



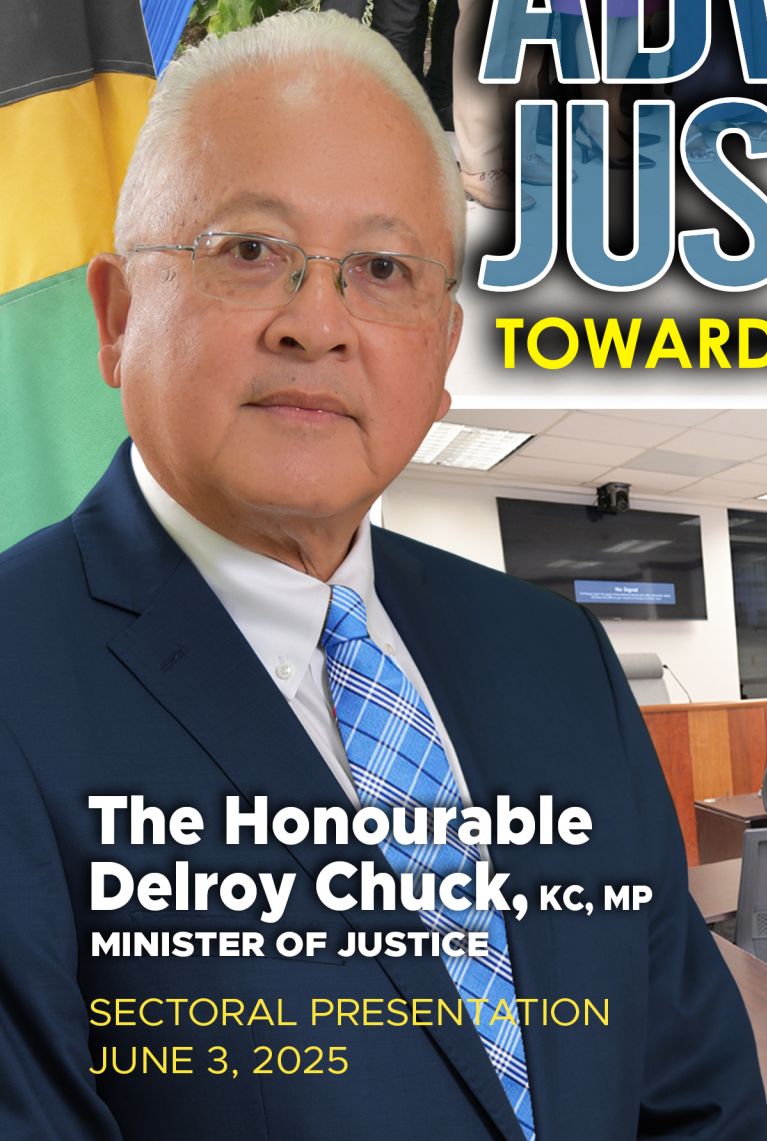
# MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



# ADVANCING JUSTICE

TOWARDS A SAFER JAMAICA



**The Honourable  
Delroy Chuck, KC, MP**  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

SECTORAL PRESENTATION  
JUNE 3, 2025







**MINISTRY OF  
JUSTICE**  
BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

## SECTORAL PRESENTATION

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MINISTER OF JUSTICE

JUNE 3, 2025  
GORDON HOUSE, KINGSTON

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**M**adam Speaker, I open my presentation this afternoon with the following:  
“True Peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of Justice”.  
These are the words of Baptist Minister and Social Activist, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jnr.

Today, I am proud to stand in this Parliament on what is my 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of Sectoral Presentation as Justice Minister, and more importantly, my unbroken 28 years at the wicket as a Member of Parliament. This is a testimony of the faith that my beloved constituents of North East St. Andrew have in me. They have remained steadfast with me, as I work tirelessly towards making that great constituency a beacon of peace, safety and prosperity.

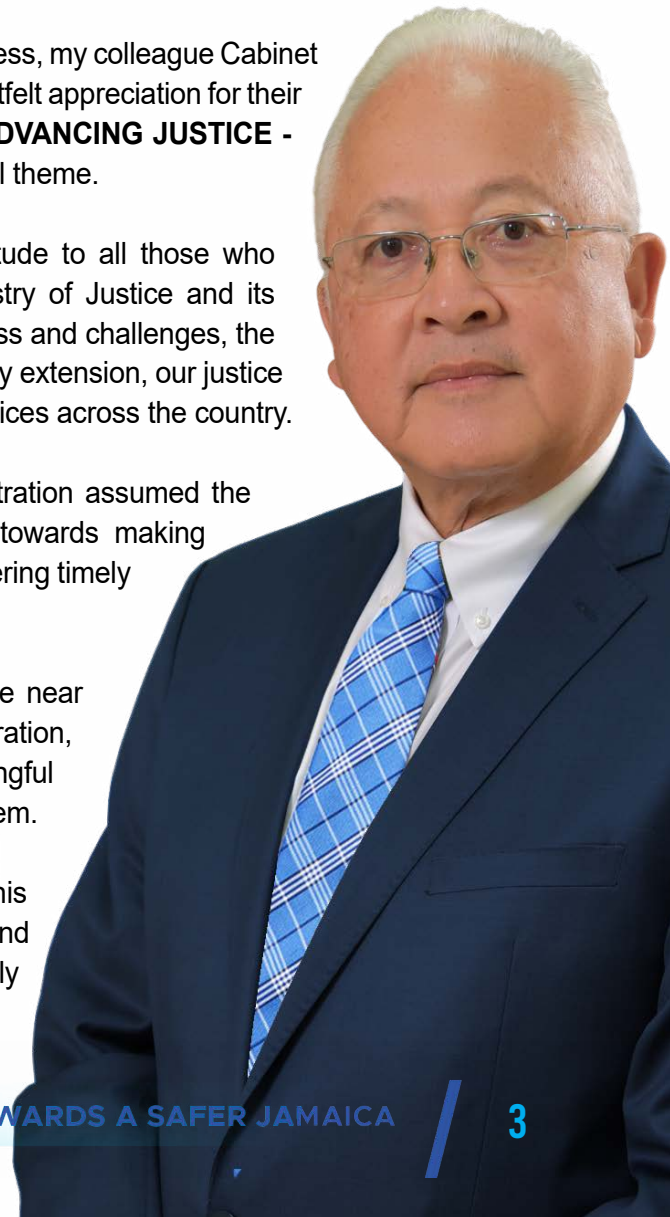
I thank Prime Minister, Dr. The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, my colleague Cabinet Ministers, fellow Members of Parliament and express my heartfelt appreciation for their support in the ongoing efforts of a collective approach in “**ADVANCING JUSTICE - TOWARDS A SAFER JAMAICA**”, which is our 2025 sectoral theme.

As we reflect on the past year, I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the vital work carried out by the Ministry of Justice and its Departments and Agencies. In a year marked by both progress and challenges, the dedication, professionalism, and resilience of our team and, by extension, our justice stakeholders, have ensured continued delivery of justice services across the country.

**Madam Speaker**, over the near decade since this administration assumed the reins of governance, tireless work has been undertaken towards making Jamaica’s justice system one of the best, providing and delivering timely quality justice services.

I can proudly say without fear of contradiction, that over the near decade of this Andrew Michael Holness led administration, Jamaica’s justice system has undergone significant and meaningful improvements, towards the vision of a first- class justice system.

Today’s presentation will provide a true picture of how this administration invested billions of dollars to make our courts, and the justice system, one in which the nation can be extremely proud.





**Madam Speaker**, the work of Team MOJ, under the guiding hands of Permanent Secretary, Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane, and her Executive Management Team and the Ministry's Staff, has ensured citizens better access to justice and opened windows of opportunities for citizens to resolve and settle their disputes, disagreements and conflicts. At this moment, I would like to invite all present to warmly congratulate Team MOJ for copping 3 Service Excellence Awards in fiscal year 2024/2025. The Ministry won awards for *Most Outstanding Service Excellence Implementing Entity*, for Website of the Year and for Best Front Office Décor. Let us applaud their efforts!



*Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane (right) receiving the Most Outstanding Service Excellence Programme Implementing Entity Award, on behalf of the Ministry at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's (MOFPS) annual Service Excellence Awards at the Jamaica Pegasus earlier this year. The Ministry also copped the Best Front Office Décor and Website of the Year Awards.*

**Madam Speaker**, our dedicated approach to building a first-class justice system includes many stakeholders who have been ably charting the process.

- Chief Justice, the Honourable Bryan Sykes and the Court Administration Division staff;
- President of the Court of Appeal, the Honourable Justice Mrs. Marva McDonald Bishop, Judges of Appeal and their support team;
- The Supreme Court and Parish Court Judges and their teams;
- Attorney General, Dr. Derrick McKoy;
- Solicitor General Mrs Marlene Aldred and her team;
- Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms. Paula Llewellyn and her team;
- Executive Director of the Legal Aid Council, Mrs. Dian Watson and her team; and
- Administrator-General for Jamaica and Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Stacie-Ann Carty and her team.
- Our esteemed stakeholders to include civil society and other sectors

A very important component of the overall goal towards improving our justice system is the support from our valued International Development Partners, including:

- Global Affairs Canada;
- The United Nations Development Programme;
- The United Nations Children's Fund;

- The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office;
- The Government of Rwanda and the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative;
- International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section in the United States Embassy; and
- The European Union Delegation to Jamaica.

I also express my sincere gratitude to our other partners and stakeholders, including the Custodes Rotulorum, Justices of the Peace and citizens who provide daily feedback and suggestions on how we can work collectively in our diligent efforts of **“ADVANCING JUSTICE-TOWARDS A SAFER JAMAICA”**.

On my political work, it is no secret that my two Councillors, Joy Cotterel and Winston Ennis have toiled with me night and day to make North East St. Andrew a model constituency. With God’s help I remain steadfast in my efforts to earn the moniker of Seven Star General, and I owe a debt of gratitude to Joy and Winston, and my constituency liaison Wayne Lawrence and the extended political team who help, year in year out, to respond to the needs, concerns and complaints of constituents.

**Madam Speaker**, since 2016 I have travelled the length and breadth of Jamaica, urging the nation to participate in our various programmes, namely, Restorative Justice, Child Diversion, and Victim Services, all of which fall under our Social Justice Division. There have been several success stories emanating from these programmes, and this is a call to my fellow MPs to spread the word to their constituents, regarding how they can access these services which are tailor made for members of the public.

The immediate support given by staff on the road, Close Protection Officer, Inspector Howard Hamilton and my trusted driver, Oneil Ennis, is immeasurable.

**Madam Speaker**, where would all this hard work be without the support of my rock, Patricia, and my family who put up with the many long hours and my absence from important family moments? The sacrifice they make is unquestionable.

**Madam Speaker**, I am confident that our ongoing dedication and collective efforts are the foundation upon which we continue to strengthen justice, promote accountability and uphold the rule of law. As we move forward, let us remain loyal to our commitment to building, a more just and equitable society for all.

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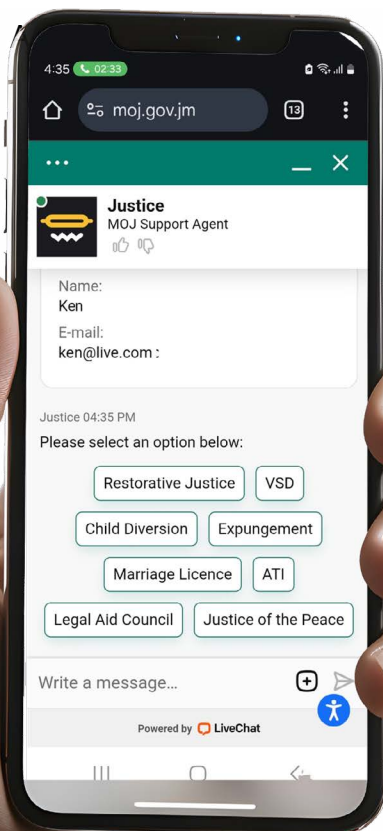


# INTRODUCTION

**Madam Speaker**, since 2016, we have made unprecedented strides in **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica**.

Today, we will share this growth in numbers, most of which are in the appendices. More importantly, we will share the ways in which we have advanced the quality of justice and advanced access to justice, in every “nook and cranny” of Jamaica. As we continue to improve, let me say, unequivocally, that today, in the year 2025, the justice system is now in the best shape ever.

For the last nine years and more, this administration has surpassed the achievements of any other, since independence. Any objective assessment of the justice system in Jamaica will easily reveal that there have been major advancements in how we have modernised the justice system, advanced the rule of law and delivered justice services to Jamaicans. Yes, we still have a considerable way to go, but we must never ignore the many achievements to date.



we commit to achieving a **Safer Jamaica**, we have been aggressively promoting our alternative justice services with our island-wide outreach programmes. We have made Justice an impactful part of governance in this country. Indeed, we have now made access to justice quite commonplace.

Any Jamaican can now get relevant information through our toll-free lines at 888-JUSTICE or 888-587-8423. They can access a live customer service agent from any smart phone, tablet or computer, by interacting directly with our online chatbot on our website.

Jamaicans from all walks of life, can now go to any of our Justice Centres, in all fourteen parishes. They can also attend our Justice Fairs or tune in virtually to our justice related events, which have all been broadcast and shared on social media, for greater outreach.

# COURT OPERATIONS

**Madam Speaker**, I wish to congratulate the Chief Justice of Jamaica and the judges who continue to deliver justice in a timely and forthright manner, thereby, **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica**.

From 2016 to today, we are witnessing remarkable progress in several key indicators related to the administration of Justice here in Jamaica. Let us look at the results related to the backlog in the Parish Courts, the payment of judgment debts, the processing of Attorney Claims, the support to the General Legal Council, the growth in the number of judges and the expanded cadre of prosecutors at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The records show that the backlog in our Parish Courts has literally disappeared. Today, we have less than 2% backlog. International standards state that once you are below the threshold of 5%, you are considered “backlog free”. This is a historic achievement. As we continue to advance justice, we can now say that more than 70% of the Parish Court cases are now completed within 12 months. Today, the justice system is undeniably more efficient and responsive.

That is a critical part of the journey towards a more just and **Safer Jamaica**.

On the matter of judgment debts, we are proud to declare that we have paid almost **\$7B** which is a far cry from the dismal situation we inherited in 2016. By resolving these longstanding and perennial financial obligations, we have restored confidence in Jamaica’s legal system to pay its debt to successful litigants. See **Appendix 16** for more details.



*Justice Minister, Delroy Chuck at the official launch for the Judiciary of Jamaica’s Strategic Business Plan on April 11, 2024. The plan outlines the proposed policies, programmes and projects for the country’s court system for the period 2024-2028.*



## One hundred per cent case-disposal rate at St Catherine Parish Court

CHIEF JUSTICE Bryan Sykes is reporting a 100 per cent case-disposal rate at the St Catherine Parish Court.

