Ministry of Justice
Balancing Rights and Responsibilities

THE NEW FACE OF JUSTICE

Minister of Justice
Hon. Delroy Chuck, QC, MP

SECTORAL PRESENTATION
2019/2020
May 21, 2019

Building a First Class Justice System
Falmouth Courthouse, Trelawny
Building a First Class Justice System

Hon. Delroy Chuck, QC, MP
Minister of Justice

George William Gordon House
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
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Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride and honour that I appear before the Parliament on behalf of the Constituents of North East St. Andrew who continue to support my work in that great Constituency.

I will not take all the credit for the achievements in my Constituency since they were realized only through the selfless commitment of my Councillors, Joy Cotterel and Winston Ennis, and my Constituency team led by Wayne Lawrence and Jay-Ann McPherson. It is truly an honour to represent the Constituency in this Honourable House.

I thank the Prime Minister, The Most Honourable Andrew Holness for the confidence he has reposed in me to continue to lead the Ministry of Justice and to further advance the reformation of the sector.

I wish to express my sincere acknowledgment to the Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, the Judges in the Supreme and Parish Courts and the staff who support them, for the ongoing programme to modernize and transform Jamaica’s Justice System to first class status.

Special thanks to:

1. The President of the Court of Appeal, The Honourable Mr. Justice Dennis Morrison;
2. The Judges of Appeal and the staff at the Court of Appeal;
3. The Attorney General, Mrs. Marlene Malahoo Forte;
4. The former Solicitor General, Mrs. Nicole Foster-Pusey;
5. Newly appointed Solicitor General, Mrs. Marlene Aldred and the staff of the Attorney General’s Chambers,

for their contribution to advancing the work of Jamaica’s Justice System.

My gratitude to:

1. The Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms. Paula Llewellyn and the staff at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions;
2. The Administrator-General, Mrs. Lona Brown and her staff;
3. The newly appointed Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Ms. Judith Grant and her staff;
4. The Director of Legal Reform, Mr. Maurice Bailey and his staff;
5. The Executive Director of the Legal Aid Council, Mr. Hugh Faulkner and his staff; and
6. The attorneys at the Ministry of Justice.
Mr. Speaker, the improvements to the Justice system so far, were made possible with the support of Mrs. Carol Palmer, former Permanent Secretary. Mrs. Palmer’s yeoman service to the Justice Sector has been noteworthy, and we are all grateful for her inestimable contribution.

Special welcome to the new Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Sancia Bennett Templer, and special thanks to the management and staff and to all the other supporting personnel and agencies of the Ministry of Justice for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the people of Jamaica.

To our international development partners, I wish to express my appreciation for their longstanding support to the Justice Sector - the European Union, the Canadian Government, the United Kingdom Government, the US Government, the various arms of the United Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank.

To my Close Protection Officer, Sergeant Howard Hamilton, my Driver, Oneil Ennis, and finally, but by no means least, to my wife, Patricia, and my four daughters for the years of steadfast support and personal sacrifices they make as I pursue the never ending task of representational politics and duties as a Cabinet Minister. My heartfelt thanks to you.

I am happy to report the achievements of the last Fiscal Year under the theme, the New Face of Justice, and to present the plans and programmes for this fiscal year, as we continue the transformation to a First Class Justice System.

Mr. Speaker, over the last Fiscal Year, we have significantly advanced the reform of the Justice System through the Modernization of Justice Infrastructure, Increasing Access to Justice Services, Strengthening the Legislative Framework and Protecting Human Rights and Freedoms.

At the start of the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, we promised the Jamaican people a First Class Justice System, complemented by First Class Facilities and First Class Delivery of Justice Services.

We are delivering on that promise. We have made considerable progress and over the next few years, we expect every aspect of the justice system to become first class – we want, and will not accept anything less. Then again Mr. Speaker, to achieve a First Class Justice System, every stakeholder must start to think, act and deliver First Class services.

