfillment among other sectors. We will also accelerate the development of backward linkages from tourism to the domestic economy to increase domestic value added.
- ▶ We will make financing available for youth (18-35) for all aspects of agriculture fisheries and aquaculture management and transformation;

## **2. IMPROVING THE BUSINESS CLIMATE & DIVERSIFYING THE ECONOMY TO DRIVE GROWTH** *CONTD.*

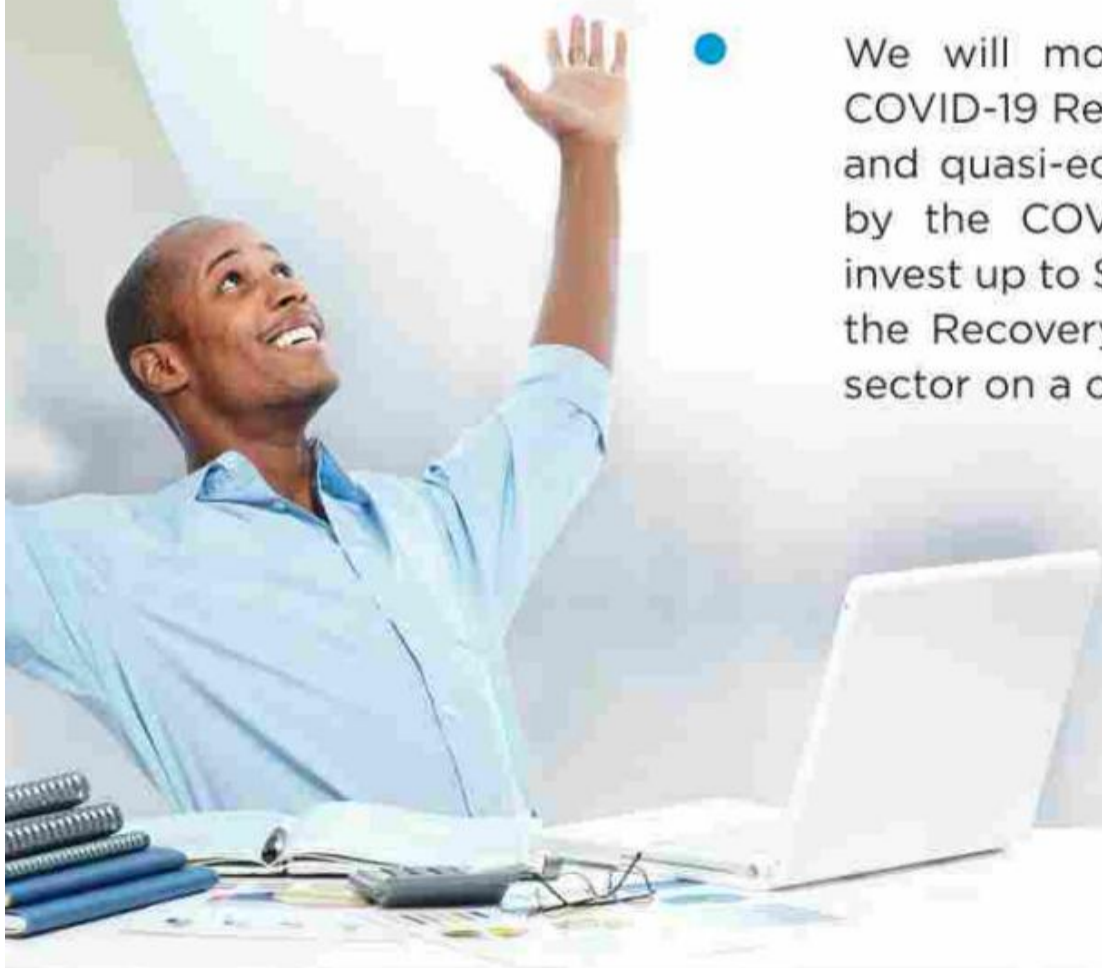
- ▶ We will establish business incubators utilizing factory and office spaces owned by the Factories Corporation of Jamaica (FCJ) and will reserve space for youth entrepreneurs starting or developing businesses working in high value add sectors.
- ▶ The coronavirus has highlighted the need for Jamaica to ensure appropriate focus is placed on opportunities within the Green and Blue Economies to ensure recovery with a stronger and more diversified economy. We will therefore
  - Complete our Green Economy Investment Strategy to address opportunities in water, construction, tourism, agriculture, and energy.
  - Advance the Blue Economy by developing a strategy to harness increasing opportunities, including the establishment of an expanded, more cohesive and fit for purpose institutional framework which will include coastal and quay monitoring and management, as well as wider marine matters.
- ▶ We will redeploy idle lands and sugar lands to establish orchards of tree crops and other functional foods that will put farmers back to work and contribute to attaining the goals of national food & nutritional security, as well as diversified export prospects. eg. avocado, mango, breadfruit, ackee, mango, citrus. We will also Ramp up development of the poultry, small ruminants, pig, and dairy industries and support our home grown school feeding programme.

- ▶ We will fully operationalize Agro-parks including irrigation infrastructure; expansion in tractor services and additional farm equipment to aid in harvest and post-harvest operations; suitable farm road and drainage infrastructure to match the potential output; security and lighting on the Agro-Parks; and finally, greater investment in technology.
- ▶ We will create a special Designation of Priority Investments that will allow for expedited decisions and other Government processes for projects designated as 'strategic' or 'priority'. The designation, would be based on pre-defined weighted criteria, and would be intended to remove bureaucratic impediments and mobilize Government efforts towards the implementation of high impact projects, as ministries, departments and agencies would be mandated to ensure the speedy facilitation of the designated project.
- ▶ We will place additional focus on Rural Development, and will establish a Department within the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation to drive rural job creation, investment, housing, formalization of squatter settlements, water, roads, internet and other infrastructure supportive of sustainable development.



## **3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RECOVER STRONGER**

- We will provide financial support to households and businesses to ensure that together, we recover stronger.
- We will provide \$500 million in grants for micro and community based businesses through the Social Development Commission.
- We will deploy \$1.2 billion in tourism grants to small and medium sized operators in the tourism sector through the EXIM Bank.
- We will provide \$3 billion in an Agri-Care Support Package (ACSP) for farmers and fisherfolk over 3 years. Farmers and fisherfolk will be supported with a number of essential items, including equipment and machinery, in addition to infrastructure such as greenhouses, fishing equipment and gears, as well as refrigerated containers for storage, to ensure their resilient recovery.
- We will mobilize \$20 billion for a public-private COVID-19 Recovery Equity Fund that will make equity and quasi-equity investments in businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government will invest up to \$5 billion alongside the private sector and the Recovery Fund will be managed by the private sector on a competitive basis.
- We will deploy \$10 billion in loan guarantees to support micro, small and medium sized businesses.





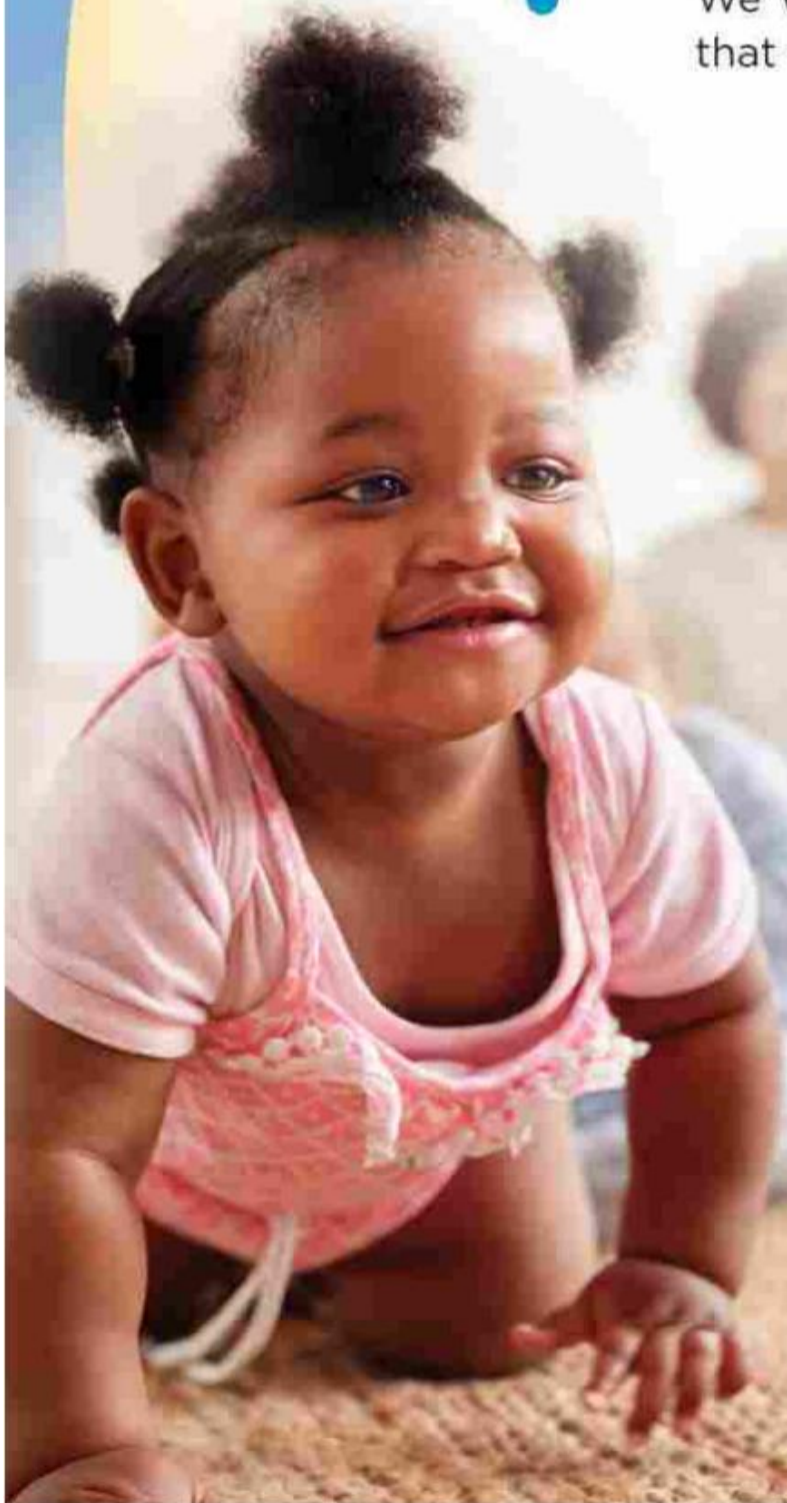
# 4. HEALTH

- To Recover Stronger, we will continue with vigilant and dedicated management of the health response to the COVID-19 pandemic while investing to improve health capacity and infrastructure.
- We will strengthen laboratory and surveillance systems.
- We will focus on community health support and continue to promote healthy lifestyles.
- We will undertake major infrastructure upgrades to the following hospitals: Spanish Town, St. Ann's Bay, May Pen, Bustamante Children's Hospital, and UHWI, together with completion of the Cornwall Regional Hospital and the Western Children's Hospital.
- We will retrofit 110 health facilities across the island with technology that will provide high-speed Internet capacity, modern ICT infrastructure to include laptops and tablets.
- We will invest in technology to improve health administration. This will include the implementation of a Health Information System through the use of new and advanced technologies, and the launch of a programme to allow easy and efficient management of health records and to provide citizens with easy access to medical professionals by mobile phone.
- We will provide high quality diagnostic services through public private partnerships



## 5. **STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET**

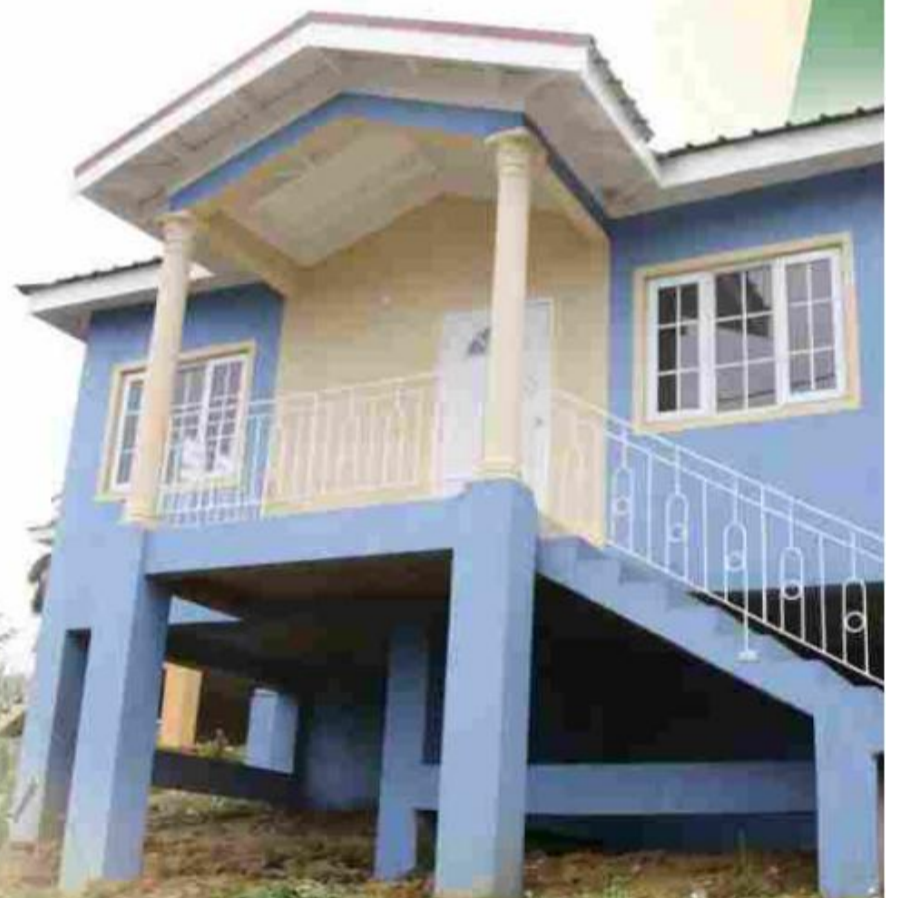
- To Recover Stronger we will strengthen the social safety net and increase social equity in the society:
  - We will expand access to day care for working parents earning less than \$1.5M, starting with a pilot programme providing subsidies to 28 Day Care Centers across the island.
  - We will further increase PATH Cash grant payments by 10%.
  - We will embark on comprehensive reform of social security that will achieve:
    - Universal National Insurance Scheme coverage whereby every working person will be a member of the NIS and will therefore have an NIS pension to look forward to in retirement.
    - Simplification of statutory deductions providing for a single consolidated social security deduction that covers the disparate NIS, NHT, HEART and Education Tax deductions today.
    - Creation of annual, semi-annual and quarterly statutory deduction payment options on behalf for domestic workers in the interest of inclusion.



- A Social Pension for elderly persons who are not in receipt of an NIS pension nor other source of income and who are in need.
- Unemployment insurance coverage for all persons enrolled in the National Insurance Scheme, who have contributed for a minimum period of time, will benefit from unemployment benefit support in the event they become unemployed.
- We will reform private pensions to increase portability and flexibility thereby increasing coverage.

## **6. LAND AND HOUSING**

- In a Stronger Jamaica, more Jamaicans must have access to land, housing and shelter.
- We will achieve 70,000 affordable home housing starts
  - 30% will be reserved for policemen and women, nurses, teachers and civil servants.
  - 10,000 will be allocated for young people (18 to 35) and we will provide them with 100% financing for seeking to purchase these homes.
- Each year, the NHT will invest a minimum of \$1 billion in Social Housing to include construction and repairs.
- We will issue over 30,000 land titles to Jamaicans who have legitimate claims to land that they have occupied, cultivated and used for generations.



# 7. EDUCATION

To Recover Stronger we will invest to improve education outcomes:

- **Closing the Digital Divide:** We will expand investments in Digital Technologies within the sector while ensuring that our teachers and students are equipped with the knowledge, mindset and tools to thrive in the digital age. We will continue to expand the tablets in schools initiative starting with procuring over 100,000 for teachers and students and then building beyond that number with creative solutions that focus on access for students in need.
- **Maximizing Distance Learning Objectives:** We will complete the installation of broadband connection in over 100 schools to increase access to education and connectivity needed to facilitate distance learning objectives and, outline additional phases of increased broadband. We will train, integrate and develop the Blended Learning approach to schooling in order to ease the demand for additional teachers and classrooms given physical distancing requirements.
- **Empowering Teachers to deliver at the highest standards:** We will expand the Emergency Education Plan currently underway to train teachers in technological and online distance learning systems.
- **Prioritize Early-Childhood Education and Parenting Support.** We will increase the proportion of the education budget that is allocated to the early childhood level, and we will prioritize the provision of resources to the National Parenting Support Commission.
- **Abolish the Shift System in Public Schools.** We will move all public schools off the shift system with the construction of new classrooms, laboratories and sporting facilities at the target schools.