He noted that this is a significant improvement over the 81.2 per cent disposal rate in 2017.

The chief justice, who was addressing a recent justice forum in Spanish Town, credited the development to the leadership of the judges and the improved efficiency of staff at the court office.

He noted, however, that hearing date certainty is at 78 per cent and requires a "change in culture and behaviour on the part of everyone in order to bring it to the required level."

According to Sykes, when cases are delayed, witnesses lose interest, noting that repeat visits also cause a financial burden.

"The judges have to be prepared to begin the cases; the lawyers have to be prepared to begin the cases. When we do that, we create an environment

of expectation where persons go to court and anticipate commencement of trials," he argued.

St Catherine Parish Court is among the top three courts in Jamaica in terms of case-disposal rates. It also has one of the highest loads of criminal cases.

### ADDRESS THE BACKLOG

Turning to measures to address the backlog of cases before the courts, Justice Minister Delroy Chuck said each year going forward for the next six years, every parish court has been charged to dispose of at least 135 cases, for every 100 new cases entering the system.

The forum in Spanish Town brought together stakeholders in the justice and social services sectors to facilitate discussions on ways to best serve the legal and judicial needs of communities.

To date, similar sessions have been held in six parishes.



Justice Minister Delroy Chuck (left) leads a tour of the newly renovated St Catherine Parish Court on November 20. Accompanying him (from second left) are: Chief Justice Bryan Sykes; Director of Public Prosecutions Paula Llewellyn; Acting Principal Director, Court Management Services Tricia Cameron-Anglin; and Chief Parish Judge for St Andrew, His Honour Chester Crooks. CONTRIBUTED

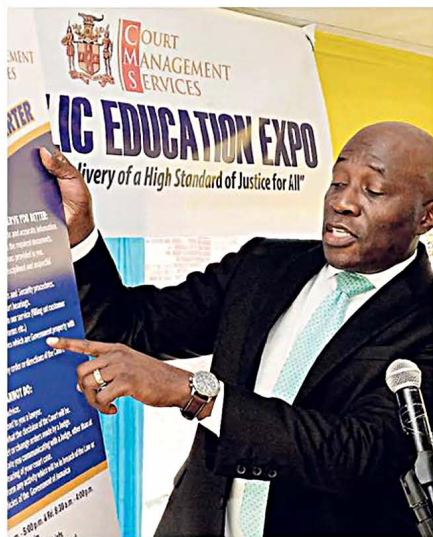
Similarly, legal aid lawyers are no longer forced to wait months for their payments. In fact, we are now in a position where, our team members at the Ministry of Justice, ask attorneys to submit their claims on time, to facilitate payments due to them within the fiscal year. See **Appendix 11** for more details.

As we seek to strengthen our legal institutions, our commitment to this year's theme of **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica** is all encompassing. For the last three years, we have been supporting the General Legal Council, to the tune of \$43.5M for the period 2023 to 2025. This goes towards the execution of the Council's activities under the Proceeds of Crime Act or POCA regime, as we ensure the highest standards of integrity and accountability within the legal profession.

**Madam Speaker**, the increase in the number of judges here in Jamaica is an example of our efforts at Advancing Justice. The numbers speak for themselves. We have increased the number of judges on all fronts and expanded their capacity to meet growing demands. In the Court of Appeal, judges have increased from 6 to 13; in the Supreme Court, the number of judges has increased

from 32 to 42 and in the Parish Court, we have moved from 50 to 78 and Masters in Chambers has increased from 3 to its full complement of 8. This growth trend also extends to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions where the number of prosecutors has significantly increased.

The Court Excellence Programme is well underway, with last fiscal year's focus on the International Organization for Standards (ISO) Certification for Quality Management – Gap Analysis. ISO preparation is underway for the Court of Appeal, the Gun Court and the Court Administration Division.



The judiciary's technology integration and modernisation activities included the funding of infrastructure upgrading, to the tune of \$187M. They have commenced the implementation of an integrated human resource system that will facilitate improved data management.

**Madam Speaker**, since 2016, we have spent almost \$4B on the establishment and renovation of our courts. Our vision at the Ministry of Justice, is to progress continuously towards becoming the Caribbean's pre-eminent First-Class Justice System. Our vision is for our courts, many of which are over 100 years, to be fully upgraded or replaced.

Details on the Court Administration Division are in **Appendix 1**.

## ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Madam Speaker**, the Administrator-General's Department has been supporting beneficiaries of trusts and estates in Jamaica since 1873. It plays a critical role in ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***, by safeguarding the interest of beneficiaries and creditors in the administration of these trusts and estates. This also extends to estates where persons die intestate and leave behind children under the age of 18.

The Department's activities go a far way in helping us reduce the "*dead lef*" disputes and arguments which are so commonplace in today's Jamaica. **Madam Speaker**, we need to avoid the potential family disputes and even violence, which we oftentimes witness when Jamaicans fail to prepare a will.

For the last 10 years, the Department has witnessed continued expansion in the management of the estate and property portfolios, implementation of the Trust and Estate Management System (TEMS), issuing of Instruments of Administrations by the Administrator-General and the coping of numerous customer service awards. On March 31, 2023, the Department was awarded ISO 9001:2015 Certification from the National Certification Body of Jamaica.

Since 2024/2025, the Department has been giving greater focus to the disposal of properties, through sale or transfer to beneficiaries. This is aimed at reducing the risk associated with managing these properties as we aim to place generational wealth in the hands of beneficiaries and ***Advance Justice***.

Details on the major successes and statistics from the Administrator-General's Department activities are in **Appendix 2**.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE DIVISION



Justice Minister Delroy Chuck (right) with (from left) Member of Parliament, Hanover Western, Tamika Davis, Superintendent of Police, Andrew Nish and His Worship the Mayor of Hanover, Sheridan Samuels at the Social Justice Division's Justice Fi All A Wi Town Hall Meeting, September 19, 2024.



The inaugural World Day of Social Justice Conference, coordinated by the Ministry and held at the Jamaica Conference Centre, on February 20, 2025, called on stakeholders to promote Alternative Justice Services to mitigate social ills facilitate greater accessibility to justice.

**Madam Speaker**, as our Social Justice Division celebrates two years of existence, we applaud its interventions which are **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica**. The Division was formed to provide greater oversight and coordination of our three impactful alternative justice services, namely Restorative Justice, Child Diversion and Victim Services.

Since 2016, the Ministry has invested more than \$3.7B in the roll out of these free justice services to all Jamaicans. Last year, the Division spent more than \$975M to execute its events and programmes, which are geared at reducing conflict at home, at the workplace, in our schools, in our communities and of course, in our personal relationships.

During the 2024/2025 period of review, the Division pioneered its “Justice Fi All A Wi Tour” in different parishes. School visits, community town halls and church visits were used as strategic outreach avenues, to promote the transformational benefits of these alternative justice services.

The Division is also spearheading a close public-private partnership with the community-driven Project STAR initiative. The Ministry formalised this strategic alliance with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in January 2025.

Project STAR is a social and economic transformation initiative, created by the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, in partnership with the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

The Division is now providing critical justice services to under-resourced communities where Project STAR operates. For instance, this partnership has already witnessed the delivery of Restorative Justice Sensitisation Sessions to communities such as Parade Gardens, May Pen West, Rose Gardens, Savanna-la-mar, and Salt Spring. The Division is also offering Certified Restorative Justice Facilitator training to Project STAR's community leaders.

**Madam Speaker**, we also need to highlight the renewal of the MOU with the Ministry of Education, Youth, Skills and Information, which was expanded to not only provide trainings and sensitisation in Restorative Justice, but also Victim Services and Child Diversion. Additionally, this MOU now includes a streamlined pathway for schools to provide support to students, through these alternative justice services.

The Project STAR initiative, the social justice tours, the international alliances, the inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder partnerships being pursued by the Social Justice Division, all represent the Ministry's continued commitment ***in Advancing Justice ... Towards a Safer Jamaica.***

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

**Madam Speaker**, Restorative Justice, commonly referred to as RJ, is our poster child and one of our flagship services. RJ is intent on helping to resolve conflicts in Jamaica. It brings together all parties to ***Talk it Out and Not Fight it Out.*** The popular and impactful RJ Circles and Conferences are indeed unifying tools for ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica.***

Our annual Restorative Justice Week which took place in the first week of February this year was used as a public awareness campaign for Advancing Justice. It showcased the proven possibilities of restorative justice to resolve conflicts in Jamaica. We continue to sign MOUs with churches and faith-based organizations, with schools and non-governmental organizations, since they are important pillars in the partnership towards achieving a **Safer Jamaica.**

During the 2024/2025 fiscal period, over 29,000 Jamaicans were sensitised about RJ. Additionally, over 1,900 case conferences were completed resulting in the signing of more than 1,500 agreements.



Justice Minister Delroy Chuck (third left), Permanent Secretary, Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane (second left) and Project Social Transformation and Renewal Sponsor and Co-Chair of the Project's Oversight Board, Keith Duncan (second right) signing a memorandum of understanding which will allow the two organizations to work together in select communities to equip citizens with conflict resolution skills. Looking on are (left) Principal Director, Social Justice Division, Jamie Ann Chevannes and other representatives of Project STAR. The signing ceremony was held on February 1, at the Ministry's head office.

**Madam Speaker,** I wish to share a simple and illustrative story about restorative justice and the power to heal.

*Two best friends had a fight and the matter went to the Parish Court. It was referred to Restorative Justice and an intervention was done. At the end of the RJ Conference, the two men who didn't speak to each other for months, indicated that they will be driving together back to their community and "popping style" on all who were fueling the divide and the shame. To date, their best friend title has been reinstated, as a result of RJ and its timely intervention.*

Details on the Restorative Justice activities are in **Appendix 3**.

## CHILD DIVERSION

**Madam Speaker,** I cannot over emphasize the importance of our youth population in this conflict resolution journey of ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***.

The National Child Diversion (CD) Programme started in March 2020 and is considered the "baby" of the alternative justice services. It was established under the 2018 Child Diversion Act and redirects children, aged 12 to 17 years, from the criminal justice system, using structured rehabilitative interventions.

Once children are enrolled in the programme, they receive a range of support services. These include mentorship, individual and family counselling, educational and skills training, drug treatment and counselling and sexual and reproductive health education.



# Chuck: Utilise child diversion programme

Asha Wilks/Gleaner Writer

JAMAICANS ARE being encouraged to utilise the services of the Ministry of Justice, such as the national child diversion programme, to establish Jamaica as a 'peaceful paradise'.

This call was made by Justice Minister Delroy Chuck at the ministry's Child Diversion Forum on Thursday, which was held at Hotel Four Seasons under the theme 'Redeeming Our Children: Promoting Justice for Peace and Harmony'.

"We believe that if citizens take up and really utilise these services of the Ministry of Justice then we would have less conflicts [and] less disputes remaining unsettled and really ensure that Jamaica can be that peaceful paradise that it should become," he said.

Chuck applauded the success of the programme since its inception in 2020 with 1,020 referrals – 809 males and 211 females – mainly from the courts. Almost 50 per cent of them have been successfully completed, with others in progress.

The programme, which targets children aged 12 to 17 years, aims to redirect children who are alleged, accused of, or recognised as having infringed the penal law, without resorting to formal judicial proceedings.

It further seeks to rehabilitate youths, reduce the number of children exposed to the criminal justice system, and empower communities to resocialise child offenders.

The programme's process entails



Fayval Williams (left), Minister of Education and Youth, and Delroy Chuck (second left), Minister of Justice, address students from high schools in the Corporate Area about restorative justice, at the Child Diversion Forum at Hotel Four Seasons yesterday. The students are Amoy Nelson (third left), Charlie Smith; Shaquane Atkins (third right), Haile Selassie; Jaquan Lynch (second right), Kingston High; and Oshane Fraser, Jamaica College. IAN ALLEN/PHOTOGRAPHER

six steps. First, the child is referred by the court or police; the child must then accept responsibility for the offence; the victim must give consent for the offender to participate; a risk assessment is conducted by the parish child diversion officer; a treatment plan is developed, approved, and implemented; and lastly, the child is reintegrated into the community or referred back to the court if the programme was unsuccessful.

## RISK ASSESSMENTS

The risk assessments involved offering the children the

necessary support needed through counselling, education, mentorship, drug use, and abuse treatment, remedial training, vocational training, community services, and conflict management.

A child can only be referred to the programme three times. However, a child may no longer be eligible for diversion if they commit or attempt another offence within three years of starting the diversion programme.

Some offences eligible for the programme include indecent assault, unlawful wounding, simple

larceny, negligent use of fire, noisy and disorderly conduct, damage to property, littering in public places and sexual intercourse with a person under age 16.

Chuck says there is a demand for more child diversion officers across several parishes, as at least two members are needed.

In highlighting the restorative justice programme in schools, the minister stated that having disagreements was a natural part of human life but that it should not lead to fighting.

Instead of capturing a fight between school-aged children on video for upload to social media, Chuck urged students from Charlie Smith High School, Jamaica College, Haile Selassie High, and Kingston High – who were present at the event – to help to stop the fight and to become peace ambassadors.

"Jamaica is suffering from far too many conflicts, far too many violent disagreements, and oftentimes people feel that the only way to solve a conflict or a disagreement is to use violence," he said. "We feel that RJ (restorative justice) can, in fact, be the solution instead of abuses, threats, and violence."

## CHILD CARE PROTECTION ACT

Education minister Fayval Williams remarked that her ministry has been working towards amending Section 24 of the Child Care Protection Act.

"Section 24, currently as it stands, if a parent brings a child before a judge to say, 'My child is uncontrollable,' they're gonna go

to an adult correctional centre, and we don't believe that is the path for the child," she said.

She gave the reassurance that the education ministry was closer to getting this amendment to the Parliament.

In reference to the Jamaica School Readiness Assessment (JSRA), which was recently administered to over 27,000 four-year-olds islandwide who were assessed, Williams stated that 10,010 of them were highlighted as needing intervention so as to not struggle after transitioning to primary and secondary schools.

The students were assessed on behavioural issues, early literacy, early numeracy, and socio-economic issues.

"Behavioural issues emerge from that age as well, and if we just leave it up to chance, if we just move children along, we are going to get what we have today: children who can't read at the level that they should be reading when they reach primary school," she said.

She added that there was "a massive" amount of work to be done given that children learned bad behaviours from mimicking what they witnessed happening in society.

asha.wilks@gleanerjm.com

*Excerpt from the print media of Minister Chuck promoting the use of Child Diversion.*

**Madam Speaker**, one excellent feature of the programme is that once our children successfully complete their individualized diversion programme, all applicable charges against them are dismissed. In other words, they do not get a criminal record.

The Ministry is accelerating its efforts to reach our youth population and protect them from a life of crime and violence, allowing them to enjoy a **Safer Jamaica**.