BUILDING FIRST CLASS JUSTICE FACILITIES

We have moved swiftly to correct some of the structural deficiencies which have existed in the Justice Sector, and I can confidently report that significant progress has been made. In the last Fiscal Year, we spent $1.3 Billion to construct, rehabilitate and refurbish 43 Justice Institutions including several of the Island's Courts. (Appendix 1)
Major infrastructural works undertaken during the period include:

- Expansion and upgrading of the Court of Appeal valued at $846M, which features the addition of three (3) Courtrooms and fourteen (14) Judges' Chambers, as well as upgraded meeting facilities and offices. This expansion is critical to the reduction of the backlog in cases, as already the expansion has allowed for an increase in the number of Judges at the Court of Appeal, and by extension an increase in the number of cases being tried and subsequent disposal of these cases from the Court System.

- Expansion and upgrading of the Supreme Court building in downtown Kingston, which includes the addition of two new courtrooms and the commissioning of two new elevators.

- Bathroom refurbishing works in eight major courthouses valued at almost $19M.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that every single person who uses the island’s Courts, whether Judge, attorney or client, must have access to clean and comfortable restrooms. These bathroom refurbishing works will continue into this Fiscal Year and beyond, and at a minimum, the Ministry of Justice will upgrade every restroom in all justice institutions to First Class standards.

Increased use of technology has been a major focus in justice reform. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, there is ongoing installation of audio visual equipment such as microphones, speakers, HD televisions, HD cameras and computers in 78 Courtrooms. As it relates specifically to equipment delivery and configuration, 57 out of 78 Courtrooms have been fully equipped, while the remaining 21 have been partially equipped.

In terms of providing the functionality of Digital Audio Recording of evidence, 75 out of 78 courtrooms are capable of recording evidence. These equipment will provide for audio video link technology that will facilitate testimonies from remote locations across the island and will enhance the access to, delivery of and the concept of how justice is administered.

First Class!

The Justice Centre located in Rock, Trelawny is one of the newest additions to the Multi-Door Justice System.
Mr. Speaker, we saw the first live streaming of a case when the Supreme Court handed down the NIDS judgement. This is an example of granting the public access to real time court proceedings, whether or not they are physically in the court.

Another technological advancement in our Courts is the **Electronic Case Management System (eCMS)** which is currently in the implementation phase. This phase is slated to be completed by the end of August of this year. This system will change the way in which the cases are managed across the island, from filing to scheduling and hearing. This is part of a holistic approach to achieving a paperless system in the courts as it will facilitate electronic filing, better case flow management and a public access portal.

The modernization of the Justice System not only encompasses technological improvements to the island’s Courts and investment in the physical infrastructure, but also alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, all of which are necessary for increasing access to justice services.

In the past two Fiscal Years, we took steps to increase the Alternative Dispute Resolution infrastructure to include establishment of five Parish Justice Centres and two new Restorative Justice Centres.

Mr. Speaker, these Justice Centres will provide more opportunities for the provision of justice services in Jamaica, as the establishment of each Justice Centre affords us a greater platform for the promotion of peace, forgiveness, reconciliation and restitution in our society, and take us closer to making Jamaica safe, secure, cohesive and just.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that most Jamaicans are peaceful and committed to the rule of law. The justice system must tackle the few who engage in anti-social behaviour and encourage everyone to contribute and play a fundamental role in the reduction of indiscipline, violent reprisals and generally, crime and violence.
INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The culture of crime and violence is fraying the fabric of the Jamaican society. As a result, the nation’s Courts continue to be plagued by a perennial backlog of cases which negatively affect efficiency in the Courts and hamper proceedings.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, we must embrace the concept of Restorative Justice as *Justice that heals*.

In addition to Restorative Justice, Mr. Speaker, we continued to provide other methods for alternative dispute resolution which provide non-adversarial means of resolving disputes to include placing emphasis on mediation.