- Promote STEM Education. We will develop six Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focused high schools that prepare students for careers in STEM fields.
- Promote Performing Arts Education. We will develop a performing art focused high school that prepares students for careers in the performing arts.
- Prohibit Discrimination in Schools. We will review and amend the Education Act to reflect a modern and culturally inclusive position that protects our children from being barred from any educational institution on the basis of wearing locks as an ordinary hairstyle irrespective of religious reason. It will also prohibit public schools from charging mandatory auxiliary fees.

**We will provide the following support for University Students, keeping them motivated as they seek to build their stronger foundation**

- Renew the Covid-19 Moratorium on existing Student Loan repayment. It will continue until the end of March 2021.
- Starting this academic year, we will extend the 6-month moratorium so that new graduates will not be required to start loan repayment until 14 months after graduation.
- Lengthen the Repayment Period of New Student Loans from 15 years to 25 years for certain degree programmes, including nursing, to reduce the monthly repayment burden.
- Further Reduce Interest Rates on Student Loans by 1%.
- Remove the Requirement for Guarantors in Student Loan applications for students transitioning from State Care.
- Relax Guarantee Requirements. We will require only one Student Loan guarantor per applicant from PATH Households.
- We will Introduce a Tax-Free University Savings Account where parents can save for university education and accumulate funds without the burden of taxation.
- We will review the Student Loan Bureau practice of publishing photographs of delinquent borrowers

## **8. MOBILISING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT**

To Recover Stronger we will mobilize foreign and domestic investment that improve the delivery of public services or promote innovation while creating jobs.

- ▶ We will launch and complete Public-Private Partnerships for water treatment and storage, sewerage, garbage collection and infrastructure development.
- ▶ We will list state owned enterprises on the Jamaica Stock Exchange giving Jamaicans the opportunity to own Jamaican assets. These assets will include shares in the Jamaica Public Service Company, the Jamaica Mortgage Bank, JAMALCO, as well as assets owned by the Factories Corporation of Jamaica and the Urban Development Corporation.
- ▶ We will introduce a tax credit for businesses that invest in research and development.

## **9. PRIORITIZING THE DIGITAL AGENDA.**

The Digital Agenda is a key tool for Recovering Stronger. The JLP is committed to closing Jamaica's Digital Divide and to the creation of "Digital Jamaica" where technology is woven into the fabric of business and everyday activities so that it engages and empowers every Jamaican in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. Our approach will include the following:

- ▶ We will seek to ensure access to new technologies beyond urban centres to facilitate rural social and economic participation and reduce inequalities.

- ▶ All town centres will be serviced with Free Wi-Fi. In addition we will ensure broadband/Wi-Fi access at our community access points. All public schools will have broadband Wi-Fi/broadband access.
- ▶ We will create the environment for reliable electronic communications and 21st century service provision; develop new systems and enhance existing ones to facilitate seamless exchange of electronic information, ease of doing business and new ways of working.
- ▶ We will digitize public sector services. All major public sector services that require applications will be accessible online.
- ▶ We will introduce a tax credit payable by cash grant for micro, small and medium sized businesses that invest in e-commerce and online store modules.
- ▶ We will implement a national identification system where all Jamaicans will have the opportunity for a robust and secure identification that will improve access to public sector services.

## ***10. ACHIEVING FINANCIAL INCLUSION***

Recovering Stronger means harnessing the potential of all Jamaicans. To achieve this we will need to ensure that all Jamaicans have access to financial services.

- ▶ We will pursue the use of low-tiered KYC bank accounts to increase the number of Jamaicans who have access to functional bank accounts.
- ▶ We will mandate by law that all lenders be required to include transparent, understandable, and comparable information in their product listings and documentation such that customers can easily choose between financial providers. Such information must reflect the true cost of lending, including the annual interest plus any fees, charges, etc to enable informed decision-making.
- ▶ We will introduce a national digital payment platform that will allow payments to be made seamlessly increasing productivity, efficiency, financial inclusion and security.

# ***BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY***

## **Finance & the Economy**

The Jamaica Labour Party government has had a strong record of achievement with respect to the management of the economy. Our economic policy direction has been oriented around the pursuit of the objectives of economic independence and opportunity for all, in addition to the protection of the vulnerable. The fiscal policy we pursued, and the monetary policy reforms we implemented have shaped the following outcomes:

- **We Grew the Economy for 14 Consecutive Quarters; Longer than Any Previous Administration.** Despite shocks from drought, excess rainfall and the negative secondary impact of sanctions on countries and companies with investments in Jamaica, the economy grew for more quarters than ever before since Jamaica started measuring growth quarterly in 1997.
- **We created 100,000 jobs** and unemployment almost halved from 13.7% in April 2016 to 7.2% by January 2020.
- **Poverty Fell by 40% to the Lowest Level in 10 Years.** The rate of poverty fell by 40% from 21.2% in 2015 to 12.6% in 2018, which is the lowest level in a decade.
- **Interest Rates are at the Lowest in Jamaica's History.** Over the course of the Jamaica Labour Party administration, our policies supported the central bank to lower the policy interest rate—on which other interest rates depend—to record lows. The policy rate fell from 5% to 0.5% leading to the lowest interest rates in Jamaica's history.
- **Inflation has been Low and Stable for Four Years** with annual inflation rates of 2.3%, 4.4%, 3.7% and 3.9% for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- **We Increased Non-Borrowed Foreign Exchange Reserves** by US\$1 billion between 2016 and 2019.





Under a new Jamaica Labour Party administration we will:

• **Maintain Fiscal Policy that Promotes Economic Independence, Economic Opportunity for All and that Protects the Vulnerable.** We will:

o **Promote an Efficient Tax System** that aligns interest of Government, businesses and households by promoting work, enterprise and entrepreneurship. We will continue to streamline and reduce taxation where the opportunities exist, while introducing tax credits that promote education savings, investment in research and development by businesses, and investment in e-commerce enabling technology. In addition, we will simplify statutory deductions by providing for a single consolidated social security deduction that covers the disparate NIS, NHT, HEART and Education Tax deductions today.

o **Prioritize Capital Expenditure** in infrastructure, technology investment, transportation, education, health and security as critical means of improving the delivery of public services.

o **Prioritize the Protection of the Vulnerable.** We will increase allocations, on a relative basis, to social welfare programmes to support the expansion of PATH, and the introduction of Social Pension among other programmes, and will support the comprehensive reform of social security.

• **Maintain Macro-Economic Stability and Build the Supporting Institutional Framework.** We will build and strengthen the institutions that safeguard the sustainability of government finances, low and stable inflation, foreign exchange reserve adequacy and financial sector stability. Furthermore, we will improve Jamaica's resilience to the financial cost of natural disaster.

o **We will Make the Central Bank Operationally Independent.** We have pursued the policy objective of operational independence of the Central Bank. We will pass the law that makes this effective and by so doing we will institutionalize low and stable inflation long into the future.

o **We will Establish a Fiscal Council.** We will seek to further institutionalize economic independence by strengthening our fiscal responsibility framework with the establishment of a fiscal council. The fiscal council will be the guardian and interpreter of those fiscal rules which already exist, and will help us maintain a path of fiscal credibility long into the future.

o **We will Improve Jamaica's Fiscal Vulnerability to Natural Disaster** by further capitalizing the Contingencies Fund and building resilience; this includes the purchasing of catastrophe risk insurance.

• **Provide Economic Support for Recovery**

o **We will allocate \$500 million in grants** for micro and community-based businesses through the Social Development Commission.

o **We will deploy \$1.2 billion in tourism grants** to small and medium sized operators in the tourism sector through the EXIM Bank.

o **We will allocate \$3 billion in an Agri-Care Support Package (ACSP) for farmers and fisherfolk over 3 years.** Farmers and fisherfolk will be supported with a number of essential items, including equipment and machinery, in addition to infrastructure such as greenhouses, fishing equipment and gears, as well as refrigerated containers for storage.

- o **We will mobilize \$20 billion for a public-private COVID-19 Recovery Equity Fund that will facilitate equity and quasi-equity investments in businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.** The Government will invest up to \$5 billion, through the Development Bank of Jamaica, alongside the private sector, and the Recovery Fund will be managed by the private sector on a competitive basis.

- o **We will deploy \$10 billion in loan guarantees** to support micro, small and medium sized businesses.

- **Achieve Greater Financial Inclusion**

- o **Increase Bank Account Penetration.** We will ensure that all Jamaicans have access to financial services. We will pursue low-tiered Know Your Customer (KYC) bank accounts to increase the number of Jamaicans who have access to functional bank accounts.

- o **We will Enhance Consumer Protection in Financial Services.** We will mandate by law that all lenders be required to include transparent, understandable, and comparable information in their product listings and documentation such that customers can easily choose between financial providers. Such information must reflect the true cost of lending, including the annual interest plus any fees, charges, etcetera, to enable informed decision-making.

- o **National Digital Payment Platform.** We will support the Central Bank's introduction of a national digital payment platform that will allow payments to be made seamlessly increasing productivity, efficiency, financial inclusion and security.

- **Improve the Business Climate and Competitiveness**

- o **We will Repeal and Replace the Customs Act** leading to a modernised Customs environment that places as much emphasis on customer service and efficient border crossing for people, goods and cargo as it does on revenue collection.

- o **We will implement a GOJ Land Bank** that provides a comprehensive database with key information on all available land across Government so that local and other investors can easily identify and apply for the sale/lease of lands. This will promote greater transparency, simplify the process, and simultaneously reduce the time taken to identify land, identify the specific landowners, and then transact a sale/lease.

- o **We will create a National Business Portal** to host many Business-to-Government (B2G) transactions, allowing MSMEs and other investors to:
  - Submit applications online for various licenses, permits and other approvals.
  - Have them reviewed by the relevant Government entities, and then obtain decisions online, in a timely manner that can be transparently tracked. This will pave the way for the full digitization of Government.

- o **We will Improve Jamaica's Doing Business Absolute Rankings** in the areas of trading across borders, tax administration, minority protection, registration of property and enforcement of contracts.

- o **We will Create a Special Designation of Priority Investments** that will allow for expedited decisions and other Government processes for projects designated as 'strategic' or 'priority'. The designation, would be based on pre-defined weighted criteria, and would be intended to remove bureaucratic impediments and mobilize Government efforts towards the implementation of high impact projects, as ministries, departments and agencies would be mandated to ensure the speedy facilitation of the designated project.

- o **We will Promote Higher Domestic Value-Added Economic Activity and Diversify our Economy.** To build back stronger, we will increase domestic contributions to growth and diversify our economy to decrease our reliance on traditional sectors. We will support the developments of coding, animation, logistics & fulfillment among other sectors. We will also accelerate the development of backward linkages from tourism to the domestic economy to increase domestic value added.
- **We will place additional focus on Rural Development,** and will establish a Department within the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation to drive rural job creation, investment, housing, formalization of squatter settlements, water, roads, internet and other infrastructure supportive of sustainable development and growth.
- **Pass Legislation and Implement Policies to Enhance Stability that Provides Opportunity for All.**
  - o **We will Continue to List State-Owned Enterprises on the Jamaica Stock Exchange** giving Jamaicans the opportunity to own Jamaican assets. These assets will include the Jamaica Public Service Company, the Jamaica Mortgage Bank, JAMALCO, as well as assets owned by the Factories Corporation of Jamaica and the Urban Development Corporation.
  - o **We will Implement Private Pension Reform** to increase portability and flexibility thereby of private pensions, thereby increasing coverage.
  - o **In Partnership with Stakeholders, we will Pass the Credit Union (Special Provisions) Act and make amendments the Co-operative Societies Act** to establish supervisory oversight of the credit union sector by the BOJ thereby increasing overall financial system stability and providing greater security to credit union stakeholders including members.
  - o **In Partnership with Micro-Credit Stakeholders we will Pass the Micro-Credit Act** that will ensure that micro-credit services operate within an environment of transparency and accountability. This will remove the risk of de-risking faced by micro-credit businesses while improving access to credit for individuals and business customers of micro-credit institutions.
  - o **National AML/CFT Compliance** We will lead a national effort to bring private and public sector stakeholders into compliance with Jamaica's commitment to the international body that monitors money laundering compliance.
- **Continue to Transform the Public Sector**
  - o **We will Implement the \$1 Billion Marcus Garvey Graduate Scholarship Programme** that will provide graduate scholarships for public sector employees to pursue graduate studies in areas of national priority at UWI, UTECH, Johns Hopkins University, Kings College, Harvard University and Oxford University.
  - o **We will Digitize Public Sector Services.** All major public sector services that require applications will be accessible online.

- o **We will Overhaul Public Sector Compensation Structure.** In collaboration with public sector unions we will overhaul the public sector employee compensation structure to retain skills and reward performance, make it transparent, and streamline salary scales and allowances with a view to simplify, increase transparency, and make it more equitable. We will introduce performance pay, first for permanent secretaries and other public sector leaders.
- o **We will Transform Human Resources Management in the Public Sector.** We recognize that public sector employees are the biggest asset of the Government of Jamaica. We will invest to ensure that our human resources management in the public sector is in keeping with international standards. We will continue the implementation of a comprehensive integrated HR System across the public sector with computerization and digitization of public sector HR records that will benefit all 113,000 public sector employees:
  - o Upon retirement, receipt of pension cheque to the new public sector pensioner will be paid one month after the public sector employee's last paycheck.
  - o All public sector employees will be able to check full employment record, apply for leave, view and print salary slips, request salary advances and submit claims, all online.
- **Support University Students and Graduates on Student Loan**
  - o **We will Reduce the Rate on Student Loans** by 1%.
  - o **Moratorium on Student Loan Payments.** We will renew the Covid-19 moratorium on existing Student Loans and extend it until the end of the financial year.
  - o **Extension of New Graduate Moratorium Period.** Starting this academic year, we will extend the moratorium for all new graduates such that they will not be required to start loan repayments until 14 months after graduation.
  - o **Extension of Loan Repayment Period.** We will lengthen the repayment period of new student loans from 15 years to 25 years for certain degree programmes, including nursing, to reduce the monthly repayment burden.
  - o **Removal of Requirement for Guarantors for those in State Care** We will remove the requirement for guarantors in Student Loan applications for students transitioning from State Care.
  - o **We will Require Only One Guarantor for Students on PATH.**
  - o **We will review the practice of publication of the pictures of delinquent borrowers.**





# SOCIAL WELFARE

The pursuit of social equity is among the founding values of the Jamaica Labour Party and we believe that by improving social equity, there will be a more stable, cohesive and prosperous society.

Over the past four years, new social welfare programmes have been introduced and pre-existing ones have been expanded providing much needed assistance to individuals, families, groups and institutions.

Some major achievements include:

- An annual Back-to-School grant introduced for PATH Students.
- The School Feeding Programme was expanded to five (5) days a week up from three (3).
- There was an 83% increase in the budgetary allocation to the PATH and School Feeding Programmes.
- Creation of the Tourism Workers Pension Scheme which for the first time provides the opportunity for all workers employed in the tourism sector to save towards a pension to which their employers also contribute.
- Over 440,000 Jamaicans received a cash grant from the CARE Programme which was designed to soften the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under a new Jamaica Labour Party administration, we will:

- **Strengthen the PATH Programme:** We will improve the targeting of the PATH Programme to include a larger proportion of the poor.
- **Provide Day-Care Centres:** We will increase access to day-care facilities for working parents earning less than \$1.5 million, starting with a pilot subsidies programme of 28 Day Care centers located across the island. We will also increase support for the Brain Builders Program.
- **Reform Social Security:** We will embark on a comprehensive reform of social security that will achieve universal National Insurance Scheme coverage whereby every working person will be a member of the NIS and will therefore have an NIS pension to look forward to in retirement.
- **Roll out a Social Pension** for all elderly persons who are not in receipt of an NIS pension or any other source of income and who are in need.
- **Develop Unemployment Insurance** coverage for all persons enrolled in the National Insurance Scheme. Under this coverage NIS contributors will benefit from unemployment benefit support in the event they become unemployed.

# JOB CREATION AND LABOUR MANAGEMENT

Over the last 4 years, the Andrew Holness administration has implemented a number of programmes which have contributed to significant job creation and effective labour management.