Since the operationalisation of the Programme, nearly 27,000 Jamaicans have been sensitized about Child Diversion. Furthermore, in excess of 2,800 children have been referred from the formal justice system and have received tailored treatment plans.



# HELP A YOUTH TAKE a better Route!

**JOIN OUR CHILD DIVERSION MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME**

## CRITERIA;

- Must be a Jamaican citizen 18 years and older
- Literate, with at least a secondary level education
- Have at least one year working experience
- Be willing to volunteer for at least one year
- Non-partisan, confidential, person of integrity

Visit [www.moj.gov.jm](http://www.moj.gov.jm) to download the application form.

Submit your completed application form at any Child Diversion Office island-wide

**APPLY  
TODAY**

61 Constant Spring Road, Kingston 10, Ja. W.I. | Toll-Free: 888 Justice **(888-587-8423)**

    @mojofficialjm

Jamaicans are being encouraged to sign up to become mentors with the Child Diversion Programme

**Madam Speaker,** I wish to share a testimonial from one of our Child Diversion clients.

*When I was 16, I got into a fight that ended badly. I was charged with assault occasioning bodily harm. At the time, I didn't understand how serious that was. I just thought it was a regular fight. But when I got referred to the Child Diversion Programme and met Miss Smith, everything changed. She helped me understand the impact of violence, not just on others but on my own future. Through counselling and mentorship, I learned how to manage my anger and make better choices. I completed the programme, stayed focused, and eventually applied to the Jamaica Defence Force. Today, I wear my uniform with pride—because I got a second chance, and I used it well. Thank you, Miss Smith.*

Details on the Child Diversion activities are in **Appendix 4.**



## VICTIM SERVICES

**Madam Speaker,** the Victim Services Branch, commonly referred to as VSB, is considered the “elder” in the Social Justice Division and has remarkably impacted more than 250,000 Jamaicans to date. As we ramp up the national focus on the victims of crime and their associated Victims’ Rights, the psycho-emotional support services given to victims by the Branch, have gone a long way in ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***.

**Madam Speaker,** confidential counselling, emotional support, crisis intervention, and trauma assessments for individuals and groups form the core functions of Victim Services. I am pleased to announce that work has started on a Victim Support Policy and Cabinet has recently approved the Policy’s Concept Paper.

Today, I urge more Jamaicans and victims affected by crime, to access these free and impactful services which are important resources towards achieving a **Safer Jamaica**.

Details on the Victim Services Division activities are in **Appendix 5**.



*Minister Chuck partaking in balloon release used during a therapeutic intervention session held at Hope Gardens designed to equip young people with the skills to manage and cope with trauma.*



*Minister Chuck partaking in a therapeutic intervention session held at Hope Gardens designed to equip young people with the skills to manage and cope with trauma.*



## Mediation is a win-win solution – Chuck

Tanesha Mundle/Staff Reporter

CONTINUING WITH his push for mediation to be used more widely in settling matters before the courts,

Justice Minister Delroy Chuck has said the Caribbean must now start to promote mediation as the primary means of settling disputes. "The courts are being burdened

with matters which could easily be settled with mediation and that is where I think it is important for us in Jamaica, and I would say for the Caribbean, that we help attorneys, litigants, or the stakeholders to

see mediation as the first route in settling matters and litigation as the final resort," he said.

While noting that mediation could also be used effectively to reduce the courts' backlog, the minister said a lot of the cases that are brought before the court should have been mediated instead.

"In Jamaica, although it is mandatory in the Supreme Courts, in the lower courts, that is the parish courts in Jamaica, many simple matters need not be in the courts.

"And if they do come to court, the judges should really ask the parties to get to a mediator to see if you can get to a settlement and a consent judgment and do not utilise the time of the court," he stated.

In this regard, he said the public needs to be educated that the court is not the only option to settle a dispute.

### ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Chuck during his address at Wednesday's virtually held Jamaica Mediation Strategy Lecture also stressed that alternative dispute resolution is a viable alternative option not only for the courts but also for settling disputes in communities and in commercial activities.

Pointing to the advantages of mediation, he said it is not only cost-effective but saves time.

"I believe that mediation needs more promotion, more accessibility and even more use not only in Jamaica but across the world," the minister said.

Currently, he said the ministry is trying to put a

Mediation Act in place in hope of having it on stream within the next few months.

Among the measures to beef up the mediation push is the implementation of strategies devised by stakeholders, including the justice and national security ministries, mediators, lawyers and judges, as well as the establishment of justice centres islandwide where persons can go and have access to a trained mediator. The Government, he said, is prepared to pay for the mediation cost for those who are unable to pay.

Meanwhile, Tania Chambers, legal consultant who spearheaded the research which guided the strategies, said some of the proposed actions include expanding the number of referral point for mediation for civil matters, expanding mediation at the parish court and lay magistrate level, which would see automatic referrals of some cases at those levels to mediation, referral of backlog cases to mediation and registering mediators and establish a skills database for them.

"The idea under the mediation strategy would be to streamline all of that process to increase the number of mediation coming out of the court system significantly. Related to that is also the recommendation that in the same way you can get legal aid to pay for an attorney you should be able to get some kind of subvention to pay for mediation service," she said.

Chambers said the cost of mediation although far cheaper, the cost for litigation for some parties is an inhibitive factor and many mediators are being placed in a position where they have to offer their service for free in order for persons to have access to them. As such, there is a recommendation for some of the money that is allocated to Legal Aid Council for litigation services be made available to mediators.

tanisha.mundle@gleanerjm.com

CHUCK

**Madam Speaker,** encouraging all Jamaicans to use mediation as a dispute resolution tool is another of our efforts, for **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica.** We implore Jamaicans to use mediation in their families, among their friends and coworkers, and even with strangers, where conflicts may arise.

As a reminder, mediation is a conflict resolution tool, whereby disputing parties will discuss their grouses in the presence of a certified mediator, who acts as a neutral third-party. The end game is to arrive at a jointly agreed solution.

We support mediation and its administration by the Dispute Resolution Foundation of Jamaica because, simply put, mediation works. Statistics now confirm that the average rate of successful mediation resolution is more than 75%, with the programme maintaining this average over the last 12 months.

Since December 2021, we have implemented improvements such as facilitating the payment of mediator fees, in cases where affordability is an issue. The impact of this intervention has resulted in a close to ten-fold growth in mediation referrals from the Parish Courts; from a starting point of 145 matters in the last quarter of 2021/2022 financial year to approximately 1,180 referrals in 2024/2025.

*Excerpt from the print media regarding Mediation as a win - win solution*

As we expand our citizens' access to justice and advance our commitment to a **Safer Jamaica**, we welcome the increasing number of persons engaging in mediation. And we want to see even more persons embrace this proven conflict resolution tool.

The Ministry remains resolute in its commitment to mediation. Over the last three years, we received claims for mediation sessions of just under \$50M, with approximately \$33M expended, during the last financial year.

Let me point out that the mediation programme has a direct impact on our improved case clearance rates in the courts. For instance, over the last twelve months, more than 1,570 matters did not have to be adjudicated by a Parish Court Judge, since parties chose to resolve their conflicts using mediation as a dispute resolution mechanism.

**Madam Speaker**, allow me to share a Mahtma Ghandi quote which states that *“Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it.”* As we advance beyond the scourge of violence plaguing Jamaica, let us all commit to using mediation as our coping mechanism and our collective safety net.

Details on the Mediation activities are in **Appendix 6**.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

**Madam Speaker**, as we all know, the Custos Rotulorum in each parish, has statutory oversight and management of those activities which involve our Justices of the Peace. We would like to congratulate all Custodes on their timely compliance, in the submission of their Annual Reports for the calendar year 2024.

We submit these to His Excellency, the Governor General, each year. Our Justices of the Peace play a most significant role in our efforts at **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica**. This explains why



Hon. Delroy Chuck (right) presents citation to the retired Custos William 'Billy' Shagoury at the installation ceremony of Edith Chin as the new custos of Clarendon in March 2024.



Minister of Justice, Hon. Delroy Chuck (left) poses with a newly commissioned Justice of the Peace at the St Catherine Justice of the Peace Commissioning Ceremony.

the Ministry of Justice continues to successfully implement a suite of impactful measures to support them.

These measures range from an island-wide focus to increase the number of serving JPs, the redeployment of new official seals for greater outreach, the setting up of new government email accounts, the new electronic filing of annual reports, the issuing of spirit licences, targeted capacity development in new and strategic subject areas and support for the individual parish associations.

Since 2016, we have witnessed a dramatic increase of almost 100% in the number of active JPs who were commissioned, moving from under 6,000 active JPs to more than 11,000 in March 2025. At the end of the 2024/2025 fiscal year, we witnessed an increase of 470 new JPs being commissioned across eight parishes.

**Madam Speaker,** we here at the Ministry believe that the JPs should represent a continued source of credible information and public education, leading to greater access to justice. This is the rationale for our continued capacity development sessions for JPs, covering key topics such as estate planning, land matters and the office and role of the Public Defender – among others. For instance, in the last fiscal year 2024/2025, we hosted 12 targeted sensitisation sessions for almost 4,000 Justices of the Peace.

We continue to strengthen the parish associations and support their mandate to promote our social justice programmes and our alternative justice services to targeted communities. These associations are getting more organized and serving their parishes better.

In the new fiscal year, we will continue our focus on increasing the numbers serving in those rural communities where we have identified gaps. I will also continue to encourage our JPs to be guardians of citizens' rights and freedoms, as they help us to **Advance Justice** and maintain peace in their communities.

Details on the activities of the Justices of the Peace are in **Appendix 7**.



## NOTARIES PUBLIC

**Madam Speaker**, as we continue this growth path of ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***, we can confirm an increase of 100% in our Notaries Public. In 2016, we had 59 serving Jamaica and as of March 2025 we are at 118. The 2024/2025 fiscal year saw an increase of eight, as we continue to equip Jamaica with the personnel needed to notarise documents.

Let us remember that a notary public is commissioned and appointed 'fit and proper' by His Excellency, the Governor General, to carry out duties assigned under the laws of Jamaica or by the practice of commerce. A notary public is deemed, an officer of the Supreme Court and is an important member of the justice team.

As we review our legislative frameworks, I am happy to report that we are now well advanced with the repeal and replacement of the Notaries Public Act of 1865, as we entertain consultations on the Draft Notaries Public Bill.

Details on the activities of the Notaries Public are in **Appendix 8**.

## EXPUNGEMENT

**Madam Speaker**, let me now turn to the subject of expungement at the Ministry of Justice and the way in which it is ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***. Successful expungement applicants benefit from having a conviction removed from their criminal records.

Since 2016, more than 7,000 expungement applications have been approved, out of a total of almost 11,000 for this justice service, which is always in high demand. In fiscal year 2024/2025 almost 1,800 applications were approved out of approximately 2,500 applicants.

We are making systemic changes to facilitate the transformation of more Jamaican lives. For instance, the Ministry recently employed and assigned two officers to the Criminal Records Office (CRO) to assist with locating records for expungement applicants. This has dramatically improved the previous processing times and this initiative has contributed to the clearance of more than 2,000 backlog applications.

**Madam Speaker**, it is no secret that countless job seekers, isolated family members, critically ill persons in need of overseas treatment, some self-employed persons, some aspiring entrepreneurs— just to name a few examples would all like to have their records expunged in order to maximize their full potential.

Details on the Expungement activities are in **Appendix 9**.

## MINISTER'S MARRIAGE LICENCES

**Madam Speaker**, the Minister's Marriage Licence is granted by the Minister of Justice, giving marriage officers the authority to marry a couple in Jamaica. This very popular justice service is guided by the Marriage Act and is another justice service providing guidelines for the successful execution of wedding ceremonies.

We have daily walk-in applicants visiting the Ministry of Justice. Most of their requests are satisfied within a twenty-four hour period. Jamaica remains in high demand as a destination wedding location and we continue to receive thousands of requests from hotels which are processed on a timely basis.

Details on the activities of the Minister's Marriage Licences are in **Appendix 10**.



## JUDGMENT DEBT

**Madam Speaker**, for the fiscal year 2024/2025, the Attorney-General's Chambers has informed us that we have spent, in excess of \$1.1B or 99.7% of the amount allocated to us, by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, for the settlement of judgment debts.

The records will confirm that we have made every effort to satisfy all the completed claims against the government since 2016, as part of our unshakeable commitment to good governance and **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica**.

Details on the Judgment Debt activities are in **Appendix 16**.

*Excerpt from print media regarding the settlement of judgment debts*

**Gov't settles judgment debts**  
**Chuck urges professional conduct from officials**  
*Edmond Campbell/Senior Staff Reporter*

JUSTICE MINISTER Delroy Chuck has urged some public servants to desist from carrying out their duties in an unprofessional manner, citing the action of a "negligently seized an aeroplane" and racked up judgment debts to the Government amounting to US\$2 million. The sum was paid out in the last fiscal year.

Chuck issued the note of caution yesterday, even as he had cleared its backlog of judgment debts.

"While this Government satisfies its indebtedness for the public servants, I need to urge our police, medical personnel and other public servants to do better," Chuck admonished.

The justice minister told his parliamentary colleagues that the Government had also disbursed compensation to persons affected by the judgment debts.

He noted that, up to May 18, the Government had paid out matters, totalling a little more than \$78 million.

"Imagine, Mr Speaker, just how many more courts, schools, hospitals and roads that could be fixed with the \$500 million to out annually for misconduct and some public servants. They must do better!" Chuck admonished.

more than \$1.3 billion.

"All matters submitted from the Attorney General's Chambers were paid. We owe nothing!" Chuck declared during Debate in Parliament.

**PUBLIC SERVANTS MUST DO BETTER**

# LEGAL AID COUNCIL

**Madam Speaker**, the Legal Aid Council has been most loyal to its mission of ***Ensuring Effective Access to Justice for All***. Thousands of Jamaicans have already benefitted from their island-wide Justice Fairs, geared towards ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***.

Since 2016, we have disbursed more than **\$2.4B** in payments to the Council's empanelled attorneys. Last year, we disbursed a total of more than **\$470M** as part of our commitment to providing access to justice for our most needy and vulnerable Jamaicans.

As the Council expands on its goal to "Leave No One Behind", it has been hosting island-wide Justice Fairs for persons with disabilities, since December 2023. To date, more than 1,000 persons have attended these events which also promote inclusive and simplified communication, alongside other justice services.

The So-JUST Project has been supporting the Council with some aspects of these timely initiatives for the most marginalised among us. This project is being funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Under the So-JUST Project, the Council also launched a suite of simplified materials for those who may be facing challenges navigating the justice sector. These materials have been made accessible, by purposefully integrating the multimedia elements of audio voice overs and illustrated animations, with simple language and easy to read graphic materials.



Executive Director for the Legal Aid Council Mrs Dian Watson escorts this patron who attended the Westmoreland leg of the Legal Aid Fair for Persons with Disabilities which represented the Ministry's sixth stop.