With regard to Restorative Justice, Mr. Speaker, we have achieved the following:

- 1125 Restorative Justice Conferences were held wherein 1005 ended in successful agreements, representing an 89% peaceful settlement of issues.
- Increasingly, the Courts are referring quite a number of cases to be dealt with by way of Restorative practices, as 943 of the 1125 conference cases were referred from the Courts.
- We sensitized 6,963 persons on Restorative Justice, and this number does not include the more than 2000 Justices of the Peace who were exposed to Restorative Justice in the training sessions hosted by the Ministry across the island.
- We commenced discussions with some of our donor partners to expand mediation training and have had several meetings with the Dispute Resolution Foundation and mediators. Mediation will be a major focus of the Ministry of Justice during this Fiscal Year and beyond.
The year 2019 marks more than a decade of activities and initiatives in support of the thrust to encourage a restorative approach to the resolution of disputes. The move away from a punitive approach is instrumental in eliminating factors such as aggression, reprisal, hatred and violence, which thwart the process of healing and reconciliation which is again greatly needed in order for us to achieve peace in our communities.

**Mr. Speaker,** we will continue to promote restorative practices and mediation across every nook and cranny, every school and public institution in our quest to promote a culture of peace and harmony.

Members, I want you to help me spread the word that restorative justice is *justice that heals!*

**CHILD DIVERSION**

**Mr. Speaker,** let us turn our attention to an issue which affects one of the nation’s most vulnerable groups, our children. Children are brought into this world as blank slates, and it is our impressions upon them that determine the way in which they will operate in society.

As part of our obligations under the various treaties and conventions, we must treat children who are in conflict with the law with fairness and dignity. This is why **Mr. Speaker,** we enacted the Child Diversion Act 2018 so that these children can be diverted from the formal justice system, instead of being treated as criminals.

The Ministry of Justice is now in the process of implementing the administrative infrastructure so that the Act can be operationalized within this financial year. Over the next ten months, we will be rolling out the programme in all fourteen parishes.

The days when we lock up our children for minor offences will be a thing of the past. We will instead focus on correcting and empowering them to become productive citizens with respect for the rule of law. We will also be empowering and equipping communities with information on child rights so that they are better able to help these children.

**Mr. Speaker,** we are going back to the days when the village raised the child. Peaceful villages. Safe villages.

I urge the Members of this House to join me in raising awareness about Child Diversion by encouraging and mobilizing community stakeholders and organizations to support our children’s rehabilitation and reintegration - to prevent recidivism and wayward behaviour among our young people.

**LEGAL AID**

**Mr. Speaker,** the Ministry of Justice has invested in implementing a social component to the delivery of Justice, particularly as it relates to increasing further access to justice services at the community level.

The Legal Aid Council has been on an ardent mission across Jamaica, providing improved access to justice services and giving justice a human face.
• Legal assistance was provided for 2,484 cases in the Parish Courts during the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, representing a 17.3% increase in Legal Aid Services in the Parish Courts from the previous Fiscal Year.

• Legal aid representation was also provided for 2,821 persons who were unable to afford legal fees, through Duty Counsel Representation.

• We also provided legal aid to 385 persons living with a mental illness.

• The Mobile Justice Unit has also done its share of work, visiting 100 communities across Jamaica, with more than 3000 residents receiving counsel as a result of these visits.

The flexibility of the mobile unit to penetrate underserved and high risk populations bolsters the Government’s ability to increase access to justice services, and to promote the citizens’ rights to legal representation. **Mr. Speaker**, I am therefore happy to report that two additional mobile units will be commissioned by the end of the financial year. The Units are being funded by the Canadian Government.
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

During the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, we sensitised more than 2000 Justices of the Peace (JPs) from various parishes across the island in several areas covering a wide array of content including the detailing of legislative provisions, which are fundamental to the conversations which must take place at the community level in order for Jamaica to achieve its National Development Goals.

JPs were also engaged in more technical training by the Justice Training Institute in order to expand their roles in the process of administering Justice. More than 81 JPs were trained to serve in the Lay Magistrates’ Court, 135 were trained in Mediation, while another 240 received specialized JP Training.

Through the extensive training of Justices of the Peace, we are creating community leaders who can make a greater contribution to making the Jamaican society secure, cohesive and just.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, we commissioned 572 new JPs. We will continue the programme to commission more Justices of the Peace, with an emphasis on underserved communities. I implore Jamaicans to make themselves available to serve in this capacity. I believe every Parish should have at least 500 JPs.
VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

The Victim Services Division (VSD) continued to provide opportunities for healing and therapeutic intervention from fourteen offices island wide.