Under a new Jamaica Labour Party administration, we will:

- Increase the employment of disabled persons.
- Provide training and certification targeted at the redeployment of displaced employees.
- Conduct a Future of Work Study to identify new and emerging work trends and to promote a more resilient Jamaican worker.
- Facilitate and enable Remote Working and Tele-Working as permanent working modalities.
- Establish independent Financial Advice Centers to help citizens plan and manage their finances.
- Implement Phase 2 of the Labour Market Intelligence System (LMIS) Mobile Application to make it easier for employers and job-seekers to register their job requirements. (*The national LMIS is a job matching facility as well as a database of qualitative and quantitative information collected from labour market information producers and disseminated via the website in order to improve access*).
- Improve and promote access to the LMIS platform to benefit job-seekers, employers, researchers, educators, planners, students and other labour market stakeholders.
- Upgrade the LMIS to realize phase 4 of the website and phase 2 of the mobile application. The requirements documents have already been prepared.





# STRONGER AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

The importance of domestic food security has been reinforced by our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic where agricultural commodity and food supply chains have been disrupted. The Jamaica Labour Party has been committed to agricultural management and transformation since independence. Over the last four years we have built a foundation from which to transform Jamaica's agricultural space into a modern, innovative, and relevant mechanism geared at promoting economic growth and development. Over the next 5 years, we will focus on the expansion and rapid modernization of Jamaica's agricultural space, with the aim of contributing to the diversification of the economy, enhancing agricultural management as well as facilitating linkages, increasing food productivity, and production for all. This will be achieved through the following:

- **Economic Support:** will provide a \$3-billion-dollar Agri-Care Support Package (ACSP) for farmers and fisher-folks over 3 years to mitigate the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic and to promote a strong agriculture and fisheries recovery. Farmers will be provided with a number of essential items, including equipment and machinery, and infrastructure such as greenhouses, and fishing equipment and gears, as well as refrigerated containers for storage for fishermen and women.
- **Promotion of Large-Scale Farming:** We will transform the Jamaican agricultural landscape to facilitate the scaling of agricultural business, and access to markets, information, and funds. Some of these activities will include:
  - o The promotion of efficient large-scale farming of non-traditional crops to allow for more efficient cost-per unit of production resulting from the increase in scale, mechanization, and application of technology;
  - o A review of all leased land to be carried out by the Agro-Invest Corporation and the Sugar Company of Jamaica (SCJ) to identify leases on lands zoned for agriculture that are currently idle or under-utilized;
  - o Supporting the growth of diverse and organic farming methods to enhance biodiversity outcomes in the agricultural sector as well broadening the approach to agricultural business education to include programmes that target older youth who left school at a young age to work in agriculture.
- **Praedial Larceny:** We will strengthen the framework designed to fight against praedial larceny by:
  - o Amending the Agricultural Produce Act to:
    - (i) expand the range of crops, livestock and enterprises covered under the Act
    - (ii) increase the fine for Praedial Larceny from \$20,000 to \$3M at the Parish Court level
    - (iii) mandate that anyone guilty of praedial larceny is not only liable for the fine, but must make an additional payment of restitution.
  - o Provision of at least one drone for the Praedial Larceny Prevention Unit in each parish.
  - o Establishment of Police Farmer Groups which will be assigned policemen from each district. These groups will foster more communication and build greater trust in the police and therefore increased reporting of incidents.

- **Storage and Distribution:** We will improve storage and distribution options available to the agriculture sector lowering losses and increasing yields and output. Some of these measures will include:
  - o Rehabilitation of the Government-owned storage facility at Coleyville, Manchester.
  - o Privatization by public private partnership or lease arrangement, the Agricultural Marketing Corporation Complex at Spanish Town Road, on contractual terms that require its use as a modern storage and distribution hub for agricultural produce.
  - o Development, with private sector participation, of a fully functional fresh produce and livestock transportation, storage and distribution system, in accordance with good food handling protocols and traceability.
- **Fisheries:** We will develop and implement a programme of production incentives to support aqua-culture farmers to:
  - o Catalyse continued production
  - o Diversify licenses into new areas
  - o Explore new sustainable methodologies and enhance existing programmes
  - o Develop new fisheries such as the sea cucumber, and
  - o Enable artisanal fishers to rehabilitate equipment damaged due to inability to service pots.
- **New Systems and Institutions:** We will upgrade, update, and implement new systems and institutions to support Jamaica's focus on agriculture. These include:
  - o The establishment of a Regional Agricultural Management System for Trade between and among Caribbean countries to address the challenge of food insecurity.
  - o The development and implementation of a national food strategy which will see stronger linkages between the agricultural sector and other sectors, a more efficient agricultural food chain, and better connections between and among buyers and sellers at all levels.
  - o The development and rollout of a National Agribusiness Strategy and Action Plan to transform the agricultural sector.
  - o The establishment of an Agri-Business Intelligence Unit to provide the agricultural sector with access to data analysis, market intelligence, regular reports, and forecasts across several areas on a timely basis.
  - o The development of a water management framework for the agriculture sector to ensure that every farmer has access to adequate water.
  - o The establishment of seed banks, nurseries, and other relevant crop propagation infrastructure to safeguard the replenishment of selected strategic crops, and contribute to effective food security for the country.
- **Use of Idle Lands:** We will redeploy old sugarcane lands and idle lands, to facilitate the establishment of substantial sized orchards of tree crops and other functional foods that will contribute to attaining the goals of national food & nutritional security, as well as diversified export prospects. eg. avocado, mango, breadfruit, ackee and citrus.
- **Livestock and Dairy Industries:** We will ramp up development of the poultry, small ruminants, pig, and dairy industries. The dairy industry will be boosted through the school feeding programme, while the meat industry will be boosted through research and development programmes.

- **Expansion of Agro-Parks:** We will implement a targeted approach to fully operationalize Agro-parks for full productive potential. This will include irrigation infrastructure; expansion in tractor services and additional farm equipment to aid in harvest and post-harvest operations; suitable farm road and drainage infrastructure to match the potential output; security and lighting on the Agro-Parks; and finally, greater investment in technology. The focus will be on enhancing the existing parks and not on quantity; the country will benefit from more production and greater productivity.
- **Food Security:** We will deploy a range of activities to ensure that all Jamaicans have access to sufficient, healthy, safe, and nutritious food. To accomplish this, we will ensure National Food & Nutritional Security through the appropriate deployment of the country's resources and facilitation of a joint National Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach.
- **Agricultural Knowledge:** Through internships, joint programmes, and initiatives involving faculty, students, alumni, and Agri-Business enterprises, we will establish a virtual grouping of Schools and Institutions with an Agricultural learning emphasis to encourage young people to actively participate in and modernize methods in the agricultural sector.
- **Rural Agricultural Development:** The Jamaica Labour Party recognizes the importance of the rural spaces and places to the successful transformation and modernization of the Jamaican agricultural sector. Consequently, as government we will:
  - o Sustain the Rural Economy by facilitating the implementation of re-engineered Agri-Business Models, Supply Chains, and Value Addition operations;
  - o Ensure that all rural farms have access to adequate water;
  - o Facilitate an enabling environment for rural farmers to get access to loans, information, and resources;
  - o Provide training and capacity building for rural farmers interested in scaling their business or using technology to expand their business.





# MANUFACTURING

Over the past four years, Jamaica's manufacturing sector has experienced the most robust and consistent period of growth of any period over the past 25 years. The sector has experienced year-over-year quarterly growth for every quarter of the four years to December 2019, with the exception of only two quarters. Given the large value-add of manufacturing and the export potential of the sector, a new Jamaica Labour Party government will focus on building on this foundation of robust expansion of the sector.

We will:

- **Promote Export** by reducing the export processing Customs Administrative Fee (CAF) for products sold through ecommerce below a particular value threshold.
- **Remove Export Impediments** by reviewing and removing burdensome export procedures and improve turnaround time for approvals.
- **Promote e-Commerce Investment and Payment Solutions** by providing Tax credits for investment in technology that adds E-commerce and online options for transactions.
- **Promote Investment in Research and Technology** by providing tax credits for investment in technology that adds E-commerce and online options for transactions.
- **Reduce Fees Charged by the Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulator** on imported raw materials that are utilized for further processing for re-export.
- **Implement Set-Aside Procurement Reforms** through Government Procurement Offset and Set-Aside Regulations across Ministries, Departments and Agencies which will provide greater opportunities for our manufacturing sector.
- **Automate the CARICOM Certification Process** by working with CARICOM to Automate the CARICOM Rules of Origin certification process.
- **Promote Skills Training in Support of Manufacturing** by supporting programmes that train workers in skills required in the use, maintenance and repair of machinery.
- **Deepen Linkages with the School Feeding Programme** as we reform the School Feeding Programme to ensure linkages with the local manufacturing sector.
- **Deepen Linkages with the Tourism Sector** by deepening the local supply chain by allowing manufacturers greater opportunity to sell to hotels.



# TOURISM FOR ALL

As with many countries in our region and other parts of the world, Jamaica's tourism industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2016, the Jamaica Labour Party administration unveiled a five-pillar strategy that, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in an increase in annual visitor arrivals to approximately five million, earning \$5 billion a year. In 2019, Jamaica welcomed 4.3 million visitors, an increase of 17% over 2015, and this earned the country US\$3.64 billion in foreign exchange, an increase of approximately 52% respectively over 2015. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic Jamaica was on the path to surpassing 2019 levels of visitor arrivals and earnings of foreign exchange.

Despite the setback of COVID-19, a new JLP government will work to ensure that Jamaica's tourism sector will recover stronger with a higher quality product, deeper linkages, greater local value-add and increased resilience. Over the next 5 years, we will transform the tourism sector into a space where the opportunity to participate in and benefit from tourism is open to all Jamaicans.

In the short term, we will provide Tourism Grants to support smaller operators in the tourism and related sectors, including hotels, attractions, transportation, and tours that are registered with TPDCO. We will also provide training and capacity building options for small and medium sized tourism entrepreneurs to help them develop products and service offerings to tourists at the community level.

Over the next five (5) years we will:

- **Increase local participation in tourism.** We will revolutionize Jamaica's tourism product through increased local private sector participation providing the opportunity for more Jamaicans to benefit from tourism. This will include:
  - o An emphasis on boosting community tourism and entrepreneurship in communities to catalyze the production of goods and services for visitors and the tourism sector more broadly. We will institutionalize this with the establishment of a Community Tourism Unit in the Ministry of Tourism to work with communities and hotels to expand participation by community members, while providing an authentic Jamaican experience for all persons visiting Jamaica.
  - o Upgrading of craft markets, beaches, parks, and trails and provide training in customer service, spa and tour management, craft development and gastronomy to improve the quality of goods and services provided by small and medium sized tourism entrepreneurs.
  - o We will deepen cultural, heritage and city tourism.
- **Diversify Tourism Product.** We will diversify Jamaica's tourism product which will be crucial to increasing the resilience of the sector.
  - o We will continue to diversify visitor arrival source markets through expanded relationships with carriers from diverse countries and regions.
  - o We will promote the development of new destinations in St Thomas, on the South Coast, at Port Royal, and other parts of Jamaica that have untapped tourism potential. This will provide a number of employment and other opportunities for many Jamaicans.
  - o We will implement and manage several multi-destination Tourism agreements with other countries in the Americas to provide an interconnected tourism experience spanning the Caribbean, North America, and Latin America.

- **Modernize Tourism Sector Legislative Framework.** Legislative changes will improve the efficiency of granting requisite licenses, their minimum standard obligations once licensed, while setting out clearly the obligation of the licensing authority, procedures for renewal, suspension and/or cancellation of licenses. Under this legislative review we will repeal the River Rafting Authority Act and consolidate these regulatory functions in the Jamaica Tourist Board. Furthermore, we will consolidate the licensing and regulation of contract carriage operators and domestic tour operators under one Ministry.
- **Ensure Minimum Standards in Tourism.** We will establish the Tourism Resilience and Quality Management Inspectorate to periodically inspect hotels, public and private beaches, craft markets, and attractions to ensure minimum tourism standards are being met in accordance with respective licenses, as well as to develop and brand Jamaica as a high-quality destination.
- **Expand Opportunities for Training of Tourism Workers.** We will expand and upgrade the capacities of tourism workers with the expansion of certification and training programmes such as the JCTI, the Craft Development Institute, and the Artisan Village programme.
- **Expand the provision of Housing for Tourism Workers.** We will build on our achievements over the past four years in providing affordable housing on the North Coast to greatly expand the development of communities in areas where tourism workers reside.
- **Maximize enrollment in the Tourism Workers Pension Fund.** We have established the Tourism Workers Pension Fund and the Government has committed a contribution of \$1 billion to the Fund on behalf of tourism workers. We will maximize the enrollment of tourism workers in the fund, through a public education and enrollment campaign, thereby increasing the social security of tourism workers.
- **Deepen and Expand the Cruise Tourism Product.** We will use the hiatus in cruise arrivals due to the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance the walk-off experience of the cruise tourism product to further increase visitor engagement and spend. We will:
  - o Provide access to Wi-Fi throughout all port facilities and town centres, increase the installation of strategically placed information kiosks, organize cultural and entertainment events.
  - o Upgrade the Ocho Rios Pier and the public spaces in Ocho Rios from the Reynolds Pier to the town along Main Street with installations including lighting, sidewalks and soft landscaping.
  - o Complete the upgrade of the Montego Bay Hip Strip's public spaces from Montego Freeport to Dead End Beach with installations including lighting, sidewalks and soft landscaping.
  - o Upgrade the Falmouth pier consistent with the theme of heritage tourism.
  - o Complete the upgrade of the Port Royal cruise arrival facilities with the completion of the promenade that facilitates ease of pedestrian movement from the terminal into the town of Port Royal. We will continue to invest to further develop the town of Port Royal.
  - o Improve the shopping experience thereby increasing average local visitor spend.

# FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE WORKING FOR ALL JAMAICANS

Over the last 4 years, we have deepened Jamaica's traditional and non-traditional relations and significantly enhanced our international profile in an ever-evolving global environment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) was therefore able to successfully engage the international community in support of Jamaica's COVID-19 response.

A new JLP government will build on these achievements and further strengthen these partnerships in order to drive Jamaica's diplomatic, bilateral, and multilateral relations, engage our Diaspora, and support Jamaican citizens abroad.

Our activities and engagement will include the following:

- **Maintain an Effective and Positive Global Presence:** We will continue to ensure that Jamaica has an effective and positive global presence that translates into support for the development of Jamaica and the Jamaican people.
- **Maintain alignment with national development goals:** We will maintain alignment of Jamaica's international development support and cooperation with Jamaica's national development goals including increased trade and investment, security, agriculture, education, employment, energy, health, infrastructure, technology, and climate resilience.
- **Rationalize Embassies and Consulates:** We will continue to rationalize, and increase, where appropriate, the number of embassies and consulates abroad to maintain optimal effectiveness in our diplomatic footprint.
- **Build and Strengthen the Economic Diplomacy Programme** in partnership with JAMPRO, leveraging overseas missions and the honorary consular network to increase foreign investments in Jamaica and identify export and growth opportunities for local businesses.
- **Complete Development of a Registration Portal for Nationals** overseas to enable improved contact and support in the event of emergencies.
- **Complete a Consular Manual** to clarify service delivery levels requirements of our missions and consular network as well as manage expectations of our nationals overseas.
- **Continue to Expand Jamaica's Consular network** to maximize outreach and support of Jamaica's Economic Diplomacy Programme while managing resource constraints. This will include collaboration on promoting Jamaica as a good location for investment, and supporting local exports by identifying opportunities and providing leads.
- **Support Expansion of our Export Markets** through:
  - o Trade agreements as deemed strategically important.
  - o Continued support for the work of Customs and Trade Facilitation to increase speed of movement, release, and clearance of goods, including goods in transit; as well as the complete operationalization of the Jamaica Single Window for International Trade (JSWIFT).
  - o Leveraging the Economic Diplomacy Programme in conjunction with JAMPRO.



- **Continued engagement of CARICOM member states** on the revision of governance processes, decision-making and implementation, longstanding trade-related disputes, full implementation of a Caribbean Single Market, and revisiting of how a single economy could be realized, bearing in mind our small size as a region and the need for a collective approach to the global market.

- **Pursue collaborative approaches and partnerships in regional, hemispheric, and global contexts** (UN, EU-OACPS-CARIFORUM, Commonwealth, OAS, ACS, CARICOM,) including advocating for new architectures, financing for social and economic development, and climate change and resilience, in an environment of peace and security that is conducive to development for all developing nations.

- **Continue to engage and consult with civil society and the private sector** through our various multi-stakeholder consultative frameworks, including the National Council on Foreign Trade, JAMTRADE, the National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management, and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights.

- The Jamaican Diaspora brings a unique and highly valued kind of partnership, focused largely on social sectors at the community level that is born out of an intimate knowledge of the development needs and driven by the highest level of patriotism. In furtherance of this partnership, we will:

- o **Institute and Implement the National Diaspora Policy**, ensuring the mainstreaming of Diaspora engagement across government.

- o **Support and engage the newly established Global Jamaica Diaspora Council and the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council**, which are representative bodies through which both mature and younger Jamaicans can make the voices of their communities across the globe, and be heard on matters of national interest within their external environments.