Sample of the Simplified Material developed from the partnership between the Ministry of Justice and So-JUST.





*Justice Minister, Delroy Chuck (left) and Executive Director, Legal Aid Council, Dian Watson (right) and her team, demonstrate the workings of the Mobile Justice Unit and its motorized ramp to United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway (second left), during a courtesy call at the Ministry of Justice on November 19, 2024. The Mobile Justice Unit travels across the island and is a convenient way for underserved communities to access justice, particularly legal advice.*

The So-JUST project also includes internal and external capacity development sessions. For instance, 24 persons, including empanelled attorneys from the Council and justice sector workers have been trained in sign language, in collaboration with the Jamaica Association for the Deaf .

The Mobile Justice Unit continues its outreach programmes, which now include monthly visits to communities with persons with disabilities. Last year the Mobile Unit conducted 13 outreach activities in 121 communities, including those with persons living with disabilities. The Council also conducted eight justice fairs for persons with disabilities. We are encouraging Jamaicans to grasp the opportunity and access free legal consultations from these units as they roll into your communities.

**Madam Speaker**, for the fiscal year 2024/2025, the Council provided representation to an impressive total of more than 3,000 court matters. This is the highest number of annual court representation. In fact, quite impressively, the Council has provided legal representation in more than 19,000 court matters, since 2016.

Going forward in fiscal year 2025/2026, the Council will be **Advancing Justice**, with a focus on empanelling more attorneys; delivering training programmes for empanelled attorneys who deal with accused persons with mental illness; equipping police stations with an updated list of Duty Counsel and visiting outstation courts to rationalize the assignment of attorneys.

Details on the activities of the Legal Aid Council are in **Appendix 11**.

# OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

**Madam Speaker**, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is a most important pillar of our justice system, as it helps to build public trust, while ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***. This explains why we have championed the investment of close to \$1B, for renovation and rehabilitation costs during the period from 2019 to 2023.

Since 2017, it has disposed of more than 15,000 cases, as part of the ODPP's sustained focus on fairness and impartiality for all Jamaicans. Since 2020, the ODPP has made more than 4,000 case files trial ready as part of its prosecutorial duties, on behalf of the State.

Fifteen years ago, the ODPP was functioning with approximately 27 Prosecutors. The numbers have been increasing steadily to match the growing demands for representation of the Crown in Criminal matters. At present, the complement of prosecutors is 58 and will shortly increase to 70; this shows the support the government is giving to get criminal trials completed in a timely manner.

Between 2020 to 2024, the ODPP treated with 46 extradition requests, of which 36 have been finalized, with offenders extradited. The remaining 10 matters are at varying stages in the process for finalization.

Furthermore, under the Serious Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Programme (SOCAP), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has been providing donor support to the Unification of Prosecutorial Services as part of the wider justice sector reform programme involving the ODPP.

Details on the activities of the ODPP are in **Appendix 12**.

# JUSTICE TRAINING INSTITUTE

**Madam Speaker**, the Justice Training Institute has been successfully delivering capacity development sessions to justice sector workers and to Justices of the Peace in Jamaica. As the training arm of the Ministry, the Institute provides strategic training programmes, which are aimed at ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***.

Since 2023, the Institute has graduated more than 1,900 Justices of the Peace, in preparation for meeting the needs of the justice sector. For the period 2024/2025, 364 JPs participated in

16 targeted online training sessions. This period also witnessed 85 JPs being trained as Lay Magistrates, with 320 JPs receiving specialized training. Since 2016, the Institute has trained more than 2,000 JPs.

Almost 200 justice sector workers also participated in the online course entitled “Identifying and Interacting with Child Trafficking Victims”. The Institute has also started a re-branding exercise, with a new logo and a new motto which states, ***“Training for Performance Excellence”***.

For the 2025/2026 fiscal year, plans are underway to re-introduce the popular Court Reporting

Programme. The JTI boasts a rich legacy of training Jamaica’s local and international court reporters and steno writers. The 2023 donation of 15 stenography machines and 15 laptops to the Institute, has fortified its technology readiness to deliver this programme.

This donation is part of project activities under the Global Affairs Canada funded So-JUST project which is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in Jamaica, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Court Administration Division of Jamaica.

Details on the activities of the Justice Training Institute are in **Appendix 13**.



Justice Minister, Delroy Chuck (right) with Principal/ Director of the Justice Training Institute, Analia Wallace -Muir (second right) and three top graduates who completed specialized training in the area of Lay Magistrates’ Court, at the graduation ceremony on March 27, 2025. A total of 16 Justices of the Peace successfully completed training.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

**Madam Speaker,** the Ministry has been heavily involved with infrastructural upgrades which include the construction, renovation and rehabilitation of our courts and our 20 justice centres island-wide. These institutions play a pivotal role in **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica**, and are considered by many, as their best gateway for access to justice.

The Linstead and Balaclava courts are recent excellent examples of renovating courts to first-class standards. The Court of Appeal, the Clarendon Parish Court and the St Ann Family Court are a few other examples, and more are on the way.

The Government will invest significantly in the new St Thomas Parish Court, located at the recently opened Morant Bay Urban Centre. It will become a model for future parish courts, as it reflects an iconic symbol of justice.

For the period 2024/2025, our project team at the Ministry implemented several initiatives aimed at improving our court infrastructure. We have completed renovation activities of 15 courts across the island, as we commit to providing Jamaicans with modern and efficient infrastructure in the justice sector.

The significant investments between 2016 and 2025, are detailed in **Appendix 14**.



Minister Chuck (left) and Permanent Secretary Mrs Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane (second left) receive keys to the St Thomas Parish Court which will be located at the newly constructed Morant Bay Urban Centre in St Thomas



*Before and After pictures of the emergency renovation works that were undertaken by the Ministry at the St Catherine Parish Court (Linstead).*

## TECHNOLOGY

**Madam Speaker**, in response to the needs of our internal and external stakeholders, the Ministry of Justice has been embracing the benefits of digital transformation. Topical issues such as cybersecurity, impacting our online safety, and artificial intelligence driven solutions, are now part of the Ministry's technology agenda.

Investing in dedicated internet access and expanded bandwidth is part of our journey in **Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica**. Locations such as the Bunker's Hill Restorative Justice Centre, can now participate in the rich experiences of virtual and interactive web-based sessions.

Hardware investments such as the **\$32.17M** spent last fiscal year, to acquire multifunction printing devices and scanners, have facilitated the digitising of our records in some of our departments and agencies. Internally, we continue to streamline existing processes and automate key tasks such as performance tracking, using performance management software solutions. We have implemented strategic solutions in digital communications, as part of our quality customer service mandate to expand access to justice. Recently, we initiated a customer service one-stop shop window to respond to queries using live chats, as well as an integrated social media platform.

Our international development partners continue to support Jamaica's digital transformation of the justice system. During the last fiscal year, the US Embassy and the UK Department for International Development, now called the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, generously donated networking, hardware and website solutions to the Ministry.

For the 2025 /2026 fiscal year, we will continue pursuing this digital journey with our internal and external partners and stakeholders.

Details on the Information and Communication Technology activities are in **Appendix 15**.

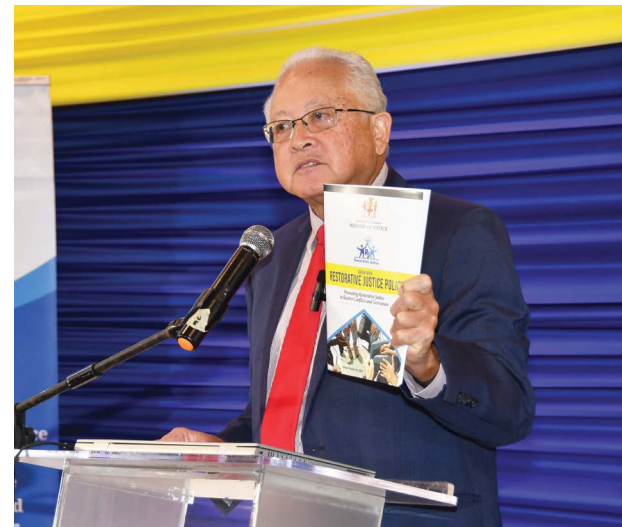
## LEGISLATION PROGRAMME

**Madam Speaker**, since 2016, the Ministry of Justice has successfully passed 27 pieces of primary legislation. These are now playing a pivotal role in ***Advancing Justice - Towards a Safer Jamaica***.

Special legislation highlights include ***the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Amendment) Act*** which was recently tabled in Parliament and will offer persons a second chance. It also expands the categories of persons benefitting from the expungement of their records. ***The 2023 Electronic Transactions (Amendment) Act***, is aimed at continuing the digital transformation of our court system.

***The 2018 Child Diversion Act*** pioneered a rehabilitative approach for children in conflict with the law, aligning Jamaica with international human rights standards. ***The 2017 Plea Negotiations and Agreements Act*** helps to streamline criminal trials, reduces delays, and promotes cooperation between defendants and prosecutors, without compromising justice.

Our legislative agenda mirrors our commitment to achieving a ***Safer Jamaica***, as we sustain the focus on judicial reform, restorative justice, criminal procedure, and institutional governance. For the 2025/2026 fiscal year, we intend to double down on our efforts on the Mediation Act, a new Notaries Public Act and amendments to the Legal Aid Act. We have included key legislation areas and the list of those 27 legislations passed since 2016, **Appendix 17**.



Justice Minister, Delroy Chuck highlighting the Restorative Justice Policy Green Paper at the Restorative Justice Conference, held at the Summit in February 2024. The Policy's revision is geared towards enabling the continued relevance of the National Restorative Justice Programme.



# CONCLUSION

**Madam Speaker**, in conclusion, I am inviting Jamaicans to join us in ***Advancing Justice***, by embracing our free and effective services in restorative justice, child diversion and victim services, as we embark on the journey towards a Safer Jamaica. Let us resolve our conflicts peacefully and always strive to uphold the rule of law in this blessed country.

I have shared the wide-ranging support system, which is aimed at ***Advancing Justice...Towards a Safer Jamaica***, with this Honourable House. This includes the impactful work being done by our Judges, Estate Managers, Custodes, Justices of the Peace, Notaries Public, Mediators and Legal Aid Lawyers and other Justice Service Workers who are all dedicated to providing Jamaicans with an expanded and fair access to justice.

Our investments in capacity development, infrastructural improvements and technology upgrades, are all geared towards maintaining a justice sector which delivers in a responsive manner. Our legislative frameworks and our unwavering collaboration with the judiciary, provide the necessary foundation to realize the country's second **National Goal of Vision 2030 Jamaica**, which is to make the Jamaican society one that is **secure, cohesive and just**.

This Sectoral Presentation has highlighted our achievements in 2024/2025 and charted our remarkable progress since 2016. It has also identified some of the remaining challenges facing the justice sector. The appendices provide further details on these achievements and projections.

**Madam Speaker**, I end this presentation, feeling secure in the knowledge that, since 2016, much has been done. Today, in 2025, Jamaica's justice sector is on a path to continue to make even greater strides towards a just, peaceful and harmonious nation.

## BLESSINGS TO ALL JAMAICANS!

Thank you, **Madam Speaker**  
Honourable Delroy Chuck, KC, MP



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# APPENDIX 1 COURT ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Table 1 showing the key Achievements for **the Courts** for Financial Year (FY) 2018/2019 to 2024/2025

2018/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Courts achieved an average case clearance rate of 98%.</li> <li>Eleven (11) Parish Courts recorded clearance rates above 90%.</li> </ul>
2019/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Courts exceeded the international standard with a 103.46% average clearance rate.</li> <li>St Mary, Portland and St Catherine surpassed 110% clearance.</li> </ul>
2020/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% of over 61,000 reviewed cases were resolved within 12 months.</li> <li>Successfully implemented virtual court hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>Launched six Parish Justice Centres to support early dispute resolution.</li> </ul>
2021/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western Regional Gun Court exceeded its disposal target (242 vs. 224 cases).</li> <li>ODPP disposed of 672 rural cases, surpassing its 604 case projection.</li> <li>Parish Courts absorbed a 46.5% increase in criminal filings with continued improvements in case handling.</li> </ul>
2022/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court of Appeal clearance rate rose to 111%, indicating disposal of more cases than received.</li> <li>Criminal case backlog in Parish Courts reduced to below 2%.</li> </ul>
2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court of Appeal achieved a clearance rate of 118% and delivered 96.84% of judgments within three months.</li> <li>Parish Courts reduced net backlog to under 2.5%, meeting international benchmarks.</li> <li>Differentiated case management system implemented across Parish Courts.</li> <li>Supreme Court reached a sustained clearance rate above 70% for the third consecutive year.</li> </ul>
2024/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish Courts officially declared backlog free.</li> <li>Approximately 90% of Parish Court cases disposed within 12 months; 98% within 24 months.</li> <li>System-wide rollout of digital case tracking and statistical dashboards completed.</li> <li>Recruitment and training programme expanded to improve court staffing and performance.</li> <li>Court of Appeal consistently maintains surplus clearance rates above 110%.</li> </ul>

Table 2 showing the Achievements for the **Court Administration Division** for FYs 2020/2021 to 2024/2025

<b>FY - 2020/2021</b> Capacity Building Technological Enhancements Improved Data Management Communication and Public Education Infrastructure Judicial Accountability Policy and Planning	<b>FY - 2021/2022</b> Capacity Building and Training Technology Integration Policy and Development Process Improvement	<b>FY – 2022/2023</b> Training and Sensitisation Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) Records and Information Management Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Upgrades Organizational Development Disaster Preparedness Public Trust and Engagement Policy Implementation
<b>FY - 2023/2024</b> Capacity Building and Staff Training Policy, Planning and Development Technological Integration and Modernization Public Education and Engagement Social Justice Programme (SO-JUST) – UNDP Collaboration	<b>FY - 2024/2025</b> Human Capital Development Policy, Planning and Organizational Reform Digital Transformation and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Security, Facilities and Maintenance Strategic Systems and Tools Public Engagement and Communication Social Justice Project (SO-JUST) – with UNDP Support	

Table 3 showing the Achievements for the **Court Administration Division** for FY 2024/2025

<p><b>1. Human Capital Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicial Training: All levels of judicial officers trained in areas such as the Road Traffic Act, Jury List Settlement, Criminal Case Management, Circuit Court Navigation, Sentencing, and Maritime Law.</li> <li>Staff Development: Court staff across divisions trained in data protection, case management, court security, performance monitoring, and the GOJ Employee Performance Management Programme (EPM).</li> <li>Specialized EPM Training: Executives, Judges, Registrars, and Administrators trained in Tier II Planning and the EPM framework in anticipation of GOJ-wide rollout.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Policy, Planning and Organizational Reform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational Structure Reviews: New and upgraded posts approved for Parish Courts, Finance and Accounts, and Building and Property Management Divisions. Additional reviews completed for Civil Division, HRM, Strategic Planning, ICT, and Court Support.</li> <li>Court Excellence Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved membership in the International Consortium on Court Excellence.</li> <li>Initiated ISO 9001:2015 Certification (Gap analysis in progress for CAD, Court of Appeal, Gun Court).</li> <li>Developed Court Operation, Risk Management, and Procurement Plans.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Digital Transformation and Information Communication Technology (ICT) Modernization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicial Case Management System (JCMS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 124,600 cases migrated; 30 business lines automated; over 200 staff trained.</li> <li>Piloted and implemented in various courts including Circuit, Family, Supreme Court, and Revenue Court.</li> <li>Electronic court sheet introduced in 60% of rural Circuit Courts and specialized divisions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Infrastructure Investments (2020/2024/2025): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$187M invested in upgrading ICT infrastructure.</li> <li>Procured: MS Office 365 Licences, laptops, industrial workstations, backup systems, 180 e-signature Licences, and firewalls.</li> <li>Equipment to enable remote hearings: 70 TVs, HDMI cables, audio mixers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Security, Facilities and Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court Security: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procured and installed 93 metal detector wands, 27 archways, 60 access control devices, and over 126 CCTV cameras.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Furniture Upgrades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New furniture procured to replace units over 20 years old across Parish and Specialized Courts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Maintenance Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar panels installed at the Supreme Court (estimated savings: JMD \$1M/month).</li> <li>Energy audits completed at 3 facilities (Target of 10 by 2028 likely to be surpassed).</li> <li>44 new Air Conditioning units procured for the Supreme Court.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Strategic Systems and Tools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprise Monitoring (CASCADE): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% implementation of Phase 1; Phase 2 scheduled for FY 2025/2026.</li> </ul> </li> <li>MyHR+ Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% completion; courts including Revenue, Gun, and Family Courts expected to issue e-payslips by March 2025.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Public Engagement and Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Education and Media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 public education events and 18 livestreamed court proceedings.</li> <li>Targeted media campaigns (e.g., Jury Duty, Family Court).</li> <li>Introduction of fillable court forms to improve accessibility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Social Justice Project (SO-JUST) – with UNDP Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procured stenography machines, laptops, and records management consultancy.</li> <li>Completed comprehensive assessment and gap analysis of Judiciary's Records Management across all courts, forming the foundation for the upcoming Records Management Reform Programme.</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 2 ADMINISTRATOR - GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Table 4 showing the Achievements for the **Administrator-General's Department** for FYs 2016/2017 - 2018/2019, 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

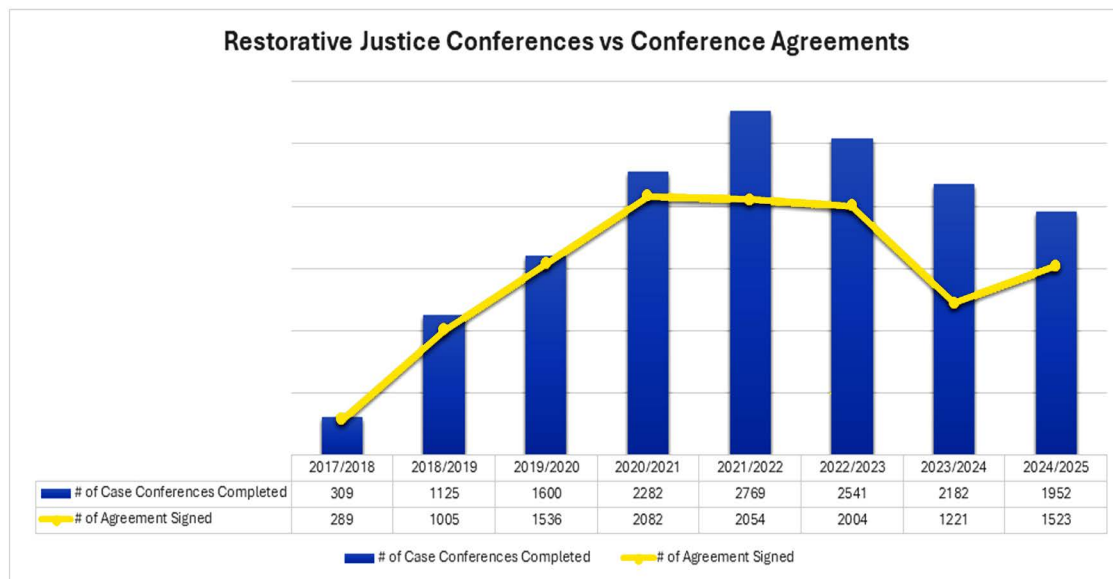
Achievements FY 2024/2025		Projections for FY 2025/2026	
<p>The Department currently has more than 5,000 active estate cases in administration, with 410 new cases taken on for 2024/2025. The Department manages cash assets on behalf of estates of over \$3.6 billion.</p> <p><b>230</b> cases investigated and referred for Application of Instrument of Administration and Letters of Administration.</p> <p><b>172</b> properties disposed of by way of sale of transfer (valued at \$1B).</p>		<p>350 properties to be disposed of (estimated value of \$2.5B)</p>	
2016/2017	2018/2019	2022/2023	2024/2025
<p>The Department opened an office in Montego Bay, to serve clients in the parishes of Saint James, Westmoreland, Hanover, Saint Elizabeth and Trelawny region. This was a strategic move to expand access to vital trust and estate administration services in western Jamaica.</p>	<p>Implemented the Trust and Estate Management System (TEMS), a system that integrates and improves critical manual processes within the trust and estate administration process while providing efficiency in the overall operation of the organization. This is the first of its kind in the region.</p>	<p>Received ISO 9001:2015 Certification.</p>	<p>Since 2015/2016, 3589 new cases at an average of 358 per year 4539 cases closed at an average of 453 per year i.e. closure of 21% more cases than those taken on.</p> <p>The Department also manages cash assets on behalf of estates of over \$3.6 billion. Over the last 10 years, the Department has disbursed \$5.9B of estate funds to beneficiaries or to cover estate-related debts.</p> <p>Since 2015, issued 2,158 Instruments of Administration.</p> <p>Amended Section 53A of the Administrator-General's Act in August 2024 to increase the 'small estate' value from \$100,000 to \$1.5M.</p>



## APPENDIX 3 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Table 5 showing the Achievements for **Restorative Justice** for FY 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2025/2026
<b>1952</b> Case Conferences Completed	2,300 Case Conferences
<b>1523</b> Agreements Signed	1,840 or (80%) Agreements
<b>801</b> Agreements compliant after 3 months of monitoring	80% of Agreements to be tracked and monitored
<b>1432</b> Sensitisations Conducted	1,600 Sensitisations
<b>29,047</b> Persons sensitised in RJ	32,297 Beneficiaries targeted to be reached
<b>129</b> Restorative Practices workshops conducted	300 Restorative Practices Workshops to be conducted
<b>220</b> Restorative Practices Training Beneficiaries	8,100 Beneficiaries targeted (school administrators, parents, students, persons from faith-based organizations and other key stakeholders)



### SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2016

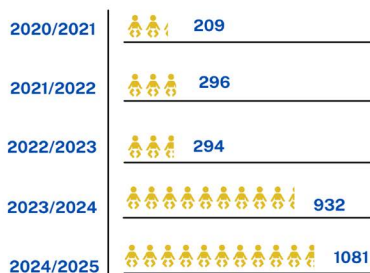
Sensitised more than 155,000 clients;  
 Completed more than 14,000 case conferences;  
 Signed more than 11,000 agreements;  
 Trained more than 8,000 clients in Restorative Practices and;  
 Trained more than 600 RJ facilitators.

# APPENDIX 4 CHILD DIVERSION

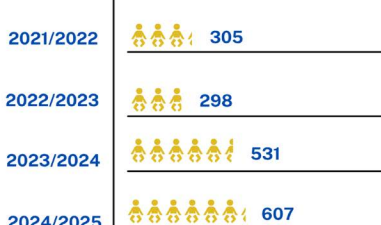
Table 6 showing the Achievements for **Child Diversion (CD)** for FY 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2025/2026
<b>627</b> New children referred for CD for whom intake assessments are completed	<b>General:</b> Mentorship training for at least 84 prospective mentors  Continued sensitisations of key referral entities (courts and police) to improve understanding of the Child Diversion Programme.  Evaluation of tracer study to assess the programme's impact on youth beneficiaries and identify key factors influencing its outcomes.
<b>1081</b> Children referred from formal justice system, receiving treatment plans	
<b>338</b> Completed Diversion programme/intervention	
<b>640</b> Children serviced by CD providers	
<b>1564</b> Counselling sessions provided to children	
<b>355</b> persons sensitised in CD Tracer study of the National Child Diversion programme commenced on January 15, 2025 to assess the impact and effectiveness of the National Child Diversion programme, since its inception in March 2020.	

Number of Children Referred from Formal Justice System, who received Treatment Plans (2020/2021 - 2024/2025)



Number of New Children referred for CD for whom Intake Assessments are completed (2021/2022 - 2024/2025)



## SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2020

More than 26,000 clients sensitized;  
5,000 counselling sessions held with children as beneficiaries;  
Approximately 2,300 children referred from the formal justice system; approximately 1,700 males and approximately 600 females.

## CHILD DIVERSION TESTIMONIAL #1 - CLIENT WHO GRADUATED

*The individual CD sessions and counselling have been instrumental in helping me become more mindful of personal boundaries and the impact of my actions on others. These experiences have not only kept me on the right path but also motivated me to encourage my peers to think carefully about their decisions.*

*What I admire most about the programme is its focus on providing a true second chance. I never felt judged. Instead, I was met with understanding and compassion. It was a safe environment where I could express my thoughts and feelings about what happened, and I really appreciated the confidentiality that was upheld throughout the process. I am grateful for the support and guidance I received, and I hope to continue being a positive influence in my community.*

## CHILD DIVERSION TESTIMONIAL #2 - PARENT OF CLIENT, AGE 13

*I just want to express my sincere gratitude for the enrolment of my son in the Child Diversion Programme. It has been a blessing, because it opened my eyes to what was steering me in the face, but I was afraid to face it.*

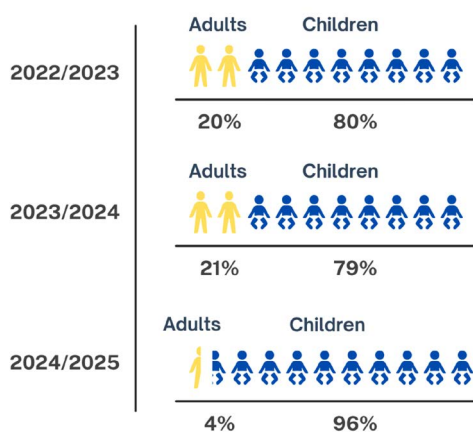
*I now realized that my son suffers from anxiety and low self-esteem. Whilst it's a part of his development, with time and effort it will improve. My husband and I are working together to help him to believe in himself, we are having more conversations and listening to him more without being judgmental. We encouraged him to choose his friends carefully.*

# APPENDIX 5 VICTIM SERVICES

Table 7 showing the Achievements for **Victim Services** for FY 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2025/2026
<b>5006</b> New Clients provided with counselling	<b>5000</b> New Clients provided with counselling
<b>11,914</b> Counselling Sessions Conducted	<b>10,800</b> Counselling sessions
<b>933</b> Children provided with Court Support (orientation, accompaniment and readiness reports)	<b>90%</b> of child victims provided with court support services based on requests and court date notifications
<b>372</b> Adults provided with Court Support (orientation, accompaniment and readiness reports)	<b>90%</b> of victims provided with court support services based on requests and court date notifications
<b>311</b> New Clients within West Kingston and surrounding communities provided with counselling and support	<b>300</b> New Clients within West Kingston and surrounding communities
<b>2</b> Special Intervention programmes conducted benefitting at-risk and traumatised children	<b>3</b> Special intervention programmes to be implemented for children who have experienced sexual abuse and other incidents resulting in trauma
	1. Upgrading of Service point - 1 VSB office (St. Ann)  2. Policy Development – to entrench Victim Services in Policy  3. MOUs with collaborating Partners – establishment of protocols with networking partners to strengthen our response capabilities; provide consistent support to victims of crime; and facilitate data sharing between victim service practitioners.  4. Improve Human Resource Capacity

**Court Support Requests that were addressed (2022/2023 - 2024/2025)**



## SUMMARY ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2016

More than 51,000 new clients counselled;

Almost 124,000 counselling sessions conducted;

Almost 8,000 children provided with court support services;

Almost 5,000 adults provided with court support services;

More than 4,000 affected persons from West Kingston and the surrounding communities given support.



# APPENDIX 6 MEDIATION

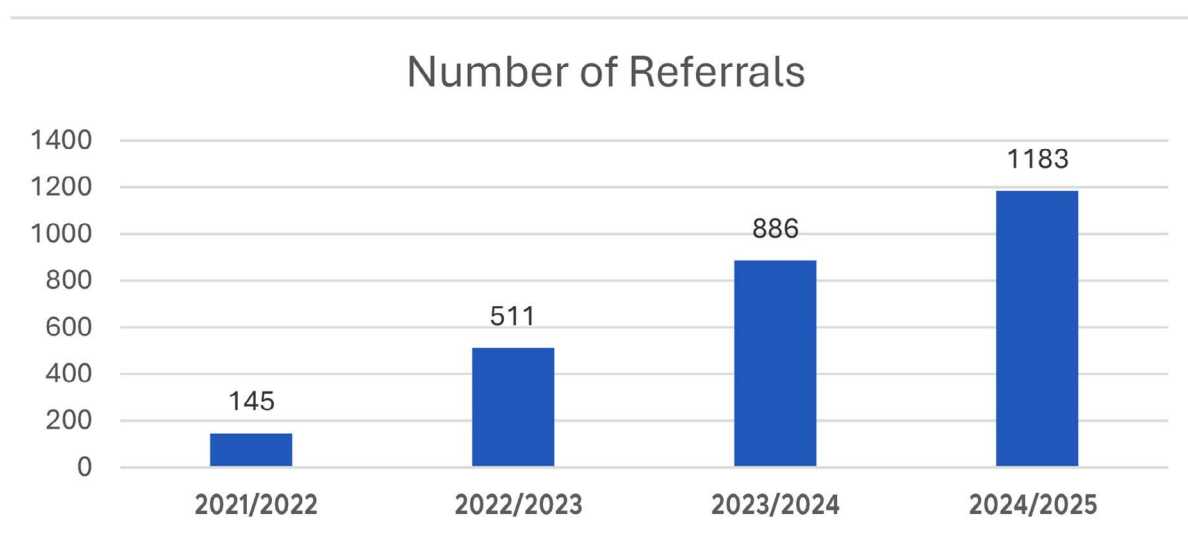
Table 8a showing the Achievements for **Mediation** for FY 2024/2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025
1183 New Referrals
2946 Beneficiaries