- o **Continue to pursue agreed proposals** of the Diaspora Call to Action and matters raised in consultation with the Diaspora Councils.

- The Ministry and the Foreign Service must respond effectively, efficiently and expeditiously to the ever-changing demands of the external environment. Accordingly, it will continue the process of reorganization and restructuring ensuring:

- o **An adequate staff complement** across priority functions (robust bilateral and multilateral engagement, trade policy formulation, economic diplomacy, public diplomacy, consular and diaspora engagement.

- o Professional development of a highly skilled cadre of Foreign Service Officers through the **establishment of a Foreign Service Institute** that will also support the wider public sector in engaging external partners.

- o Acquisition of **increased technological capacity** for effective engagement of national and external partners.

# ***GOVERNANCE, SECURITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL***

## **A Stronger, Safer and Secure Jamaica**

We have invested heavily in rehabilitating, restructuring, and resourcing Jamaica's security forces in order to secure Jamaica's prosperity, as creating a safe, secure, cohesive and just society is always at the forefront of our thinking and actions. We have also upgraded the technology infrastructure of our security forces to enable them to effectively enhance the safety of Jamaica. Our security forces have demonstrated their capacity by rising to the occasion of the pandemic in maintaining law and order, even while supporting public health imperatives. We care about the wellbeing and safety of our police and military, and we will continue to build on their inherent strengths and correct weaknesses as we recover, rebuild, and transform towards true citizen security.





**A new Jamaica Labour Party government will therefore implement the following:**

- **To support the welfare of all members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)**, an expansion of the allocation of NHT housing solutions prioritized for members of the JCF, and through Public Private Partnerships, we will implement a special low interest car loan programme for members of the JCF so they may depend less on public transportation.

**Strengthen the law enforcement capabilities, structures, systems, and processes of the JCF** to enhance its capabilities to effectively manage crime. Some of the initiatives include:

- Increased usage of DNA, forensics, and ballistics analyses to assist in securing convictions;
  - A greater emphasis on investigations, including cold case investigations;
  - Prioritized engagement with stakeholders as a critical component of its anti-crime strategic plan; and
  - Training in pandemic-specific safety and security to effectively manage the spread of the coronavirus, and any other pandemic or epidemic illness.
- **Increase Reliance on Application of Technology** through measures including:
    - The buildout of technology support systems
    - Expansion of the Smart Check-Point facility
    - Deployment of body worn cameras
    - Access to central database from the service vehicles
    - Expansion of the newly re-built radio and microwave communication systems
    - Increased capacity for surveillance through the closed circuit television (CCTV) network
    - Use of drones where appropriate
    - Enhanced communications, surveillance, and accountability
    - Expansion of Jamaica Eye cameras across the nation under the second phase of the programme, under which we will blanket every town centre, city centre, and major intersection with security cameras.

- **Modernise Police Stations:** Further expand Project Rebuild, Overhaul and Construct (ROC) to convert police stations into modern, citizen-friendly workspaces and environments. This will provide officers with a comfortable environment that is conducive for work and citizens alike.
- **Expand Youth Initiatives:** We recognize and understand the critical role our youth play in maintaining law and order in society. To this end, the JLP will be expanding its many youth initiatives and implementing several new ones that are designed to engender positive values and behaviour among the Jamaican youth. Some of the new initiatives include:
  - Enhancement of youth and community development programmes towards youth development.
  - Implementation of youth-led multi-dimensional approaches to crime prevention
  - Roll out of special school-based initiatives to reduce violence, including gender-based violence.
  - Development of programmes and projects for instilling an intolerant attitude toward violence and reinforcing positive social orientation, which can act as a buffer against delinquent behavior.
- **Enhance the Protection and Securing of our Borders, Maritime Space, and Key Sectors of the Economy:**
  - Increase the number of Maritime Patrol Aircrafts
  - Continue to stop the inflows of guns
  - Disrupt the guns-for-drugs trade through increased technology-based border security at Ports
  - Optimize use of new patrol vessels and aircraft; as well as enhance cooperation with international security partners.
  - Extend the reach of our Coastal Surveillance Solution and Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).



- **Increase and Sustain Public Support for Law Enforcement and Public Order.** This will include increased community-based sharing of national security initiatives. Stakeholder engagement using a whole-of-society approach is critical as we develop policy and legislation to support the structured use of enhanced security measures, where necessary, to promote public order, peace, and security.
- **Transform and Modernise the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).** A reelected Jamaica Labour Party will continue the ongoing transformation and modernization of the JCF into an intelligence-driven and technology enabled organization with stronger systems of administration, management, and integrity. We will continue to improve the efficiency of systems that address promotions and staff welfare, which includes the implementation of an anonymous digital reporting system for police to make reports, recommendations, and suggestions directly to the Commissioner of Police.

## ***STRONGER GOVERNANCE FOR ALL***

- **The Jamaica Labour Party recognizes the connection between leadership, governance, and development. A new Jamaica Labour Party administration will continue to strengthen our governance structures which will enable a stronger and more durable recovery.**  
Over the next 5 years, we will:
  - **Protect Constitutional Freedoms.** We will continue to protect and foster the equal rights and freedoms enshrined in our constitution, upholding the rule of law, and promoting public order and citizen safety.
  - **Support Anti-Corruption Institutions.** We will continue to ensure our government demonstrates by action, our continued commitment to accountability, transparency, and efficient public service delivery, as well as our intolerance of abuse of power. Having established Jamaica's principal anti-corruption institutions by law, and having provided them with the requisite budgets and independent capacity, we will continue to support and empower them to enforce Jamaica's anti-corruption laws.
  - **Implement a National Identification system.** We will implement a national identification system with a lifetime identification number to empower the marginalized in communities underserved by the State, and to simplify access to services and business processes in the public and private sector.

- **Procurement and Governance Training for Public Bodies.** Further support training within public bodies in successfully implementing, and effectively managing and monitoring the corporate governance framework. Support will also be provided to civil servants in current and emerging strategies for strengthening good governance and democracy, to ensure the continuous entrenchment of democracy and democratic values and tenets in all spheres of our nation, as well as to foster a culture of knowledge and accountability in our civil service. Additional training will be facilitated in procurement management, new innovations in public policy management, monitoring and evaluation, and leadership to effectively manage and monitor government programmes and projects. This will especially be the case at the local government level.
- **Capacity Building Training for the Public Sector.** Engage in expanded capacity building courses and programmes for public sector employees in strengthening governance and improving productivity.
- **Introduce a Civic Education Programme at the Secondary Level** with the objective of raising civic awareness and stimulating deeper understanding of Jamaica's governance structure while promoting greater civic participation among Jamaican citizens. The programmes will include workshops on civil and political rights that provided training to trainers who would then facilitate grassroots workshops, the creation of a new course syllabus for civic education in secondary schools, and innovative, unconventional civic education awareness-raising programmes such as drama, public discussions, media spots, walks, concerts and video/multimedia presentations.
- **Engage in Wide-Scale Consultations and Referendum on Constitutional Reform.** In pursuit of broad-based constitutional reform, to which we remain committed, we will engage Jamaican citizens in wide-scale consultations regarding the queen as head of state, and electoral reform, to include fixed election dates, term limits, and impeachment. These consultations will be conducted with a view to ensure the input of all Jamaicans in determining the way forward based on the principles of value consensus. We continue to believe in a grand referendum at an appropriate time to determine these and other matters on which there is significant public divide.

## ***STRONGER DELIVERY OF EQUAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE***

- The Jamaica Labour Party will continue to promote a Justice system that is tough on crime, and seeks to divert children who come into conflict with the law to help them make better choices about their future, while recognizing that many criminals deserve a chance to reform. Our initiatives to support stronger recognition of the equal rights for all Jamaicans, and the delivery of justice for all will include:
  - **Creation of a Human Rights Commission.** We remain committed to the intention expressed in our 2016 Manifesto regarding the creation of a Human Rights Commission which replaces and expands the role of the Office of the Public Defender and promotes the protection of the human rights of all Jamaicans.
  - **Expansion of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Agenda** with more training across Jamaica on justice and civility. We also plan to establish a Victim Services Divisions in several parishes across Jamaica as well as court support for all Jamaicans as well as work to promote local policing forums, and the implementation of more modern community policing models in communities across Jamaica.
  - **Construction, Renovation, and Retrofitting of Courts and Additional Justice Centers** across the island to provide comfortable, safe, and aesthetically pleasing surroundings to conduct the business of the judiciary and alternative justice services. This will include the establishment of three (3) Regional Judicial Complexes for St. James, St. Ann, and Manchester. We will also provide expanded training for the Justice Training Institute via webinars, and create an enabling environment for a Case clearance rate of 101.6% by 2025.






- **Upgrade Court Infrastructure.** We intend to provide first class infrastructure at our courts so that all our citizens can access justice with dignity, and other court users, including court staff, can operate in an atmosphere conducive to productivity and wellbeing.
  
- **Modernise the Justice System.** We will support initiatives that will bring the justice system into the 21st century, to include continuing to pass laws to modernize fines across the laws of Jamaica. We will also pass new laws including:
  - **Dog Owners' Liability Bill** to allow for criminal prosecution, including clarification of the issue of compensation to protect persons attacked by dogs;
  - **Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Amendment) Act** to give the Expungement Committee wider discretion and support society's reintegration of rehabilitated persons;
  - **The Foreign Documents Bill** to simplify and reduce the expense of authenticating foreign documents for use in Jamaica and vice versa; and
  
- **Strengthening of the Child Diversion Framework.** We will continue to invest in the youth-friendly Child Diversion framework in which schools, local authorities, health authorities, and youth services work together to divert young people away from the pathways towards crime.
  
- **Investment in Technology to Enhance Efficiency of the Justice System.** We will enhance efficiencies in the justice system through technology which can lead to more timely case resolution. This will include: the configuration of additional mobile units with audio visual equipment to allow for testimonies from vulnerable witnesses, and an extension of the electronic payments system at the Family Courts to other courts.
  
- **Promote Restorative Justice.** We will establish the framework and services for Restorative Justice as a standard feature of the Jamaican justice system, including mass training of the staff of the Ministry of Justice in Peace and Justice Management.

# EQUAL ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS FOR ALL

Over the past four (4) years, the Jamaica Labour Party administration has worked with domestic, international, and diaspora partners to invest heavily in rehabilitating primary health clinics, hospitals, and other aspects of our healthcare systems. The local and global recognition of the strength of our public health systems and professionals has been highlighted by our COVID-19 response. In support of our response, and stronger management of pandemics and epidemics, a new Jamaica Labour Party government will pursue a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary approach through the strengthening of national and international partnerships that allow efficient alert and response systems for effective implementation of COVID-19 and other emergency responses.

- **Strengthen Laboratory Systems.** A new Jamaica Labour Party government will strengthen the laboratory systems to respond to the pandemic and other infectious diseases, strengthen the surveillance systems able to detect events of significance for public health and health security, and accelerate the development of technical drawings.
- **Improve Processing of Travellers through Airports.** We will improve the facilities for the processing of travellers by the health team at both of the island's main airports, as well as undertake infrastructure work for isolation facilities at airports, procurement of personal protective equipment for ports of entry and the review and enhancement of protocols for the processing of arriving passengers, to reflect infection prevention and control measures in response to COVID-19.
- **Undertake Major Upgrades to Our Health Infrastructure.** We will be bringing Jamaica's health infrastructure into the 21st century through major infrastructure upgrades to the following hospitals: Spanish Town, St. Ann's Bay, May Pen, Bustamante Children's Hospital, and UHWI, together with completion of the Cornwall Regional Hospital and the Western Children's Hospital. This effort will also include continued improvements to equipment for hospitals and health centres across Jamaica.
- **Retrofit Health Facilities.** We will be retrofitting 110 health facilities across the island with technology that will provide high-speed Internet capacity, modern ICT infrastructure to include laptops and tablets, and the widespread use of the WHO's Go Data platform for the collection and analysis of surveillance data for the detection and management of disease.
- **Invest in Technology to Improve Health Administration.** The Jamaica Labour Party administration will be upgrading the Jamaican health sector with the latest technology. This will include the implementation of a Health Information System through the use of new and advanced technologies, and the launch of a programme to allow easy and efficient management of health records that provides citizens with easy access to medical professionals by mobile phone.



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- **Implement Electronic Health Records System.** We will also implement an electronic health records system at a cost of more than \$800 million that will manage patient information, further improving the management of patient records and treatment such as telemedicine.
  - **Focus on Community Health Support.** We expanded community health support through the employment of 1,500 more nurses and with the training of more health aides and public health inspectors. In a new term we will also be safeguarding access to equitable, comprehensive, and quality health care services, which are essential for promoting and realising the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.
  - **Provide High Quality Diagnostic Services.** We will improve access to critical diagnostic services by outsourcing to private providers where our hospital infrastructure is either non-existent or not working.

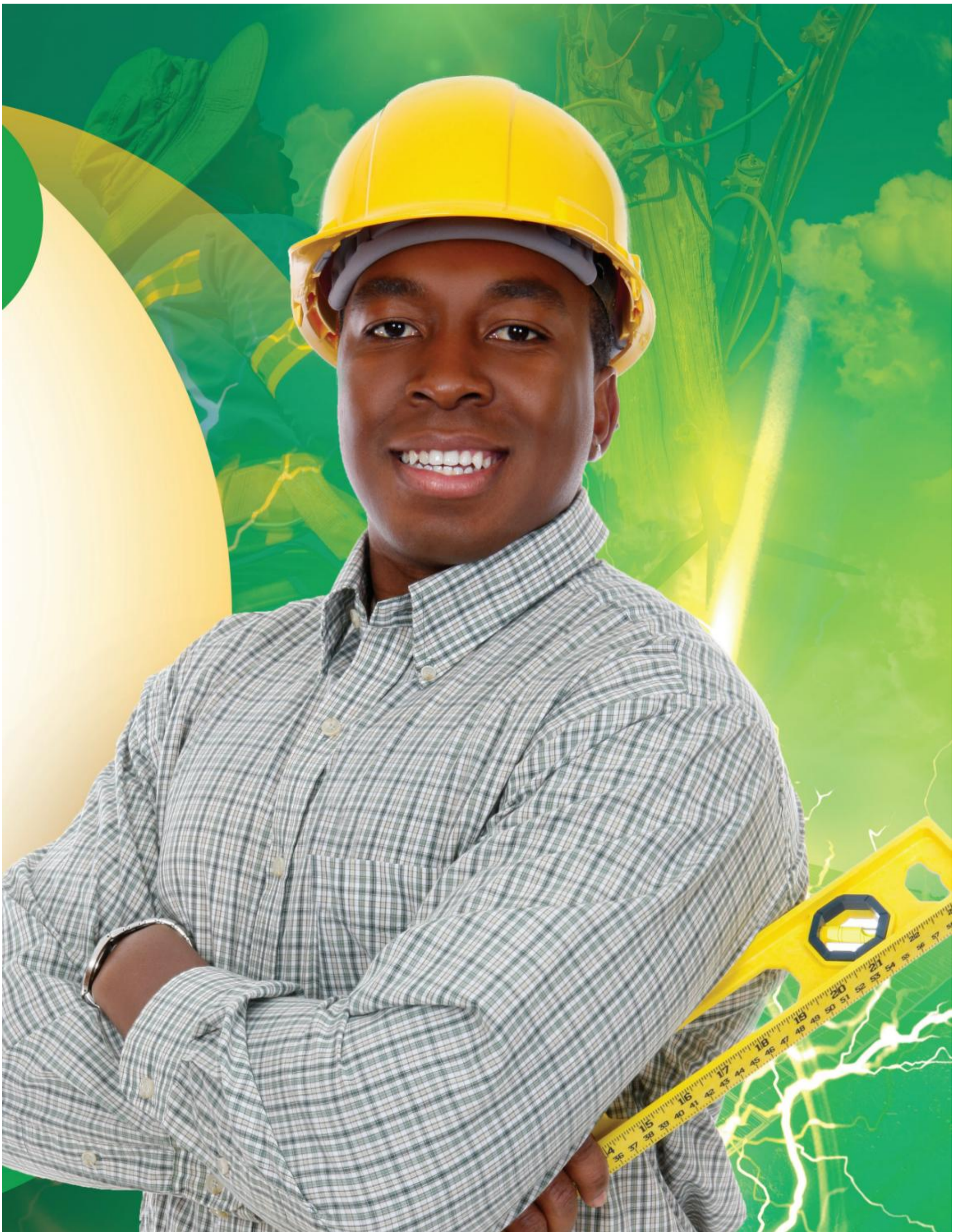
# ***ENERGY AND THE BLUE AND GREEN ECONOMIES***

The issue of Climate change has long transitioned from an environmental one to a cross-cutting economic challenge with the power to reverse progress on poverty alleviation and economic growth. In the last 4 years, the Jamaica Labour Party government has advanced our local and global climate action agenda. The next 5 years will be crucial to delivering on our Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement to maximize Jamaica's contribution to climate resilience & wellbeing for all of Jamaica and the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the global interconnectedness of human and planetary health. It also has highlighted the need for Jamaica to ensure appropriate focus is placed on opportunities within the Green and Blue Economies to ensure recovery with a stronger and more diversified economy. Over the next 5 years, a new Jamaica Labour Party government will therefore build on its advancement as we continue our participation and leadership in the global Climate and Oceans Agenda.