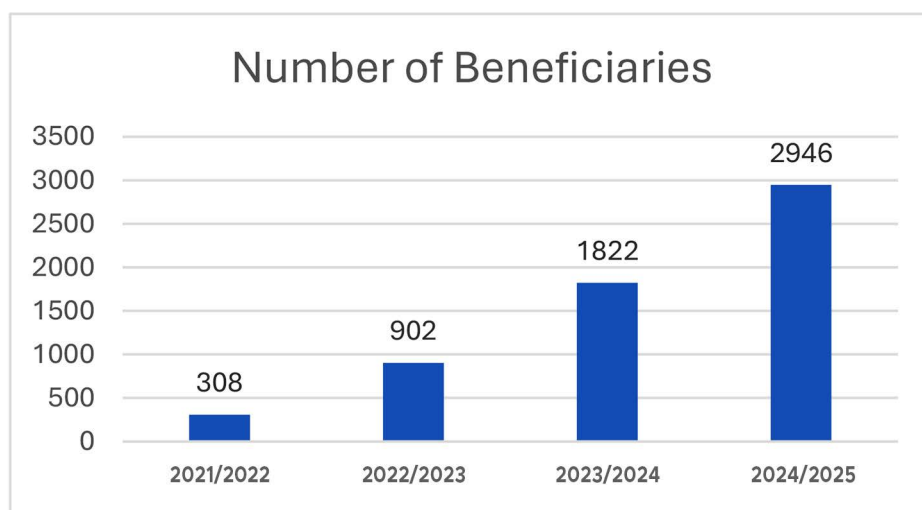
Table 8b showing monies committed to **mediation**

Financial Year	Amount \$
FY 2022/2023	5,400,000
FY 2023/2024	9,200,000

Bar graph showing referrals received for mediation for the period 2021 - 2024



Bar graph showing number of beneficiaries of mediation for period 2021 - 2025

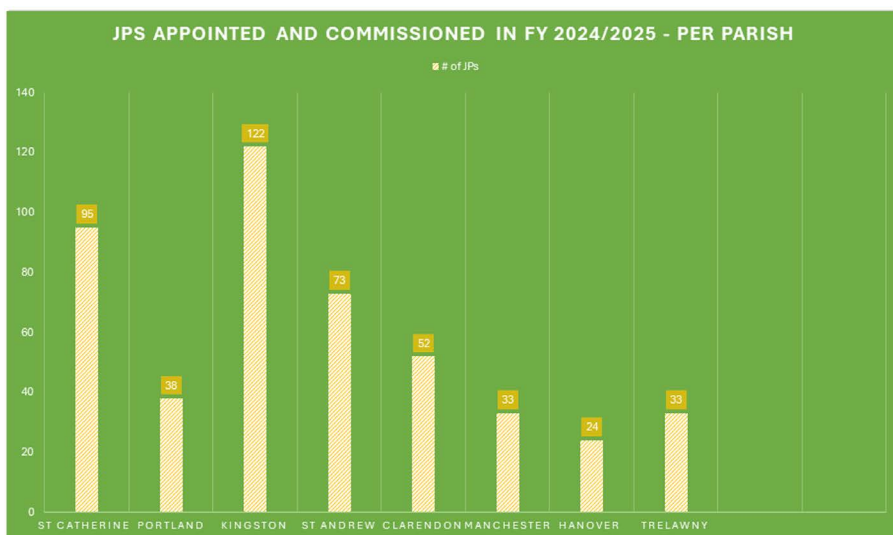


## APPENDIX 7 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Table 9 showing the Achievements for **Justices of the Peace** for FY 2024/2025.

<b>11,275</b> JPs currently serving in Jamaica
<b>470</b> New JPs appointed
<b>10,400</b> Email accounts assigned
<b>5,335</b> Spirit Licences issued
<b>3,686</b> JPs benefited from Capacity Development (Estate Planning, Land Matters, National Identification System (NIDS), Restorative Justice etc.)
<b>\$11M</b> in subventions issued to Justices of the Peace Parish Associations

Bar Chart highlighting the number of **Justices of the Peace** appointed per parish during the period 2024/2025



### Official Seals and Government Email Addresses since 2021

Since 2021, almost \$69M spent to recall the old design official seals and replace them with new ones;

The new seals empowered active JPs to now serve right across Jamaica, without parish restrictions;

At the end of March 2025, more than 10,000 JPs have been assigned government email addresses;

Now working on improving the 15.6% email uptake which now prevails.



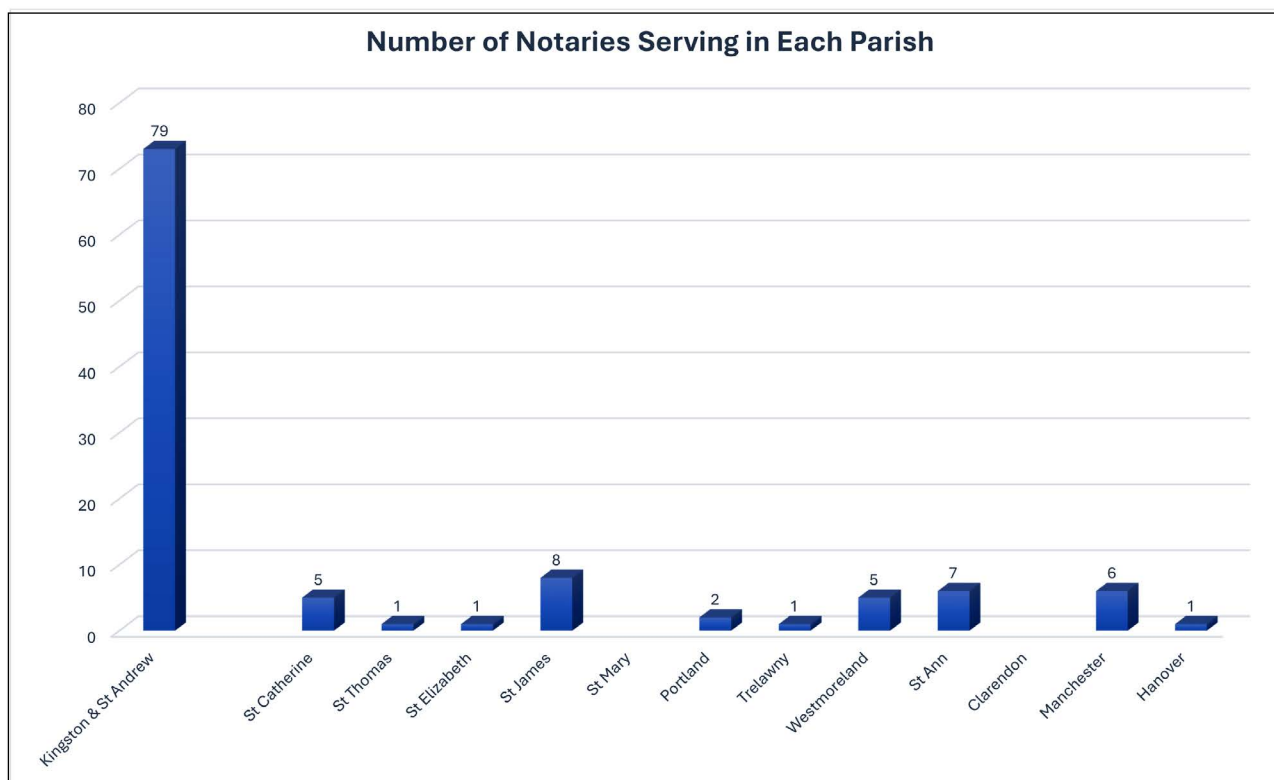


## APPENDIX 8 NOTARIES PUBLIC

Table 10 showing the Achievements for **Notaries Public (NP)** for FY 2024/2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025
118 NPs currently serving in Jamaica
8 New NPs appointed

Bar chart showing number of **Notaries Public** serving in each parish as at end of FY 2024/2025

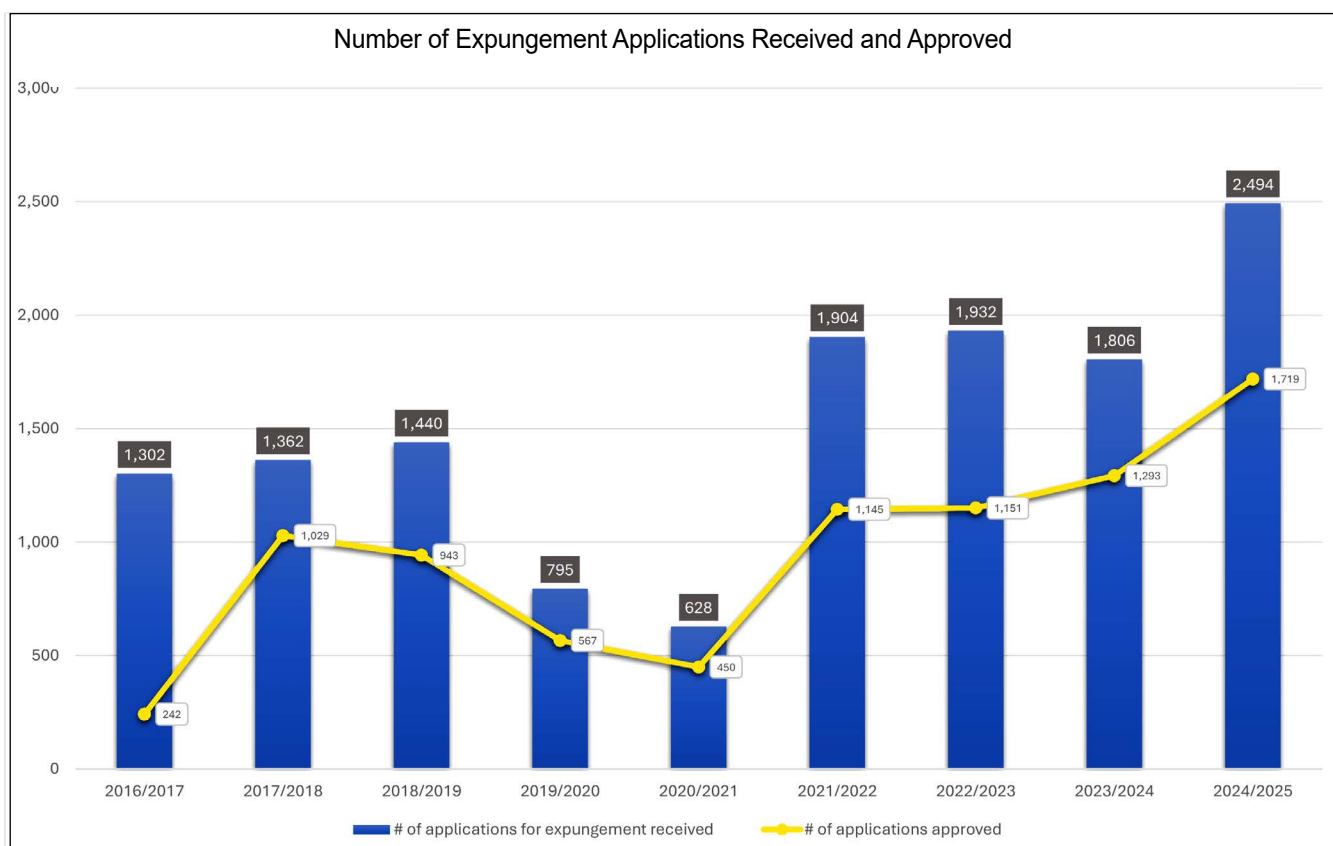


## APPENDIX 9 EXPUNGEMENT

Table 11 showing the Achievements for **Expungement** FY for 2024/2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	
	<b>2,494</b> applications for expungement received
	<b>1,719</b> applications for expungement approved

Bar chart showing number of Expungement Applications Received and Approved as at end of FY 2024/2025.



# APPENDIX 10 MINISTER'S MARRIAGE LICENCE

Table 12 showing **Minister's Marriage Licence** statistics for FY 2024/2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025
<b>6,913</b> Minister's Marriage Licence applications received
<b>6,344</b> Minister's Marriage Licence applications processed

Bar chart showing Minister's Marriage Licence Applications Received and Percentage Processed

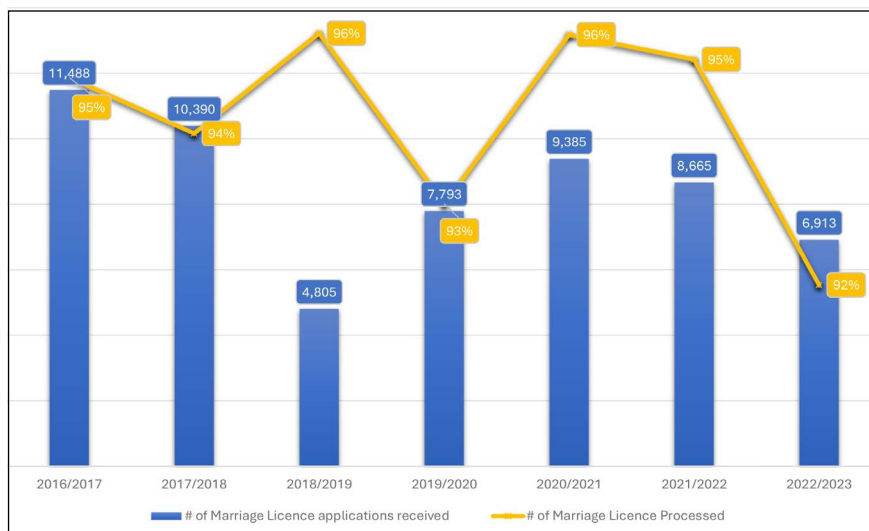


Table 13 showing funds generated from the processing of **Minister's Marriage Licences (MML)**

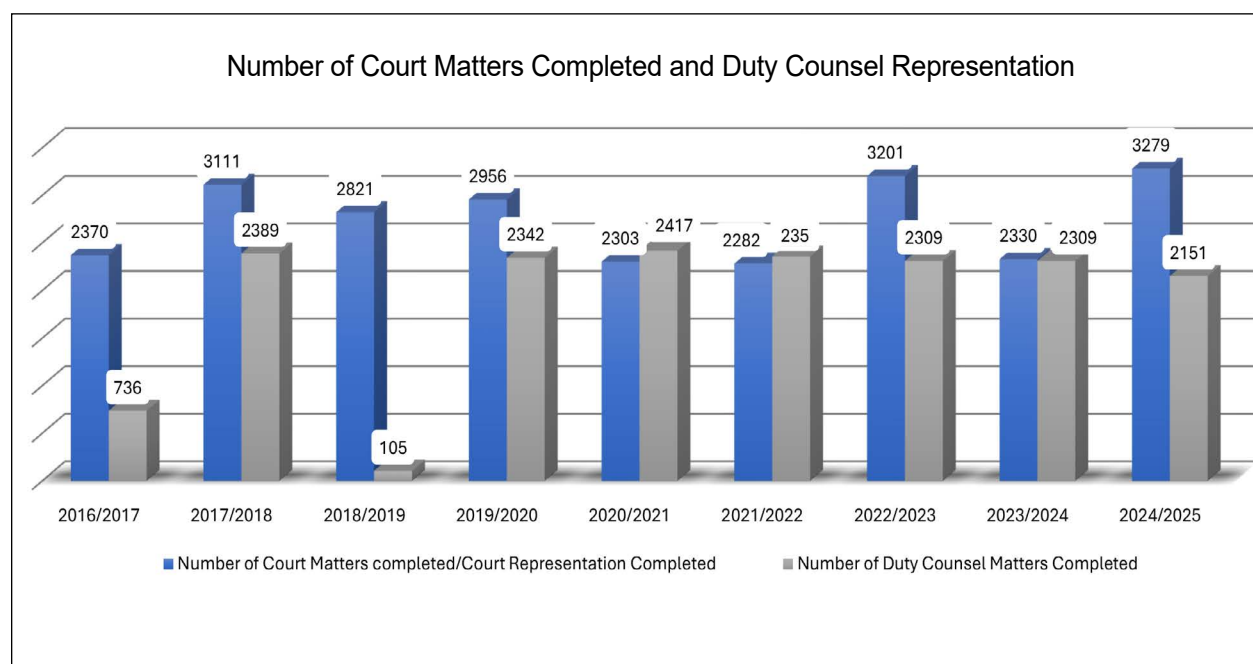
FISCAL YEAR (FY)	TOTAL MML PROCESSED	FUNDS EARNED BY THE GOVERNMENT VIA MML
2018/2019	10,906	\$43,624,000
2019/2020	9,775	\$39,100,000
2020/2021	4,594	\$18,376,000
2021/2022	7,248	\$28,992,000
2022/2023	8,971	\$35,884,000
2023/2024	8,250	\$33,000,000
2024/2025	6,344	\$25,376,000
<b>AGGREGATE TOTAL (2018/2019 - 2024/2025)</b>	<b>56,088</b>	<b>\$224,352,000</b>



# APPENDIX 11 LEGAL AID COUNCIL

Table 14 showing the Achievements of the Legal Aid Council for FY 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2025/2026
<b>3279</b> Court Matters completed/Court Representation Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To expand pool of empanelled attorneys to ensure availability of sufficiently cadre.</li> </ul>
<b>2151</b> Duty Counsel Matters Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To host an award ceremony to recognize the exceptional service of the attorneys who actively contribute to the communities served by the Council.</li> </ul>
<b>36</b> Mentally Challenged Incarcerated Persons assigned Attorneys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A specialized training programme on mental illness for its empanelled attorneys, to equip them with the competencies required to effectively manage cases involving mentally ill inmates.</li> </ul>
<b>121</b> Communities visited for Legal Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An island-wide campaign to ensure that all police stations in Jamaica are equipped with an updated Duty Counsel list.</li> </ul>
<b>22</b> Attorneys Empanelled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensify its outreach efforts by visiting outstation courts to facilitate the effective assignment of attorneys, thereby enhancing legal representation for underserved populations.</li> </ul>
<b>219</b> Children represented in court	
<b>14</b> Justice Fairs conducted	
<b>1000</b> Beneficiaries of Justice Fairs	
<b>56</b> Beneficiaries of Jamaica Sign Language training	
<b>100</b> Attorneys and Justice Sector Workers benefiting from sensitisation sessions	



# APPENDIX 11 CONT'D

Table 15 highlighting claims paid to empanelled Legal Aid Attorneys over the period 2016 - 2025

Payment to Empanelled Legal Aid Attorneys Expenditure for the period 2016/2017 to 2024/2025	
YEAR	EXPENDITURE
2016/2017	165,760,715.50
2017/2018	155,667,814.00
2018/2019	187,711,499.46
2019/2020	265,339,070.00
2020/2021	233,488,700.00
2021/2022	206,246,406.09
2022/2023	366,891,939.38
2023/2024	381,649,275.99
2024/2025	470,142,410.00
<b>Total for the Period</b>	<b>2,432,897,830.42</b>

## Prosecutorial Services



Table 16 showing the Achievements of the **ODPP** for FY 2024/2025

### ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025

**Over 14,100** Case files traversed/disposed of across all courts

**3642** of case files made trial ready across all courts

The ODPP received donations towards improving its computer hardware, networking and website platform. These donations came from the US Embassy and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and represent the ongoing international partnerships which continue to help build capacity within the justice system.

The ODPP made progress in reducing the time taken to rule on completed files, with 19 urgent rulings and 131 general rulings being carried out during the period

The assignment of completed files for indictment reached a total of 244 during this period

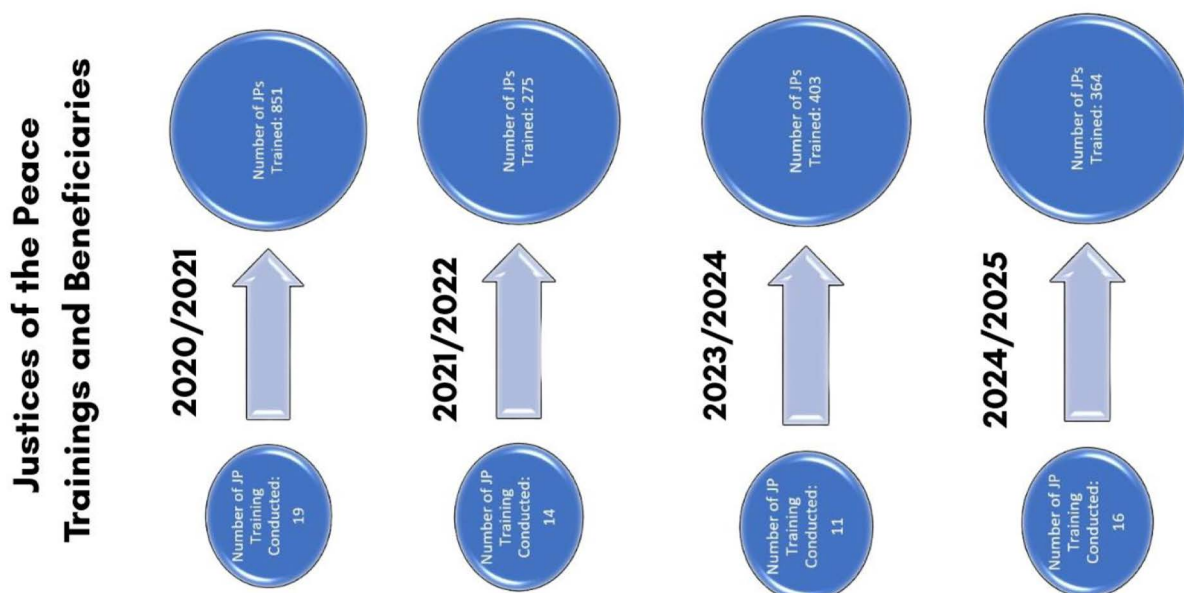
Under the UK sponsored Unification of Prosecutorial Services project, which plays a pivotal role in strengthening Jamaica's anti-corruption framework, the ODPP spent \$32M during the period 2024/2025 and in excess of \$141M, since 2020. These funds were used to build capacity in transparency and accountability.



# APPENDIX 13 JUSTICE TRAINING INSTITUTE

Table 17 showing the Achievements of the **Justice Training Institute** for FY 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2025/2026
802 participants in JP Qualifying training	250 Candidates to be trained in the Justices of Peace Qualifying Training
2 JP trainings on Lay Magistrate's Court delivered across local regions	
85 JP Trained as Lay Magistrates	400 Justices of the Peace
1104 JP received Specialized Trainings	250 Justice Sector Workers benefitting from specialized trainings
191 Justice Sector Workers benefitting from specialized trainings	
<p>Stenography machines and laptops valued at \$30 million received under the Canadian-funded Social Justice Project (SO-JUST), to strengthen court reporting in the justice system.</p> <p>These were handed over to the Court Administration Division (CAD) and the Justice Training Institute (JTI)</p> <p>Provision of the machines will strengthen training and engagement of court reporters and transcriptionists, who take verbatim notes and prepare transcripts of court proceedings.</p>	<p>The Institute's Court Reporting Programme which was suspended for over 8 years will be reintroduced in June 2025. The programme will resume with a revised course structure, modality (synchronous and asynchronous delivery), reduced course duration (18 months) and fee structure. To date, we have received over 30 applications to include applicants from Ministry of Justice, Houses of Parliament, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Office of the Services, and other public and private sector organizations.</p> <p>The Institute's aim is to increase the number of skilled court reporters and stenographers available to serve in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, Industrial Dispute Tribunals and other government entities and private practices in Jamaica.</p>



# APPENDIX 14 INFRASTRUCTURE

Table 18 showing the Achievements in physical **infrastructure** for FY 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2025/2026
<b>Total Spend (Construction and Appropriation in Aid (AIA))</b> <b>AIA - \$434,504,927.55</b> <b>Capital - \$124,364,000.00</b> <b>TOTAL - \$558,868,927.55</b>	<p>The Ministry of Justice will continue to prioritize the upgrade and enhancement of justice infrastructure during the 2025/2026 fiscal year through the construction, renovation and rehabilitation of courts and other justice service facilities, namely:</p>
<b>Solar Panel Installed – Green Initiative</b> 1. KSA Civil Court 2. KSA Criminal Court <b>TOTAL - \$26,060,717.59</b>	<p>Completion of Renovation and Refurbishing Works at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. St. Catherine Parish Court (Rodney Memorial Building)</li> <li>2. St. James Parish Court (Montego Bay)</li> </ol>
<b>Generators Installed – Business Continuity</b> 1. St. Ann Parish Court (Addison Park) - \$13,284,882.56 2. Clarendon Parish Court (May Pen) - \$7,262,605.63	<p>Commencement of Renovation and Refurbishing Works at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarendon Family Court (Chapelton) – Window Replacement</li> <li>2. Clarendon Parish Court (Lionel Town) – Window Replacement</li> <li>3. KSA Criminal Court – Bathroom Upgrade</li> <li>4. Supreme Court – Bathroom Upgrade</li> <li>5. Hanover Parish Court (Lucea) – Ceiling Repairs</li> <li>6. Westmoreland Parish Court (Savanna-la-Mar) – Restroom Renovation and Painting</li> <li>7. Kingston and St. Andrew Traffic Court (Melbourne Road) – Construction of Holding Areas</li> <li>8. St. Ann Parish Court (St. Ann's Bay) – Container Installation</li> <li>9. St. Mary Parish Court (Port Maria) – Renovation</li> <li>10. Trelawny Parish Court (Clarks Town) – Renovation</li> <li>11. KSA Family Court (Duke Street) – Renovation</li> <li>12. KSA Civil and Tax Court (Sutton Street) – Parking Lot Repaving</li> <li>13. St. Thomas Parish and Family Court (Morant Bay) Drainage Improvement Works</li> </ol>
<b>Emergency Work completed– Post Hurricane Beryl</b> <b>Courts:</b> 1. Westmoreland Family Court (Savanna-la-Mar) 2. St. James Parish Court (Cambridge) 3. Hanover Parish Court (Lucea) 4. Traffic Court (Sabina Park) 5. Supreme Court 6. Court of Appeal 7. St. Elizabeth Parish Court (Balaclava)	
<b>Justice Centres:</b> 1. Manchester Justice Centre 2. Westmoreland Justice Centre (Savanna-la-Mar) 3. St. Elizabeth JC (Santa Cruz) <b>TOTAL - \$99 million</b>	
<b>Justice Centres Constructed</b> 1. Hanover - construction commenced in Spetmeber 2024	<p>Procurement of Standby Generators and Fuel Tanks for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Westmoreland Parish Court (Savanna-la-Mar)</li> <li>2. St. Mary Parish Court (Port Maria)</li> </ol>
<b>Justice Centres Renovated</b> 1. St. Andrew Justice Centre 2. Bunker's Hill RJC (e.g. renovation of community centre and installation of concrete benches in external waiting area) 3. St. Catherine Child Diversion Office (CDO) 4. St. Catherine Restorative Justice Centre 5. St. Catherine Victim Services Branch 6. Manchester Justice Centre 7. St. Thomas Justice Centre 8. St. James Victim Services Branch 9. Hanover Victim Services Branch	<p>Installation of Solar Panels at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. St. Mary Parish Court (Port Maria)</li> <li>2. Court of Appeal</li> </ol>

# APPENDIX 14 CONT'D

## ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025

### Courts Renovated by location

1. St. Ann Parish Court (Addison Park)
2. St. Catherine Parish Court (Portmore)
3. St. Catherine Parish Court (Linstead)
4. Portland Parish Court (Manchioneal)
5. Portland Parish Court (Bryan's Bay)
6. Clarendon Family Court (Chapelton) (e.g. Drywall installation and waterproofing of roof and sealing window)
7. Clarendon Parish Court (Lionel Town)
8. St. James Parish Court (Cambridge)
9. Court of Appeal (Kingston) (e.g. Roof membrane, construction of model judicial spaces and chain link fence repair)
10. Kingston and St Andrew Criminal Court
11. Kingston and St Andrew Civil Court
12. St. Mary Parish Court (Port Maria)
13. St. Elizabeth Parish Court (Black River) ( Tiling of entrance steps, window repair and door installation)
14. Manchester Parish Court (Porus) – Lay Magistrate Building
15. Trelawny Parish Court (Ulster Spring)

### Update of Judicial Court Complexes

Transaction Advisory Services for Manchester, St. Ann and St. Catherine being facilitated by the MoJ ; ongoing to determine the feasibility of the complexes via public-private partnership.

Transaction Advisory Services for Trelawny being facilitated through funding from IDB and will come onboard after the tender process is complete.

Table 19 showing total expenditure for Court Establishment and Renovation over the period 2016 - 2025

Court Establishment and Renovation	
Expenditure for the period 2016/2017 to 2024/2025	
YEAR	EXPENDITURE
2016/2017	50,302,391.83
2017/2018	241,002,228.61
2018/2019	1,032,659,509.98
2019/2020	41,222,412.03
2020/2021	57,525,510.18
2021/2022	283,333,088.63
2022/2023	90,210,813.90
2023/2024	18,763,837.18
Total for the Period	1,815,019,792.34



Table 20 showing expenditure summary for courts (capital and recurrent) for period 2016 - 2025

Summary of Expenditure for the Courts (Capital and Recurrent)	
YEAR	EXPENDITURE
2016/2017	192,380,222.82
2017/2018	385,843,210.68
2018/2019	1,161,798,399.43
2019/2020	227,045,966.57
2020/2021	268,142,495.22
2021/2022	496,109,607.73
2022/2023	417,069,742.72
2023/2024	222,855,372.07
2024/2025	434,504,927.09
Total for the Period	3,805,749,944.33

## APPENDIX 15 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Table 21 showing the Achievements in ICT for FY 2024/2025 and the projections for the FY 2025/2026

ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025	PROJECTIONS FOR FY 2025/2026
<b>US\$10,322.90</b> spent to upgrade internet access at various locations including Bunker's Hill Restorative Justice Centre	Continue digital transformation initiative for justice services:
<b>\$32.17M</b> spent on the acquisition of multifunctional printing devices and scanners	o Piloting of applications to improve access to justice services
<b>6.4M</b> to procure CASCADE application for tracking the Ministry's performance	o Customize Cascade and Social Hive applications
	o Continue conceptualizing case management solution for the judiciary and justice services
	o Phased infrastructure upgrade

## APPENDIX 16 JUDGMENT DEBT

Table 22 showing **Judgment Debt** for FY 2024/2025 expended.