## **We will:**

- **Develop a Green Economy Investment Strategy to address opportunities in water, construction, tourism, agriculture, and energy.**
- **Advance the Blue Economy by developing a strategy to harness increasing opportunities including an expanded, more cohesive and fit for purpose institutional framework which will include coastal and quay monitoring and management, as well as wider marine matters.**



# ELECTRICITY

- **Promote Renewable Energy.** We will create an enabling environment to facilitate access to alternative sources of energy for all Jamaicans through facilitation of the development of renewables, especially off-shore wind generation. We will facilitate the deployment of alternative energy solutions for schools, hospitals, and police stations to reduce costs and protect the environment; We will work towards having, by 2030, 50% of electricity generation in the energy mix to be met with renewables including solar, wind, hydroelectric, waste to energy, and biomass, and 80% by 2037
- **Promote the use of Electric Vehicles.** We will introduce an E-Mobility framework to encourage the use of electric vehicles by Jamaicans.
- **Promote Private Investment in Energy.** We will encourage the transformation of Jamaica's energy investment ecosystem through private investment and innovative financing options.
- **Reform the Electrical Inspectorate Apparatus.** We will reform the mechanisms of electrical inspection to ensure that electrical inspections of new developments are compliant, and are done more quickly and efficiently.
- **Expand the Availability of Street Lights in Communities.** We will modernize the street lighting mechanisms to facilitate the installation of more street lights in communities over 5 years. This will also include rapidly halving the waiting time to repair street light, as well as committing to having street lights repaired in a timely manner and new ones installed in the many communities in need of these.



## ***BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS (PAS) MANAGEMENT***

- **Transform Management of Biodiversity and Protected Areas.** We are committed to positively transforming the management of biodiversity and protected areas. This will include updating The Protected Areas Policy, as well as the enactment of overarching protected areas legislation. We will also be increasing the percentage of terrestrial and marine areas under legal protection. The percentage of terrestrial areas under legal protection will significantly increase with the declaration of the **Cockpit Country Protected Area**. We will also continue the implementation of the **3 Million Tree Planting Initiative**, in addition to the finalization of **The National Biosafety Policy for Jamaica**. This will address the transboundary movement, safe handling, transport, and use of living modified organisms; as well as **amend the Forest Act** to take into account, inter alia, the provisions of the Forest Policy (2016).



# ***AIR QUALITY AND POLLUTION MANAGEMENT***

- **Implement Air Pollutants Source Reduction Strategies.** We will continue to implement air pollutants source reduction strategies in hotspot areas such as Six Miles, Marcus Garvey Drive, Mandela Highway and Spanish Town Road air corridors. In an effort to increase monitoring for pollution prevention, the party also plans to amend the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act to include, inter alia, increased fines and penalties.



# COASTAL AND MARINE MANAGEMENT

- **Complete the Cays Management Policy** to ensure the sustainability and protection of their land and marine environments.
- **Complete the Master Plan for Hellshire Beach** to address orderly development of the area. We will also establish a monitoring tower at Hellshire Beach to assess wave action and changes in the coastline over time. This will inform long-term beach rehabilitation work needed to address coastal erosion, as well the development of a management plan for mangroves.



# PHYSICAL PLANNING

- **Finalise the National Spatial Plan** The JLP plans to continue our solid achievement in terms of the country's physical planning. The National Spatial Plan as well as the National Spatial Plan Information Technology platform, are both currently being finalized by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation. Additionally, the New Negril Master Plan (which spans the area from the border of Hanover and Westmoreland towards Lucea) is currently being finalized by NEPA.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Paris Agreement Goals.** We will design our 2050 Pathway to meet the Paris Agreement goals by developing a long-term low-carbon emission and climate resilient strategy, develop a National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, update the Climate Change Policy Framework (CCPF), and enact Climate Change legislation.
- **Climate-Smart Technology.** We will promote the wider use of Climate-Smart Technology in agriculture and other areas to address urgent climate risks to food and other systems.
- **Adaptation and Mitigation.** We will increase access to climate finance for both adaptation and mitigation, and work with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) across government to provide guidance regarding more Climate Action Initiatives and efforts. We will also strengthen the national climate and disaster-risk management framework using digital technology to monitor and collaborate with entities, and encourage young people to take part in the effort to address climate change and disasters by using digital technology programmes and activities.

# ***DISASTER RESPONSE***

- The JLP will continue work to upgrade and modernise the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), to comprehensively manage disasters and effectively undertake emergency management programmes across Jamaica; and will continue to strengthen economic resilience to natural disasters through the Natural Disaster Contingency Framework.

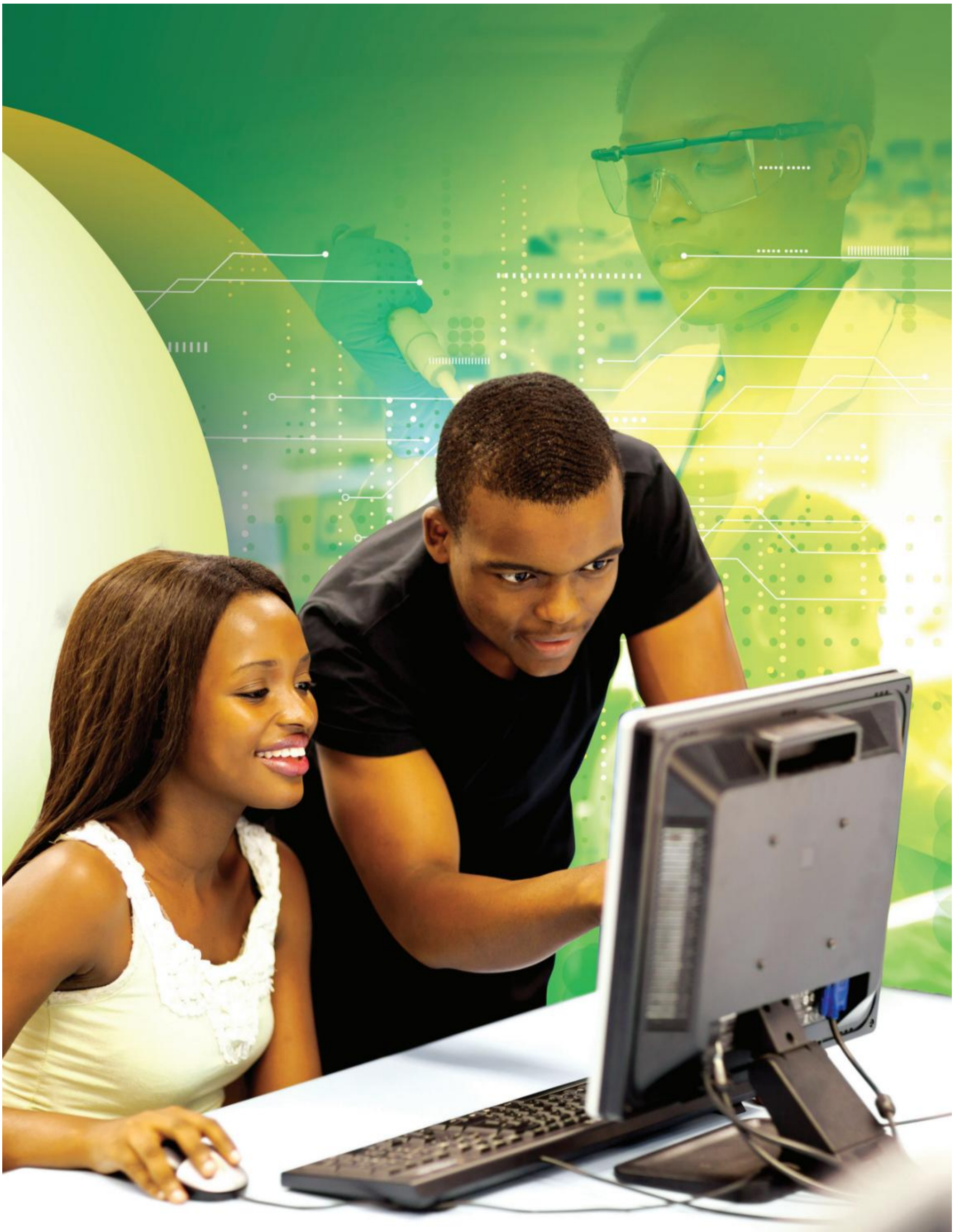


# ***BUILDING A DIGITAL JAMAICA***

## **Stronger Focus on Innovation, Information Science, and Technology**

The JLP is committed to closing Jamaica's Digital Divide and to the creation of "Digital Jamaica" where technology is woven into the fabric of business and everyday activities, so that it engages and empowers every Jamaican to participate in the 4th Industrial Revolution. By this, we mean that our vision is that the way in which we all work, play, do business, and interact with our institutions will, in large part, be facilitated by technology that is seamless and frictionless.

In the area of Science, the JLP is committed to establishing a new model for the sector, in which investment research and development does not benefit only institutions or individuals, but benefits all citizens and the country. This will involve greater stakeholder engagement, alignment, and consensus.



# GoDigital

Our vision is that Innovation, Science, and Technology are key tools for Recovering Stronger and blazing into an incredible New Jamaica for all, built on the following fundamental pillars:

- **GoDigital for Access & Communications:** We will ensure Universal Access to broadband and wireless services as a right for all Jamaicans including a focus on rural Jamaica. We will also take action to improve affordability of access by targeted and phased reduction of duties or fees on importation of technology-based goods and services. We will also ensure access to new technologies beyond urban centres to facilitate wider rural social and economic participation. We also will create the environment for reliable electronic communications and 21st century service provision; develop new systems and enhance existing ones to facilitate seamless exchange of electronic information and ease of doing business; ensure more efficient services and information are made available through Gov-Net and the Gov.JM portal; and introduce eHOME: (The Electronic Home-based Mode of Employment), the “Work from Home” initiative to boost productivity, empower workers, and generate cost savings to both employees and government.
- **GoDigital for Commerce:** We will enable a frictionless environment for electronic buying and selling of goods locally and globally towards business development and expansion. This will include enabling more online banking and electronic gateways to support real time transactions and initiatives to increase digital exports.
- **GoDigital for Literacy:** We will review and realign our education system, curriculum, and practices to support a more agile technology-centric learning and teaching environment for the 21st century digital citizen. Additionally, a JLP -led government will increase programmes to engage our youth, including at-risk youth, through training and certification, and establish programmes to also engage and train senior citizens in basic use of technology. No citizen will be left behind. Everyone will have an equal opportunity to become digitally literate.
- **GoDigital for Security:** We will ensure that every facet of our digital society is secure by establishing, first, a national cyber defence apparatus to protect national assets from attack. Further, we will create more robust national educational and awareness programmes for businesses and citizens around security best practices in the new digital paradigm.

- **GoDigital for Health & Wellness:** Establish a sustainable programme for our citizens to ensure their physical and psychological well-being in a digital world. We will also transform the provision of healthcare services through digital health technology, making services such as telemedicine more available.
- **GoDigital Laws & Standards:** Create new legislation and review existing legislation to ensure an enabling environment for inclusion, participation, investment, growth, and equality. We will:
  - Repeal the 20-year-old Telecommunications Act and replace it with a new ICT Act.
  - Harmonize all relevant ICT legislation to ensure cohesion throughout all regulatory facets of ICT to create a more modern fit for purpose framework. Enact policies to ensure level playing fields for creators of technology, consumers of technology and providers of ICT services.
  - Educate all citizens about their rights and responsibilities in the new “Digital Jamaica.”
  - Establish national standards of conduct or procedure in the digital society to help citizens to be aware, mindful, courteous and safe when they interact online.
  - There will be public sensitization on laws protecting citizens from harassment, cyberstalking and cybercrimes in general so we know our rights and responsibilities.
- **GoDigital for Innovation:** We will transform Jamaica into the Technology Hub of the Caribbean using initiatives such as Innovate@Jamaica, a research and development initiative of the GOJ; initiatives to accelerate existing digital start-ups with an incubator space that includes animation and access to publishing software & mentorship programmes; as well as programmes to support talent discovery and exposure. We will also establish a Centre for Digital Transformation to create an environment for digital transformation and support MSMEs in the adoption of new technologies to transform the way they do business.

- **Science Innovation & Technology Foundation:** We will create a National Science, Technology and Innovation Foundation (NSTIF) to catalyze the growth of science & technology-based ventures. This fund will apply to all types of science & technology-based initiatives that would be beneficial to the growth of our nation. The foundation will be outcome-based and responsible for, but not limited to, assessing, establishing & managing funding, projects, and Public Private Partnerships geared at bolstering scientific innovation for the public good, commercialization, and economic growth.





# ***SCIENCE, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY***

- **Science, Innovation & Technology for Economic Development:** We will identify 4 key priority areas that will serve as the foundation for a science and innovation-based national focus for economic development. These priority areas will guide curricula, partnerships, and funding with the goal of increasing the contribution of Science, Technology and Innovation to GDP.
- **Science, Innovation & Technology Agency:** Establish a single agency (perhaps consolidate where necessary) that is adequately staffed and funded to oversee all national aspects of Science, Innovation, and Technology. This agency will be responsible for, but not limited to:
  - Advising Government on strategy, policy, and legislation for the Science and Innovation space.
  - Making recommendations and overseeing allocation of funding for various initiatives, including R&D.
  - Establishing public private partnerships both in the local space and internationally to enable increased investment in the Science, Innovation, and Technology Space.
  - Establishing a local and international communications strategy to highlight Jamaica as a hub of activity in the Science, Innovation, and Technology arena.

# ***BUILDING BRAND JAMAICA FOR DEVELOPMENT***

## **A Stronger Focus on Culture, Entertainment, Heritage, and the Creative Economy**

The Jamaican culture is one of our greatest national assets, from our rich architectural tradition to our unique history, and distinctive landscapes. From exquisite objects, symbols, archaeological sites, and historic vehicles to stunning religious buildings, museums, and preserved ships. We are indeed “a big country on a small island,” and our culture tells our story as a nation, supporting social cohesion, rootedness, and identity. Our culture, as well as the creative and entertainment industries that blossom from it, drives beneficial change, contributes to our well-being, enhances biodiversity, and supports long-term environmental and economic sustainability. We will give improved focus to the development of these industries towards diversifying our economy and building resilience as we strive to *recover stronger*.

### **Covid-19 Support**

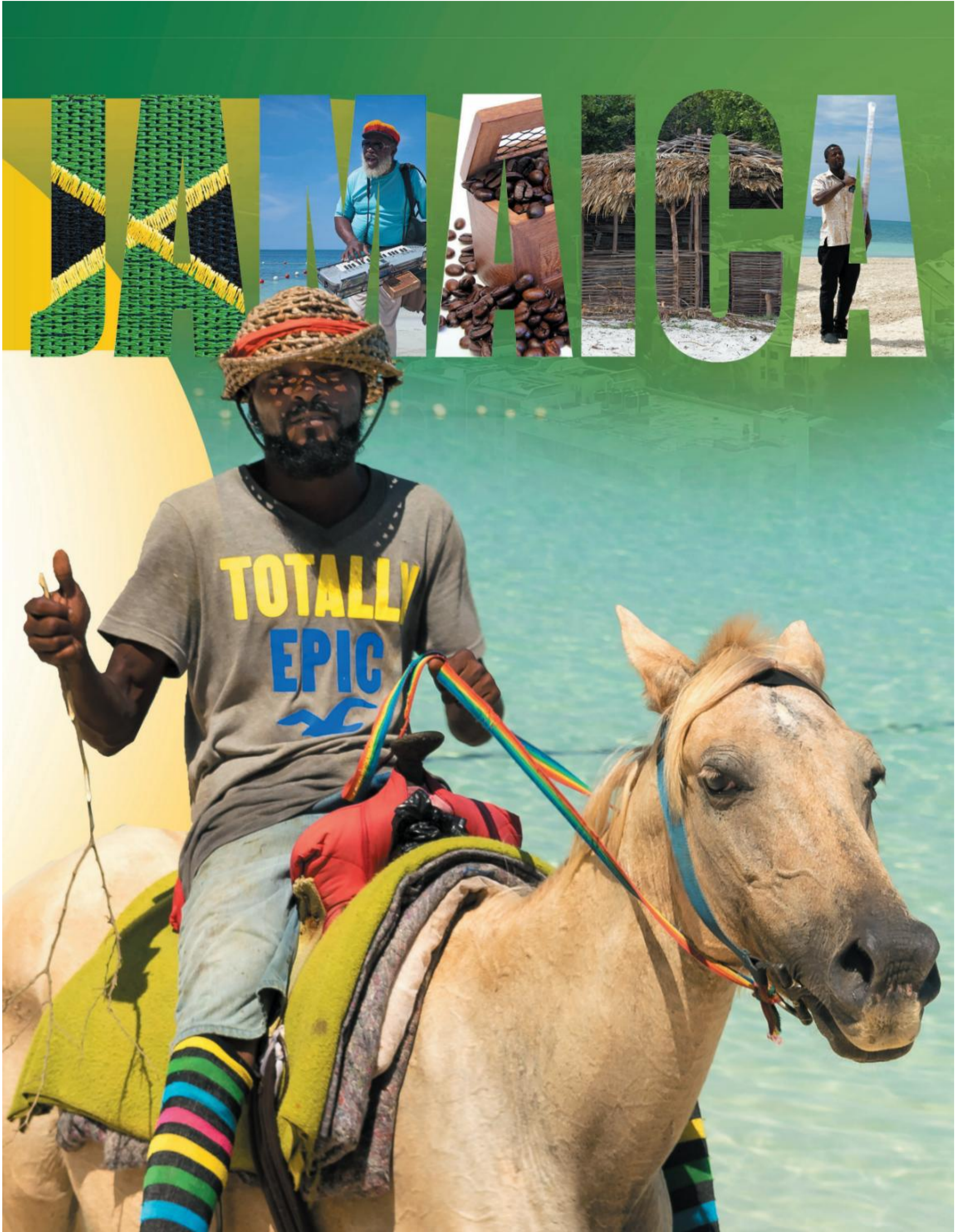
A JLP-led government will create a “COVID-19 Creative Fund” to support the expansion of Jamaican creative industries nationally, regionally, and globally through the use of digital technologies. This will include the development of digital content and support for the use of the digital medium to showcase Jamaica’s talent using virtual platforms.

### **Creative Industries**

The JLP will continue to support the transformation and expansion of the Jamaican creative industries to better serve the dreams, aspirations, and efforts of the Jamaican people and optimize returns on investment in the sector.

This transformation will include:

- **Creative Spaces.** We will develop Creative Spaces in parishes across the island, showcasing our history, culture, and unique entertainment products.
- **Promotion of Jamaica’s Film Industry.** We will promote the growth of Jamaica’s Film industry by: supporting the Jamaica Screen Fund Initiative; creating a project-based funding programme with both grant and loan elements managed between JAMPRO and DBJ; and creating a mechanism for venture capital or other private capital to recognize the Industry’s true potential.
- **Creation of a Comprehensive Integrated Creative Enterprise Framework** for Jamaica to bring stability, cohesion, and continuity into the creative enterprise space.



# CULTURE

- **Raise Cultural Awareness.** The JLP will strive to expand our programme of work to raise the awareness regarding the power, depth, and scope of our own culture through an increase in the showcasing of our cultural elements locally as well as in the diaspora. This will include the promotion and celebration of Jamaican museums and galleries through school and workplace packages, pop-up outdoor programmes, and the delivery of sustainable funding to the arts and culture sector, as well as galleries, libraries, archives, and museums.
- **Establish Performing Arts Centres.** We will establish state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centres in Kingston and Montego Bay to support the showcasing and development of local talent, as well as to provide spaces to host international performing arts events. This will boost our cultural exposure and potential for earnings in the sector.
- **Assistance to Cultural Entrepreneurs.** We will provide meaningful assistance to cultural entrepreneurs towards the establishment of indoor performance spaces (theatres etc.) and other infrastructure needed for the continued development of the sector. Cultural entrepreneurs will therefore benefit from the creation of the spaces required to hone their respective creative talents and develop their creative capital.
- **Local Benefits from Global Recognition for our Cultural Assets.** We will continue to ensure that our cultural practitioners and cultural communities are equipped to benefit from the inscription of our various cultural assets on global lists. This will be achieved through the continued provision of entrepreneurial training and other support by way of 'Economic Opportunities Workshops'. Already, more than 800 persons have benefitted in the parishes of Portland, St. Thomas, St. Andrew, Kingston, and St. Elizabeth, and we will continue to expand the reach of this initiative into more communities to positively impact the lives of more Jamaicans.
- **Funding for Cultural Communities.** We will improve funding support for cultural communities to enable them to maximize the economic benefits to be had from the staging of cultural activities including: Maroon celebrations in Accompong, Charles Town, Scott's Hall, and Moore Town, in addition to Indian Arrival Day commemoration activities. Rastafari commemorative events such as the commemoration of the Coral Gardens Incident, and commemoration of the visit to Jamaica of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie, I, will also see improved government funding.



# ENTERTAINMENT

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We will undertake massive Brand Jamaica promotions in non-traditional markets to promote Jamaican culture and Jamaican artists, and to champion our unique entertainment sector on the world stage. We will support and facilitate the introduction of more of our musicians into overseas markets beyond the Caribbean, through an online platform that will connect local talents to the world. This platform will allow our local talents to access digital markets in order to maximize opportunities presented by new technologies. This initiative will also include:

- **Private Sector Mobilisation.** We will mobilize the private sector in an effort to launch entertainment incubators/ accelerators to hone and channel creative talent in Jamaica.
- **Increase Export of Cultural Output.** We will develop the policy framework to support an increase of the export of creative industry services as well as the building out of Entertainment Zones in several parishes across Jamaica, starting with Port Royal in Kingston, and to include Fort Rocky, Fort Charles, and the Old Coal Wharf on non-ship days.
- **Invest in and Leverage the Jamaica Festival Brand.** We will re-vitalisz, re-focus, and re-brand Jamaica Festivals as a summer of cultural and entertainment activities that celebrate the freedom and independence of the Jamaican people. The festivals will feature both government-run activities and private sector-led events as we will seek to employ an inclusive approach in order to boost economic opportunities and benefits.



# HERITAGE

- **Fund Support and Develop our Cultural Heritage** We will continue to fund, support, and develop Jamaica's cultural heritage through the maintenance, improvement, and protection of heritage spaces across Jamaica. We will improve the promotion of our heritage assets as part of creating vibrant places in which to live, and build sector skills and capacity. Additionally, we will leverage our national heritage to aid in the transformation of Jamaica into a prosperous space for the benefit of all Jamaicans.
- **Love of Self and Heritage.** We will continue to promote love of ourselves and our heritage. Our programme of celebrating positive self-identity also includes elevating outstanding Jamaicans, worthy of emulation. In this regard, we developed four monuments to outstanding Jamaican athletes and established the Miss Lou Square in honour of our mother of culture. We will continue to develop monuments to serve as constant reminders of our past achievements while simultaneously being reservoirs of inspiration for future greatness.
- **Reparations.** We will continue to pursue Reparations from our colonisers for centuries of enslavement of our African ancestors. In this regard, we will develop a National Reparations Policy, setting out our position and direction on Reparatory Justice.
- **More Global Inscriptions.** We will continue to pursue the inscription of other Jamaican assets to cultural and heritage lists including: The Underwater City of Port Royal and Sections of the Cockpit Country to the World Heritage List; The Revival Music of Jamaica; and Kumina Ritual Dance and Music to the Intangible Cultural Heritage List. This will increase international support and recognition for critical elements of our heritage while simultaneously providing more opportunities for growth and development to our people.



# STRONGER SPORTS RECOVERY AND PERFORMANCE

Sports is an essential element of what it means to be Jamaican – a defining source of identity and deep national pride. Sports also builds community cohesion and social integration and adds to our outsized influence on the global stage, promoting our people, culture, and rich heritage. Given the important role sports play in Jamaican society, and the fact that it has been one of the hardest hit in the COVID-19 pandemic, we are committed to the prioritization of policies and programmes that will not only return the sector to where we were, but will be guided by a long term vision of where we need to be. This vision will be achieved by:

- **Restructuring Sports Administration.** We will restructure our national sports entities: the Sports Development Foundation, Independence Park Limited, INSPORTS, and the Institute of Sports to increase their efficiency and accountability. We will continue the work we have started to improve governance, transparency, and accountability in the sector to guarantee value for money.
- **A Junior Athlete Incubator:** We will promote greater youth and grassroots sports development by implementing a Junior Athlete Incubator Programme to provide academic and athletic developmental support to young athletes who leave high school without matriculating into tertiary education. We will increase promotion and support for grassroots sports and non-traditional sporting disciplines through increased investments in order to provide equitable distribution of investment and opportunity to all athletes.
- **Sport Security and Protection:** We will establish a Policy for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable groups in sports to promote safety and security. We will establish and maintain a database of coaches certified as fit and proper to work with children; mitigate and reduce the occurrence of abuse of children and the vulnerable; and implement a code of conduct by all national sports associations, federations, and affiliate clubs.
- **Digitizing our Sports:** In partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, we have developed, for the first time, a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Results Management System (MEFRMS) to quantify the value of sport to national development. We will complete the roll-out of the Athlete Management system and Registry to facilitate a vital part of the MEFRMS process, to increase support to athletes post-COVID-19.



# STRONGER SPORTS RECOVERY AND PERFORMANCE

- **Expanding Sports Investment:** We will expand investments made in community sport and recreation to encourage widespread participation, build community cohesion, and help our local clubs thrive. We will also expand funding opportunities for sporting federations and associations through the Sports Development Foundation.
- **Increasing Support for Sports in Schools:** We will encourage more collaboration between sports clubs and school sports to help bridge the transitions between primary, secondary, and tertiary education.
- **Improving our Sports Infrastructure:** We will continue to retro-fit and upgrade aging sports infrastructure including our aging National Stadium to make it more customer-friendly and more compliant with international sports governing bodies' standards. We will also develop the Trelawny Stadium to enable its placement at the centre of our Sport Tourism thrust and establish the National Sport Museum and a Virtual Sports Museum, supported by a Sport Museum Foundation.
- **Diversifying our Sporting Brand:** Establish the Caribbean Sports Medicine Centre to offer specialised services to elite athletes in Jamaica, the Americas, and beyond in collaboration with Usain Bolt and UWI Mona. This will strengthen our sporting brand and ensure the continued growth and development of Jamaican Athletics.







# ***EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL***

As the Jamaica Labour Party moves to Recover Stronger beyond COVID-19, the lens through which we see schooling and the entire learning experience of a child will expand beyond academics to seeing children as whole human beings who experience a range of changes in Mental and Physical Health, Cognitive and Identity Development, and Social, Emotional, and Academic Development.

This perspective will guide our policy directives, teacher leadership training, professional standards, curriculum, programmes, and assessments. In doing so, we will unlock a strong, inclusive and sustainable economy fit for global connectedness and growth. To that end, the Jamaica Labour Party commits to:

- **Embed Strong Jamaican Identity:** We will review the prevailing approach to student-centered learning to ensure effective outcomes and we will also review the existing structure of the Civics curriculum to ensure our young people are able to envision and take ownership of their self-worth and potential to create a powerful citizenry with strong community values, national pride, and civic responsibility to avoid brain drain.
- **Sustain the Improvement of Early Childhood Education:** We will increase funding for Brain Builder Centers that support the work of Early Childhood Institutions (ECI). We will complete the review of the Early Childhood Sector, and make adjustments that include: increasing the funding per student, revisiting the pay structure for ECI teachers, ensure students have the tools they need to succeed, and retain great teachers.
- **Create an Innovation Ecosystem:** We will create space and opportunities for innovation in the field of education by supporting the work of the Commission on Education Transformation. We will complete the current review of the Education Act and its Regulations to ensure that the sector builds on its strengths, while addressing its weaknesses, to guarantee equal access to quality education for all.
- **Align with the Future of Work:** We will realign investments within the education sector to reflect the needs of the labour force, and adjust training needs based on the Education Transformation Commission's findings, scheduled to be provided in 2021.





- **Ensuring No Student is Left Behind:** We will conduct a comprehensive national assessment of learning loss and social emotional welfare caused by Covid-19 and empower schools to initiate data-driven programmes to address the findings. We will increase efforts to reach youth who have dropped out of the formal education system before acquiring basic literacy and math skills and provide them with education or training that will enhance their life and employability skills through HEART and the HOPE Programme. We will expand scholarship and bursary programmes to encourage entry into higher education for outstanding youth from disadvantaged communities.
- **Closing the Digital Divide:** We will expand investments in Digital Technologies within the sector while ensuring that our teachers and students are equipped with the knowledge, mindset and tools to thrive in the digital age. We will continue to expand the tablets in schools initiative by procuring over 100,000 for teachers and students and then building beyond that number.
- **Maximizing Distance Learning Objectives:** We will complete the installation of broadband connection in over 100 schools to increase access to education and connectivity needed to facilitate distance learning objectives and, outline additional phases of increased broadband. We will train, integrate and develop the Blended Learning approach to schooling in order to ease the demand for additional teachers and classrooms given physical distancing requirements.
- **Empowering Teachers to deliver at the highest standards:** We will revisit the Teaching Council Act to ensure professional requirements are updated to meet modern-day standards where necessary. We will expand the Emergency Education Plan currently underway to train teachers in technological and online distance learning systems. We will improve access to the avenues for the maintenance of mental and emotional wellness of both teachers and students to improve the student-teacher relationship by way of improved Guidance counsellor training, further integration of social emotional classroom methodologies and an increased allotment of social workers throughout the education system.
- **Getting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Ready:** We will establish six (6) new STEM High Schools/Academies that will serve as Centres of Excellence for STEM education. We will collaborate with private sector entities to establish a National STEM Teacher Development Centre to equip teachers with the skills they need to transform the teaching and learning experiences across the country.
- **Locating the Arts in Education:** We will identify and repurpose existing Secondary Schools into schools for the visual, creative and performing arts; delivering instruction in the business of photography, music, art, film, animation and other related and emerging disciplines. This will create multiple educational and entrepreneurial pathways as well as fostering greater attention to our most valuable cultural asset.
- **Reviewing School Infrastructure Development:** We will increase support for the school Infrastructure development and maintenance programmes. We have already committed approximately \$1 billion for the expansion and upgrading of more than 20 schools. We will constantly review the programme to see where additional support can and should be given, with special focus on rural schools and schools with overcrowding issues.

# ***BUILDING A STRONGER JAMAICAN SOCIETY***

## **Gender - Creating a Stronger Balanced Society for all**

**As the Party that introduced the National Policy for Gender Equality (2011)**, the JLP administration is proud of its progress in the protection and empowerment of women, children, the elderly, and the disabled. There is still much work to be done to achieve the more balanced and equitable society of shared power, mutual respect, equal pay, shared household division of labour, and care which we all desire. We will recover stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic which highlighted many vulnerabilities of our women and men, particularly with the added domestic burden being born mainly by women. We will press forward to advance the interests of our women, men, girls, and boys.

- **Reduce Gender Based Violence.** Having finalized the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender Based Violence (2017 -2027), the JLP will strengthen its implementation. Among our initial actions will be the expansion of 24 hour hotlines for victims of domestic abuse, including text lines for the deaf and hearing-impaired, and enhanced sensitisation of the public on gender-based violence through social marketing and targeted programmes.

- **Strengthen the Legislative Framework.** Having completed the Joint Select Committee Review of four (4) key pieces of legislation, we will amend our laws to include:

- I. A major increase in penalties for certain offences against women and children;
- II. Stalking will be made a crime under the Offences Against the Person Act;
- III. A complete overhaul of the Domestic Violence Act to strengthen protection against domestic violence and increase penalties on conviction for domestic abuse; and
- IV. Creation of an offence of predatory assault to protect our children from sexual abuse by adults, with higher penalties for those in positions of trust.

- **National Gender Commission.** In order to more effectively implement our protective and empowering plans and programmes, we will strengthen Jamaica's institutional framework by transforming the Bureau of Gender Affairs into an agency called the National Gender Commission.

- **The National Gender Advisory Council** will be upgraded to a Board of Commissioners, which provides strategic oversight to the newly created National Gender Commission. Under this new framework, the existing Special Service Desk for Men at the Bureau of Gender Affairs will be expanded into a department that focuses on: male-centered policy issues, the provision of men-specific referral services, capacity-building opportunities, mentorship, male group engagement, and helping our local men to identify their role in eliminating gender-based violence.







- **National Shelters.** For the first time, Jamaica will have state-run National Shelters for victims of gender-based violence, as we will open three (3) such shelters that will be family-centered and provide for psycho-social, legal, and other relevant services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. These three (3) properties have not only been identified, but have been purchased. The renovation of one property will be completed by the end of August 2020, the renovation of another is in the procurement process, and the transfer of the third property is being registered to the government of Jamaica.