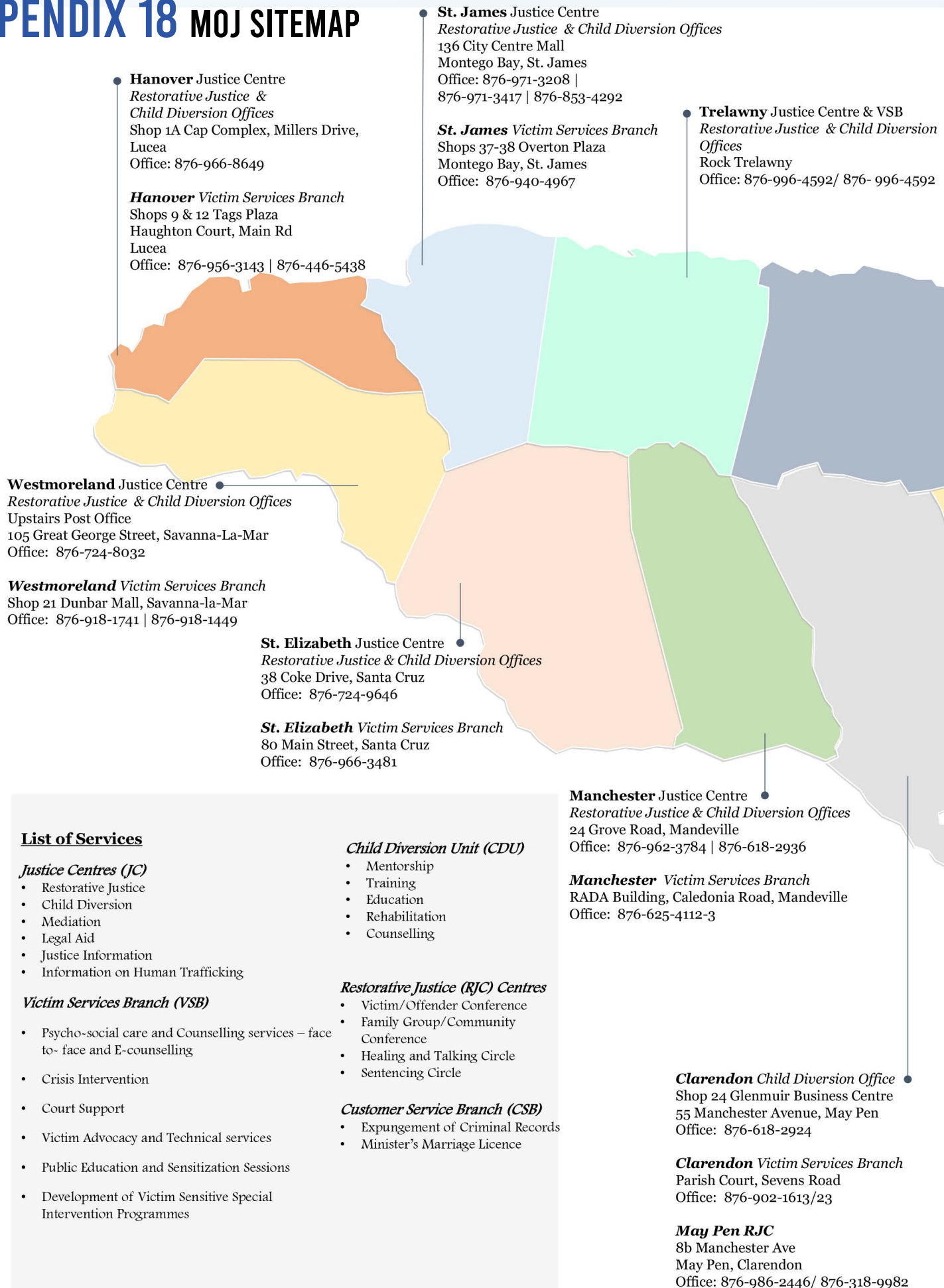
ACHIEVEMENTS FY 2024/2025
<b>\$1,148,484,683.48 (99.7% of budget) expended</b>

# APPENDIX 17 LEGISLATION PROGRAMME

Table 23 showing the Achievements in **Legislation** for FY 2024/2025.

2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2023/2024	2024/2025
The Jury (Amendment) Act, 2016	The Arbitration Act, 2017 No. 13	Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act, 2018	The Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Act, 2019	The Dogs (Liability for Attacks) Act, 2020 (No. 13-2020)	The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2021 (No. 3-2021)	The Constitution (Amendment of Sections 96(1) and 121(1)) Act (No. 10 – 2023)	The Judicature (Rules of Court) (Amendment) Act, 2022 (No. 9 – 2024)
The Judicature (Supreme Court) (Amendment) Act, 2016	The Integrity Commission Act, 2017 No. 26	The Justices of the Peace Act, 2018			The Extradition (Amendment) Act, 2021 (No. 14-2021)	The Electronic Transactions (Amendment) Act (No. 6 – 2023)	The Maintenance (Amendment) Act, 2024 (No. 13 – 2024)
The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Restorative Justice) Act, 2016	Plea Negotiations and Agreements Act, 2017	The Interpretation (Amendment) Act, 2018			The Evidence (Amendment) Act, 2021 (No. 2-2021)		The Political Ombudsman (Interim) (Amendment) Act, 2024 (No. 1 – 2024)
The Law Revision (Amendment) Act, 2016 No. 17	Child Diversion Act, 2018 No. 14	The Re-naming of the Courts of Petty Sessions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2018			The Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Act, 2021 (No. 20-2021)		
		The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Act, 2018			The Judicature (Parish Courts) (Amendment) Act, 2021 (No. 21-2021)		
					The Justices of the Peace (Amendment) Act, 2021 (No. 9-2021)		
					The Legal Aid (Fees) (Validation and Indemnification) Act, 2021 (No. 13-2021)		

# APPENDIX 18 MOJ SITEMAP



## List of Services

### Justice Centres (JC)

- Restorative Justice
- Child Diversion
- Mediation
- Legal Aid
- Justice Information
- Information on Human Trafficking

### Victim Services Branch (VSB)

- Psycho-social care and Counselling services – face to- face and E-counselling
- Crisis Intervention
- Court Support
- Victim Advocacy and Technical services
- Public Education and Sensitization Sessions
- Development of Victim Sensitive Special Intervention Programmes

### Child Diversion Unit (CDU)

- Mentorship
- Training
- Education
- Rehabilitation
- Counselling

### Restorative Justice (RJC) Centres

- Victim/Offender Conference
- Family Group/Community Conference
- Healing and Talking Circle
- Sentencing Circle

### Customer Service Branch (CSB)

- Expungement of Criminal Records
- Minister's Marriage Licence





# MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

## Sitemap

**St. Ann Justice Centre**  
Office: 876-972-2097 | *Restorative Justice & Child Diversion Offices*  
2 Tucker Avenue, St. Ann's Bay  
876-972-8940  
876-972-2713

**St. Ann Victim Services Branch**  
61 Main Street, St. Ann's Bay  
Office: 876-972-9489

**St. Mary Justice Centre**  
*Restorative Justice & Child Diversion Offices*  
6 Main Street, Port Maria  
Upstairs Post Office  
Office: 876-725-4405-8

**St. Mary Victim Services Branch**  
33 Main Street, Port Maria  
Office: 876-994-9125 | 876-994-9917

**Portland Justice Centre**  
*Restorative Justice & Child Diversion Offices*  
2 Russell Avenue, Buff Bay  
Office: 876-941-0726

**Portland Victim Services Branch**  
Shops 8&9 Bryan's Bay Plaza  
Lot 138L, Bryan's Bay  
Office: 876-725-8194 / 876-993-4542

**St. Thomas Justice Centre**  
*Restorative Justice & Child Diversion Office*  
Main Street, Morant Bay  
**Upstairs Post Office**  
Office: 876-516-8228

**St. Thomas Victim Services Branch**  
15 Church Street, Morant Bay  
Office: 876-734-5638 | 876-734-5650

**Kingston Victim Services Branch National Office**  
47E Old Hope Road, Kingston 5  
Office: 876-946-0663 |  
876-946-2014 | 876-618-3620  
876-978-8021 | 876-927-8416

**West Kingston VSB**  
54A Spanish Town Road, Kingston  
Office: 876- 922-5215 / 876- 922- 5216

**Kingston Child Diversion Office & Customer Service Branch**  
61 Constant Spring Road, Kingston 10  
Head Office: 876-906-4923-31

### HEAD OFFICE INFORMATION

*Restorative Justice & Child Diversion*  
61 Constant Spring Road, Kingston 10  
Office: 876-906-4923-31 | 876-908-5527

**St. Andrew Justice Centre**  
*Restorative Justice & Child Diversion Offices*  
2 Hagley Park Road, Kingston 10  
Office: 876-618-7730 | 876-445-4470

### Kingston RJ Centres

**Tower Hill RJC**  
Olympic Gardens Civic Centre  
119 Olympic Way, Kingston 11  
Office: 876-618-2926-7

**Denham Town RJC**  
Denham Town Community Centre  
Race Course Lane, Kingston 14  
Office: 876-285-2060 | 876-606-0258

**Tivoli RJC**  
Tivoli Community Centre  
Seaga Blvd, Kingston 14  
Office: 876-948-7640

**August Town RJC**  
83 August Town Road, Kingston 7  
Office: 876-912-1607

**Trench Town RJC**  
Trench Town Multipurpose Complex  
10-17 Fifth Street, Kingston 12  
Office: 876-619-7507

**Greenwich Town RJC**  
Greenwich Town Resource Centre  
5-1/2 Seaview Avenue, Kingston 13  
Office: 876-618-3314

**Pembroke Hall RJC**  
Pembroke Hall Community Centre  
Ken Hill Drive, Kingston 20  
Office: 876-618-3315

**St. Catherine Restorative Justice Office**  
Shop 12A, 6 March Pen Road  
Spanish Town, St. Catherine  
Office: 876- 618-2916

**St. Catherine Child Diversion Office**  
Shop 20 Lot 23, West Trade Way  
Portmore, St. Catherine  
Office: 876-588-0262

**St. Catherine Victim Services Branch**  
Shop 12 Oasis Plaza, Spanish Town  
CUG: 876-618-2916



Scan code to access the Ministry's service locations across Jamaica.

# APPENDIX 19 DONOR FUNDED PROJECTS

## SO-JUST PROJECT

The SO-Just Project is a seven-year social justice reform initiative funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), valued at CAD \$12Million. The project aims to use an equitable human rights and gender responsive approach, targeting systematic change within the processes of the Ministry of Justice, its departments and agencies, the courts, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and other state and non-state partners, to improve social justice in Jamaica.

**See below for achievements and activities to date:**

1. Conducted major outreach activities targeting underserved communities and persons with disabilities: Justice Fairs held in Kingston, Manchester, St. Mary Approximately \$22 Million Dollars.	2. Hosted conferences and workshops geared towards improving service delivery to vulnerable communities: Social Justice Conference for Persons with Disabilities.	3. Strengthened the capacity of Legal Aid and other justice sector staff to deliver services to vulnerable groups- through training and certification in Sign Language.
4. Enhanced the ICT capacity of the Justice Training Institute and the Courts through the provision of computer software and hardware, and stenography machines to improve court reporting and operationalise the Court Reporter Training Lab.	5. Funded the renovation of the Students' Resource Room and Lunch Room at the Justice Training Institute.	6. Engagement of several local and international consultants with expertise to enhance the justice sector's institutional capacity in areas such as gender and social justice, business process re-engineering, development of AJS diagnostics, which included a national Knowledge Attitudes and Practices Survey, geared towards improving service delivery.
7. Partnerships with multiple Civil Society Organizations to improve service delivery in rural communities and schools.	8. Development of a Gender Strategy and Action Plan for the Ministry.	

**Year 4 Activities:**

1. Implement the Social Justice Statistical System, which is a centralized data capture and reporting system
2. Train at least 500 justice sector staff in gender and social justice awareness
3. Expand Mediation and Alternative Justice Services within the Ministry
4. Strengthen and expand victim support services provided to women, children, and vulnerable witnesses
5. Build the capacity of the justice and security workforce to deliver trauma-informed interventions to victims and witnesses
6. Implement a communications campaign to build knowledge of mediation and AJS
7. Strengthen and re-engineer the Justice Training Institute to provide needs-based workforce training
8. Establish a Court Records Management Unit



MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



# **AVOID CONFLICT** **WITH FAMILY OR** **COMMUNITY MEMBERS**



**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CAN HELP!**

- ✓ Request help at any of our RJ centers island-wide
- ✓ Attend RJ conferences at a location near you
- ✓ Resolve conflict and reach an agreement
- ✓ Become a RJ facilitator

CONTACT US TODAY

🌐 **MOJ.GOV.JM** | ✉ **rj@moj.gov.jm**

Toll-Free: 888-JUSTICE (587-8423) ☎ **876-908-5527**

*Justice  
that Heals*







MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**

BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
DIVISION**



**VICTIM SERVICES**

# ARE YOU A VICTIM OF CRIME? **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**



## THE VICTIM SERVICES BRANCH OFFERS:

- ✓ Face-to-face, telephone and e-counselling
- ✓ Crisis interventions
- ✓ Preparations of victims for court proceedings
- ✓ Intimate partner violence interventions
- ✓ Trauma Assessment

**for adults and child victims of crime Islandwide**

CONTACT US TODAY

🌐 **MOJ.GOV.JM** | ✉ **vsd@moj.gov.jm**

☎ **876-946-0663** | ☎ **888-VICTIMS (842-8467)**

Toll-Free: 888-JUSTICE **(587-8423)**

*Taking Justice*  
to the people of Jamaica



@mojofficialjm





# MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

BALANCING RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

61 Constant Spring Road  
Kingston 10, Jamaica, W.I.

**Telephone:**

(876) 906-4923-31

**Toll Free:**

888-587-8423 (888-**JUSTICE**)

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**Website:** [moj.gov.jm](http://moj.gov.jm)

    [@mojofficialjm](https://twitter.com/mojofficialjm)