- **Support for Adolescent Mothers.** We will continue to build on the success of the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation and its eighteen centres across Jamaica by expanding the nurseries and other facilities, courses, and support mechanisms offered which are now a lifeline to adolescent mothers and pregnant teenagers to be reintegrated in the school system to complete their education. We developed A-STREAM — a new initiative to help reintegrate adolescent mothers through completion of their high school education by way of mentorship, sponsorship, and scholarship. This initiative will be strengthened.

- **Gender Diversity on Public Boards.** To continue delivering on the National Policy on Gender Equality, we will pass regulations under the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act which mandate a minimum of 30% of either gender on the Boards of all public bodies. These will be passed together with provisions which will create a database and allow competent persons from the general public to be recommended for appointment to Boards. These steps will be a game changer in ensuring diversity and gender balance in decision-making relevant to Jamaica's public assets.

- **Increased Partnerships.** A second term will see enhanced partnerships on programmes to protect men, women, and children living with disabilities through the creation of a National Disability Mainstreaming Programme, which will be implemented by the newly created National Gender Commission in partnership with the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities.

- **Supporting Resilience.** Through the National Gender Commission and the National Council for Senior Citizens, more attention will be given to our senior citizens without a retirement income, as they will be provided with start-up capital to pursue business endeavours. Consistent with Jamaica's Action Plan to eliminate violence against women and girls, the National Gender Commission and the Ministries of Labour and Social Security and MICAFA will establish specially crafted opportunities for survivors of GBV and rural women in four areas, namely: family life, welfare grants, skills development, and employment.

### **Families, Children, the Elderly and the Disabled**

The coronavirus pandemic has drawn attention to the role and importance of the family in a time of crisis. It has also highlighted the vulnerabilities and threats to which children and the disabled are exposed. The JLP has, in the last 4 years, built a solid foundation which has contributed to the resilience of the Jamaican family.

Strong families facilitate social mobility and social wealth. Children with stronger family structures are more likely to do well in school, have positive social behaviours, and be less prone to recruitment by gangs. We strongly believe we need to provide far greater support for the social institution of family to foster belonging in our children - especially in volatile communities. In recognizing that families are critical to safety, security, and quality of life for our citizenry, this Party, once re-elected, will implement policies to support and strengthen families.

# FAMILIES

- **Re-energize and Expand the Mentorship Programme for Young Fathers**, providing them with lifelong learning skills, positive parenting skills, and values and principles aligned with Vision 2030.
- **Expand the reach and scope of the PATH programme**. This will include accelerating plans to improve the accessibility of the cash benefits to PATH families;
- **Develop a Framework for Family Planning and Management**. This will include:
  - o Family planning access points in communities;
  - o Family starter kits for first time parents on the PATH programme; the kit would include early childhood information and infant supplies;
  - o The provision of training to new parents;
  - o Promulgation of flexi-work guidelines to support improved family balance;
  - o The development of a framework for stress management, conflict resolution, and mental health; and
  - o A Childcare Scheme for Working Parents.
- **Increase Support for and Promotion of Families as the best environment for children**. This will include:
  - o Increasing the number of foster care families;
  - o Expanding training of families to cope with conduct disorders;
  - o Creation of a corps of emergency foster families which host children so that they can be immediately removed from abusive family situations as an alternative to state facilities;
  - o Updating Adoption Legislation, policies, and processes to unlock opportunities for the creation of new families.

## Children

We are committed to supporting our vulnerable children and have developed several programmes to deliver such support:

- **Develop Therapeutic Centres**. Starting with the Maxfield Park Children's Home, develop therapeutic centres to provide residential inpatient programmes, a day treatment programme, outpatient counselling, and psychotherapy services for children in state care and their families.
- **Expand Early Intervention Services** across Jamaica through the use of the mobile unit; Develop programmes and projects towards early intervention with young children who have a disability and/or special needs;
- **Ensure Effectiveness and Accountability of the Child Protection and Family Services Agency** in delivering a caring and supporting environment to protect, support, and empower our children in need of care.
- **Complete Amendments of Legislation** to increase protection of children from violence.



# ELDERLY

A new Jamaica Labour Party government will create a framework to empower our seniors to live and work productively in retirement. This will include:

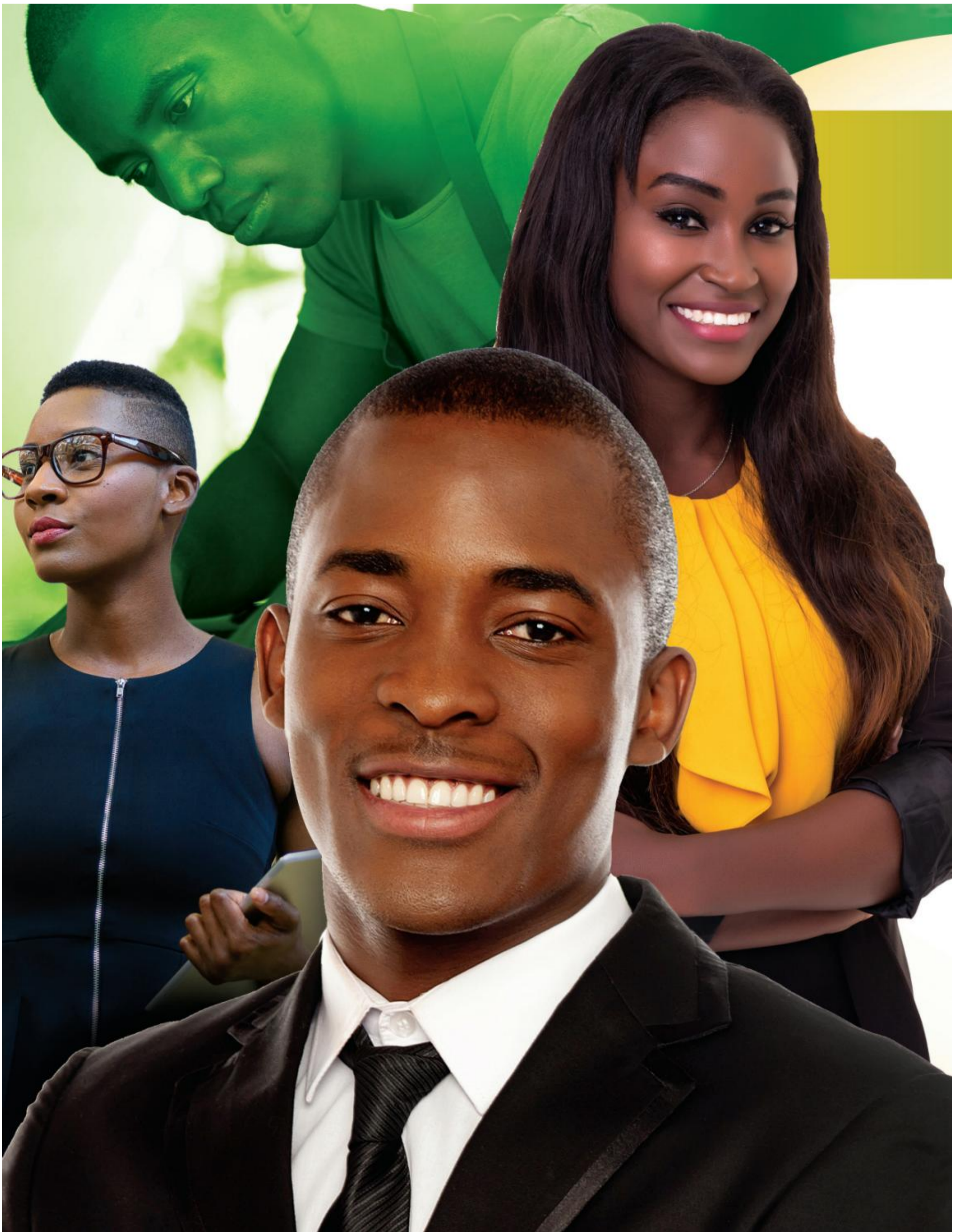
- **Creation of a social pension to provide** an income for elderly persons who are not on NIS or PATH, and have no other source of income.
- **Promotion of healthy lifestyles** to prevent, manage, and reduce the onset of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) through information sessions, special fees at gyms, and more access to inexpensive medicine.
- **Age-friendly training** in the use of technologies to enable participation in the digital world.
- **Recruitment for mentorship**, counselling, and support of at-risk youth programmes.
- **Protection of the right to age in dignity** by provision of indigent housing and improvements to infirmaries, including establishment of therapeutic gardens.

## Persons With Disabilities

We will:

- **Provide training in coping skills and strategies** for an additional 200 parents and caregivers of children with special needs or disabilities.
- **Increase accessibility to NHT housing solutions** for persons with disabilities or families with disabled children through discounted interest rates and reserved housing solutions.
- **Expand partnerships with private sector agencies** to enhance the intervention services for young children with disabilities.
- **Bring into effect and implement the Disabilities Act**, and provide avenues through which PWDs can participate more fully in all aspects of mainstream society, including exploring facilities for greater access to technology.





# YOUTH

## A STRONGER FOCUS ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND MAINSTREAMING

The JLP remains committed to the development and increased involvement of Jamaica's youth as a means of unlocking their personal potential as well as our country's maximum social, political, and economic potential. As a government, we will support youth optimism, and encourage youths' creativity and innovative capacity. We do not see youth only as beneficiaries of policies, but active participants in their conception, development, and implementation. We are proud of the standard for youth engagement and development that we have set in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, and are focused on raising that standard, so that young people are empowered to fully participate in all aspects of our society, including our COVID-19 recovery, in a dynamic, fast-paced world. As such, we commit to:

- Reducing Youth Unemployment:** We successfully reduced youth unemployment by 50% in four (4) years. We will recover and build on these gains by expanding training opportunities offered under HEART, HOPE and other government agencies to foster the continued upskilling of Jamaica's youth. We will expand the areas of youth training to include: film, graphic design, animation, entertainment, sports and social media management etc. There will be an expansion of apprenticeship and community work experience programmes for unemployed young people, through increased public and private sector partnerships that will ensure basic employment training and readiness for our youth.
- Supporting Youth Entrepreneurship:** We will improve the support given to young entrepreneurs with the creation of a Young Entrepreneurship and Technology Incubator (YETI) programme through JAMPRO and JBDC which will help young entrepreneurs develop and grow innovative business ideas. We will also increase support to entrepreneurial youth and youth in agriculture through the creation of a Young Entrepreneurs Grant Programme. This will provide increased access to grants for young entrepreneurs as well as improved financial and technical support for youth in agriculture.
- Increasing Youth Support and Legal Protection:** We will continue to develop programmes to ensure improved protection for young people from abuse and discrimination. Additionally, we will provide increased legal, physical and psychological support to young men and women who have been subjected to violence and abuse so that they can fully re-integrate into social and economic life.
- Youth inclusion and Engagement:** We will work on the mainstreaming of the National Youth Policy to ensure that youth perspectives are included across all sectors in order to ensure the greatest direct positive impact on youth engagement, employment and development. We will continue to create meaningful spaces to involve young people and their representative associations beyond consultation and thereby include them as stakeholders in all stages of the policy development and implementation process.
- Increased Support for Youth with Disabilities:** We will ensure that young people with disabilities have equal and effective access to education, training, health care services, employment, sports, cultural & recreational activities. We will ensure the full participation of the youth with disabilities across all spheres of Jamaican society by levelling the playing field and ensuring that youth with disabilities have equitable access to opportunities and protection under the law.
- Increased Protection of Youth from Crime:** We will improve support and investment for programmes to reduce rates of juvenile delinquency and increase our focus on strategies to disrupt the linkages between youth and crime. We will implement a national Youth Peer Mentorship programme, through HOPE, which will offer support and mentorship for at risk youth as well as youth with disabilities to encourage and empower them to utilise their potential towards personal and national development. We will improve the support given to juvenile facilities to encourage effective and meaningful rehabilitation and re-integration of these young persons into society. We will amend the CCPA to recognize maladaptive behaviours and conduct rather than the term "beyond control" such that Orders of the Court are more likely to be made under the Child Diversion Act in appropriate circumstances and correctional facilities only used for the most seriously violent offenders pending construction of alternative facilities for seriously violent youth offenders

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of an effective local government system in managing disasters as well as the role and importance of local government in Jamaica's development. The JLP understands that Local Government accompanies all citizens through the stages of their lives and must therefore deliver Stability and Resilience as we recover stronger. That is why we have made unprecedented capital investments in the system and will continue to make Local Government more professional, accountable, transparent, and responsive to our peoples' needs.

We believe that every citizen of Jamaica should have the opportunity to live in a clean community. Everyone should be afforded equal and affordable access to basic public services through which they can achieve their full potential or receive support when they are unable to support themselves. To that end, the JLP is focused on policy and programme development in order to bring civil society and governments into an effective partnership. We will:

- **Establish Portmore as the 15th parish of Jamaica.** The JLP plans to make Portmore, Jamaica's 15th parish. This will allow for the region to have its own resources through a dedicated Municipal Corporation. From this, Portmore will be able to create its own true development plan, collect its own property taxes, have its own shares of the parochial revenue fund, and make plans that it can finance. This will also mean the development of its own market, hospital, upgraded schools, water supply, and roads.
- **Make Capital Investments to Improve National Solid Waste Management (NSWMA)** across the country by extending the fleet of garbage trucks and staff. Through the NSWMA, we will continue to remove bulky waste from communities islandwide and increase regularity of collection through the purchase of 100 new garbage collection trucks. A JLP government will continue to ensure the integrity of Disposal Sites and will establish a new Disposal Site in St Thomas, to replace the existing one at Poorman's Corner. We will also be re-energizing the Enterprise Committee to drive the critical Waste to Energy policy initiative.
- **Rehabilitate the Fire Brigade Services.** This includes the upgrading of offices as well as the purchase of state of the art technology and equipment. We continue to provide our brave firefighters with modern equipment to help them do their jobs well. \$3 billion is being spent to procure 30 pumpers. Sixteen are expected in the island in March next year, and the remaining fifteen will be imported in May. The Fire Stations at Black River, St. Elizabeth and Lucea, Hanover will be rehabilitated, at a total cost of \$39.5 million. In Old Harbour, St. Catherine, a temporary facility will be built on the site of the old Fire Station, and construction of a new Fire Department Building in Montego Bay will be completed.





# LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Continue Construction of Therapeutic Parks.** The first was built at the St. Elizabeth Infirmary as part of Local Government and Community Month. These Parks will be devoted to Therapeutic Recreation, which promotes recovery and well-being for persons with disabilities, chronic illnesses, or other challenges brought on by advanced age.
- **Create a Transitional Home** for able-bodied people who are trying to get back on their social and financial feet. The location of the Halfway House will be ideal, as it is near to hospitals, police stations and postal services among other public amenities.
- **Upgrade and Retrofit Markets.** We will continue and expand the upgrading of markets across Jamaica. A brand-new complex is being built to house the Hopewell Market in Hanover, while Clarke's Town, Trelawny and Stony Hill, St. Andrew market upgrades will be completed. Rehabilitation works are also underway at the Charles Gordon Market in Montego Bay and funds have been allocated for remedial works to be done on the Santa Cruz Market in St. Elizabeth.
- **Build and Upgrade Water Shops.** We will complete the Water Shops at Junction in St Elizabeth, and Commodore and Manchioneal in Portland respectively. We also intend to build Water Shops in Brompton, Balaclava, and Pedro Plains in St. Elizabeth, as well as Bull Bay West in St. Andrew.
- **Repair Parochial Roads.** We will continue to repair parochial roads.
- **Install New Street Lights.** To ensure that our communities are safer, they need to be well lit. Eighteen thousand (18,000) lights will be installed by the end of this calendar year and a further nineteen thousand (19,000) in the next year.
- **Deepen Social and Community Entrepreneurship** through the Social Development Commission. This will include the development of several social enterprise initiatives in communities across Jamaica.
- **Build Local Resilience.** We will embed a culture of preparedness, particularly against the background of current experiences of climate change, using digital technologies to improve efficiency and effectiveness in disaster mitigation and response activities.
- **Support the Homeless.** We will continue to support the homeless in Jamaica. Thirteen (13) Soup Kitchens for the outdoor poor will be established, including at Church Street in Kingston, from which 700 meals will be provided daily. We will rescue our homeless population, through the expansion of Drop-in Centres around the country including completion of the centre in Linstead, St. Catherine. A new homeless shelter will also be constructed in Kingston to serve the vulnerable in Kingston and St. Andrew. This facility when completed, will cater to over 300 Jamaicans who are living on the streets.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Stronger delivery on Housing and Land

Housing remains a key priority for the Jamaica Labour Party. Having delivered more than 2.5 times the housing starts undertaken by the previous administration in as many years, the JLP will continue to facilitate a booming construction industry, creating employment as we build the homes, hospitals, schools, and other infrastructure Jamaica needs.

The JLP will provide the enabling framework within which we can realize the goal of access to safe, legal and affordable housing solutions for all Jamaicans by 2030. A new Jamaica Labour Party government will deliver complementary policy proposals to address the related challenges being faced in the area of Housing, Finance, Affordable Housing, Social Housing, Infra-structure Development, Squatting and the Environment. We will do so through:

- **Establishment of Private Public Partnerships (PPPs)** to extend the options for homes across Jamaica. We will modernize guidelines for building and the undertaking of Joint Ventures and Private Facilitation. We will, through these PPPs, develop appropriate financing arrangements and provide better access to affordable housing and better housing conditions to low and modest income families.
- **Addressing Challenges in the Rental Industry** being faced by both landlords and tenants. Draft legislation is being reviewed by the newly appointed Rent Assessment Board.
- **Establishment of a Comprehensive Squatter Settlement Geo-Database** using settlement boundaries and household data. We will also update and roll out a National Squatter Policy to make it easier for communities to be formalized and support the classification of squatter settlements in tiers based on their socio-economic, geo-physical and environmental characteristics.
- **Formalize Additional Lands, Community-by-Community**, by way of a new adjudication procedure. This new procedure will facilitate the issuing of titles; it will also be a more transparent process. This initiative will start with 20,000 titles over a three-year period and will form the basis of this Government's plans to title the entire country in the medium to long term even as we explore opportunities to further fast track land ownership.



# PICTURE

- **Housing Agency of Jamaica (HAJ) Affordable Housing** will be a reality starting with over 3,000 Jamaican families. Immediate upcoming projects include 148 housing solutions at Reid's Pen, Portmore and a proposed 1,000 housing solutions in St. James. The HAJ will also continue to working on strategic partnerships to acquire lands in Clarks Town to bring new affordable housing to Trelawny.
- **Creation of an Enabling Environment** for enterprising Jamaicans to utilize idle lands, including idle sugar lands right across Jamaica. Now more than ever we must feed ourselves.
- **Improving Efficiency of National Land Agency** to make the process of accessing land titles easier and seamless including greater use of digital technologies to allow customers an even smoother experience with the agency.
- **Preservation of Green Spaces** will be pursued by the HAJ through a 49-year lease agreement for 78 acres of land located in Mona, St. Andrew with Long Mountain National Park Limited. The area will be used as an open national park for the benefit of the public with significant environmental benefits for the surrounding communities. The dry forest will be preserved in its present natural state and the nucleus of the park will be a Visitors Centre, which will include a library and a museum designed to support educational programmes.
- **Development of a Construction Sector Transformation Plan** and the **Building for Climate Change programme** will ensure a more productive, sustainable and inclusive building and construction sector. We will also develop a Homelessness **Action Plan** to prevent and reduce our citizens from becoming homeless.



# ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER FOR ALL

Adequate water supply and good sanitation services are important to the health and well-being of our citizens, the vitality of our economy, and our prospects for national development and prosperity. They are also critical to mitigating the spread of COVID-19. A re-elected Jamaica Labour Party Government will aim to ensure that all individuals across the island have access to safe, convenient, reliable, and affordable potable water supply by 2030. This will be done through the following:

- **Revision of the National Drought Management Plan** to mitigate against the impact of drought conditions. Ensure that projection models and an effective monitoring programme are in place to provide long term planning, development, and the sourcing of financing to implement the plans and programmes designed to combat the effects of drought on the country, in particular, vulnerable communities and the agricultural sector. Proactive risk management measures and preparedness plans will also be put in place to increase coping capabilities, as well as effective emergency response programmes to reduce the impact of drought occurrences.
- **More Rainwater Harvesting Capacity.** Schools will, as a priority, benefit from these projects in this regard. A special incentives regime will also be developed to offset the cost of investment in rainwater harvesting systems for households and businesses requiring assistance. This incentive regime will be developed around water conservation and other demand side-management approaches that would reward good practitioners and penalize abusers. We will also review a framework for mandating rainwater harvesting facilities for all new buildings constructed.
- **Continued Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Community Catchment Tanks,** where Municipal Corporations, or communities themselves will assume responsibility of maintaining these systems. Drinking water supply from rainwater harvesting systems should be treated or filtered to meet MOH and WHO standards before it is consumed. The JLP also plans to establish over 20 Water Shops across Jamaica to provide potable water across the country,
- **Expanded Focus on Rural Water** will ensure that all rural spaces and places have access to water for life and livelihoods by 2030. We will accelerate the provision of water to rural communities through the development of 30 rural projects all across Jamaica, providing piped water solutions to some 60,000 residents, as well as develop 40 catchment tanks and the rehabilitation of over 30 more. We are also planning to build and expand several rural water supply schemes island-wide, including coordination with the NWA to upgrade potable water pipelines along the road corridors to be upgraded under the South Coast Highway Improvement Project.



- **Continued Improvement of potable water supply for KSA** through the replacement of the current infrastructure, to include transmission mains and pipes, as well as replace the transmission main (which is also approximately 60 years old) along Spanish Town Road from Six Miles to South Camp Road in Kingston, to improve potable water supply service to communities adjoining this major thoroughfare.

- **Innovative Projects to Expand Water Access** We will explore and implement a range of solutions including the Inter-linking of rivers across Jamaica; improvement of the HYDROMET Network through the upgrading and maintenance of 45 existing river-gauging stations. We will implement Pumped Storage Hydro Electric and Water Systems Projects to move water from where it is widely available to where it is needed. We will explore combinations of solar and hydro-electric solutions. We will also continue to undertake Stream/Aquifer Vulnerability Studies through dye tracings techniques to determine the nature and range of sinks, risings and sources in the Rio Bueno sub. Watershed Management Unit (WMU) as well as the use of Isotope Hydrology technology to determine aquifer responses in the Kingston Basin and in the Rio Cobre Basin. This will also mean the provision of a third source of stored water supply to complement the Mona Reservoir and Hermitage Dam in Kingston.

- **Development of Desalination Plants** for drinking water supply in coastal cities, to expand the options for water access in Jamaica. More specifically, this will begin with the upgrading and expansion of the Ferry Desalination project which will seek to harness up to 10 mgd from the brackish Ferry Springs at Moses Lake.

- **Flood Water Management** will be implemented through a monitoring system to reduce the risk of loss of life and property damage due to flooding waters.

- **Diversified Financing Arrangements for New Water Schemes:** irrigation services will be expanded to reach more farmers, while subsidies are reduced.

- **Sewerage and Wastewater Treatment Services.** All new developments must have access to safe and environmentally friendly sanitation solutions which preserve the dignity of users. Standards for non-sewerage areas will be established and enforced by the National Building Code, MOH Regulations, stipulations by the Municipal Corporations and NEPA guidelines. This to ensure that all households have access to sanitation facilities that protect the health of users and the environment. We will also rehabilitate ten (10) wastewater treatment plants including those serving Greater Portmore, Eltham Park, Horizon Park as well as that at Soapberry which serves Kingston & St. Andrew.

- **Update National Environmental Policies and Programmes,** including those related to watershed management, as well the promulgation of governing the management of wastewater and sludge.

- **Protection and Integrated Management of Watersheds** to mitigate against encroachment by farmers and informal settlers into forested areas, illegal logging for lumber, improper disposal of solid waste, and poor farming practices leading to soil erosion and landslides. We will work to improve the conservation and management of biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services in the Yallahs and Hope River Watersheds.

- **Design of the first Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Scheme** in the English-speaking Caribbean, intended to support 72 sustainable biodiversity and integrated water resources management projects by providing financial incentives to small agricultural producers living in the upper watershed areas to implement practices geared towards soil and water conservation. This will improve livelihoods and alleviate poverty within the upper watershed as well as improve water quality and availability to residents in Kingston, St. Andrew, Yallahs, and its environs.





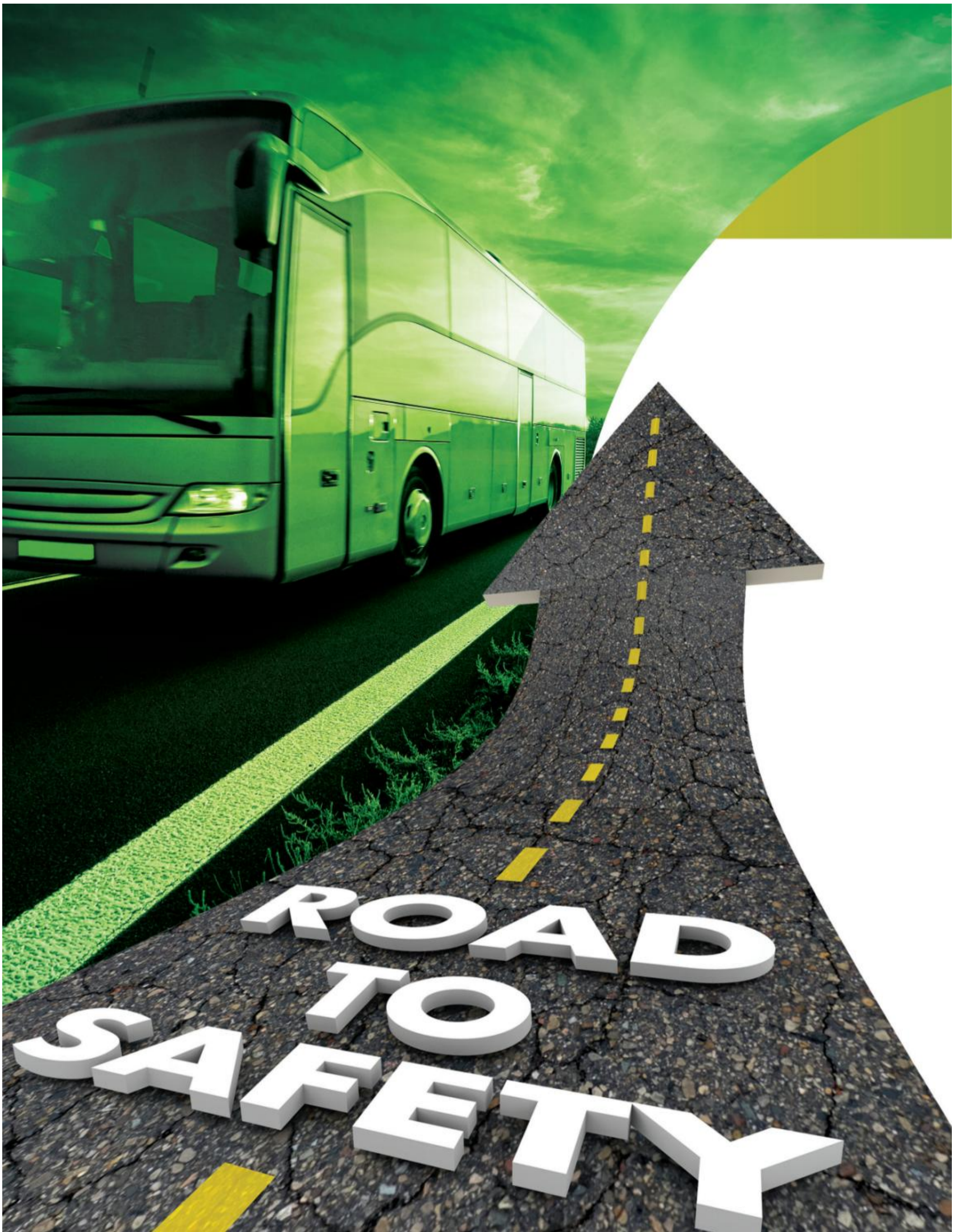
# MINING

Notwithstanding challenges with the mining sector, it has played a significant role in Jamaica's economic output, providing direct and indirect jobs and community development. A new Jamaica Labour Party government will continue to promote responsible management of the sector, pursuit of transformative approaches and enforcing obligations.

- **Castor Production** on mined out lands to ensure new commercial opportunities in agricultural production and value added industries.
- **Support for Bauxite Community Development Programmes** including ensuring effective collaboration between JBI, NWC, and Bauxite Companies to provide running water in Bauxite communities; the effective use of Bauxite earnings into education training and other opportunities for residents of mining communities.
- **Transform the Mining Sector** through PPPs to identify new sources of minerals, such as zinc, copper, and gold; use of advanced technologies; increased training and certification of mining personnel by expanding the Mining school; and working with the DBJ to create special financial packages for mining.
- **Promote and Develop the Local Semi Precious Stone Industry** to also support growth in jewel and jewelry-making and explore feasibility of re-starting the manufacture of local marble tiles for export.
- **Re-visit Rare Earth Opportunities** - As the global economy evolves, factoring in digitization, and with the goal of recycling and sustainability in mind, the JLP will establish research and development partnerships with a view to identifying how Jamaica can benefit from the inclusion of rare earth elements in all types of modern electronics and green technologies.







# ***SAFE ORDERLY AND AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL | SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECOVERY***

Whether by land, air, or sea, safe, efficient, and affordable transportation is an important part of the development imperative in that it is both an economic activity and a facilitator of economic activity. It also creates space for the social well-being and cohesion of populations. During the coronavirus pandemic, we witnessed the crucial role ground transportation played for our frontline workers, and alerted us to the importance of managing air and sea transportation in controlling the spread of COVID-19, and to keep supply chains open.

The JLP is proud of our achievements in the transportation sector over the past four years. We remain aware of how much more is left to be done, and are committed to the tasks ahead. We will bring into effect all aspects of the RTA 2018, its supporting Regulations and complementary legislation. We will also implement a number of innovative activities aimed at enhancing transportation, making it safe, orderly and affordable for all, and creating new opportunities for economic growth.

## **Public Transportation**

- Fuel is one of the JUTC's largest expenses, we will therefore explore opportunities for a more affordable fuel mix which will also deliver clean energy-smart public transportation system including:
  - o Implementation of an Electric Bus Pilot Programme and comparison of the compressed natural gas Pilot for assessment of best fuel mix; and
  - o Development of an enabling environment for use of electric vehicles by public and private transport operators
- We will expand the number of JUTC buses with WiFi
- We will roll out an island-wide sensitization campaign on the Road Traffic Act, targeted at public transportation operators, to facilitate greater compliance and smoother implementation of the law
- We will transform operations at our Depots, including the Lakes Pen Depot to improve the ease-of-doing business and processing times of services.

## **Road Safety and Order**

- We will increase Road Safety training for all Jamaicans, face-to-face and through the use of digital technologies, including in particular, new motorcycle training to address the high proportion of deaths by such riders.
- We will implement mandatory Road Safety training for all Jamaicans who violate traffic laws.
- We will create opportunities for private participation in road transport, specifically in the areas of traffic management and traffic enforcement. We will do this by:
  - o Expanding the Urban Traffic Management System to include the use of digital technologies to monitor and enhance traffic management.
  - o Continued support and engagement with Public Transportation providers and their Associations, as well as the NRSC, to ensure cooperation geared at bringing greater safety and order to our roads.
  - o Implementing citizen monitoring systems to report challenges associated with road use, through the use of digital technologies, including the Drive Safe App.

## ***INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING***

- We will implement necessary legislative changes to empower the Transport Authority under the RTA 2018.
- We will review the hiring practices at JUTC to ensure persons are properly qualified (including drivers).
- We will strengthen and enforce the governance framework at JUTC to address the existing accountability and transparency gaps.
- We will implement a new financing framework to enable taxi and bus owners to re-tool their fleets in the interest of safety and energy efficiency.
- We will review legislation to require the OUR to review public transportation fares on a regular basis, to provide greater predictability and sustainability of high quality service.
- We will upgrade the Examination Depots and move most Transport Authority Services online to improve efficiency.

### **Public Private Partnerships and Economic Opportunities for Growth**

- Logistics has, for more than 10 years, become one of the top drivers of economic prosperity. The Air Cargo sector has exploded during the Pandemic. The Vernamfield Enterprise Team will be activated to position Jamaica to capitalize on new opportunities. This Team will explore all available options to optimize the development of Vernamfield, Clarendon, for the sustainable economic growth of Jamaica, to create job opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, distribution, and technical and other professional fields of international business.
- Develop the Ian Fleming International Airport in Boscobel, St. Mary, as a regional Hub for small to medium size aircraft with a focus on high-end villa and business travel.
- Establish PPPs to build out our existing traffic signal operations and introduce traffic ticket photo-enforcement.
- Pass new maritime legislation permitting Jamaica to take greater advantage of being a flag and port state.
- Develop Dry Docking facilities to create jobs and new industries in the construction, maintenance, and repair of ships, boats, and other watercraft.



*ON ELECTION DAY*  
**THURSDAY**  
**SEPT. 03**

**VOTE FOR JAMAICA**  
**VOTE** 



***#StrongerTeam #JLPstronger***

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