- Support was provided to more than 1500 children who appeared before the Court under the Children in Court Project. While the facility is beneficial, we hope that with the implementation of Child Diversion, the number of children in Court will be reduced.
- VSD has also engaged 6,212 new clients, 7,354 follow-up clients and has conducted 14,520 counselling sessions in the 18/19 Fiscal Year.
- There were also nine interventions conducted under the Special Group Intervention Projects, which among other things, teaches cultural re-sensitization and coping skills, benefitting 544 children.

Mr. Speaker these interventions are a critical part of the work of the Victim Services Division, which has been vital to the preservation of the mental health of those persons who are victims of crime.

EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

The Ministry of Justice continues to offer expungement services to persons who have made a sincere and successful attempt at becoming law abiding citizens, so that they are given the opportunity to start afresh without being haunted by their past mistakes. In the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year:

1915 Expungement applications were received and
1046 Criminal Records were expunged

It is my hope that more Jamaicans will be given a second chance to make a positive contribution to society. I will be submitting a proposal to Cabinet for amendment of the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act so that more deserving persons can benefit from expungement of their criminal records.

BUILDING A SOUND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Mr. Speaker, a crucial aspect of Justice Reform is the establishment of a Legislative Framework which must be relevant, up to date, and allow for adjudication in a fair and timely manner.

The Ministry and its relevant agencies and departments stayed on the ball during this past fiscal year to ensure that the Legislative Agenda for Justice Reform proceeded apace.

During the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year we enacted, among others, the following pieces of legislation:

- The Child Diversion Act, 2018
- The Indictments (Amendment) Act, 2018
- The Criminal Justice (Administration)(Amendment) Act, 2018
• The Justices of the Peace Act, 2018
• The Re-naming of the Courts of Petty Sessions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2018
• The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Act, 2018.

We reported at the start of the Fiscal Year, that we would be reviewing and updating the monetary penalties in more than 850 Laws of Jamaica.

Mr. Speaker we have not been lax on this promise. The review was completed by the Legal Reform Department and recommendations made. This Ministry has since tabled the Bill for the Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Act, 2019 to update monetary penalties under the laws under the Justice portfolio.

The amendment and passage of these pieces of legislation is only the start of the renewal of Jamaica’s legislative system, as we have already completed drafts for updating several other laws in need of review. (Appendix 2)

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY IN THE COURTS

Mr. Speaker, the Court System has seen a fundamental shift in the way Justice is being administered, due greatly to the policies and strategies of the Chief Justice, whose hard work, commitment and courage to getting things done has been exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that there has been a consistent reduction of the criminal case backlog over the past three to four years.

This Honourable House is being asked to note the numbers which highlight the determination and resilience of the Court staff to efficiently serve the people of Jamaica.

In December 31, 2016, there was a backlog of 30,667 criminal cases in the Parish Courts.

Mr. Speaker, as at end of Fiscal Year 2018/2019, 12,399 of these cases had been cleared. This represents a 40% reduction in the backlog of these cases.

Mr. Speaker, we know that despite these accomplishments, there is in fact more to be done and I am happy to declare in this Honourable House that more in fact will be done. We are committed to supporting the Chief Justice’s vision and will stay the course so that, in the words of the Chief Justice, Jamaica will have the best court system in the Caribbean in three years and one of the best in the world in six years.

Mr. Speaker, for us to achieve First Class status, it must be based on performance, performance, performance, which means there must be reasonable standards of achievements. I applaud the leadership of the Chief Justice who has shown by example, that these defined standards are achievable. In particular, he has indicated that all Probates and Divorces will be completed within four months of filing, and at the end of 2019, there will be no outstanding matters. That is the quality of performance in the Court System which will bring trust and confidence in the timely delivery of Justice. He has also
promised that all outstanding judgements by his colleagues will be completed by the end of 2019 and I expect this promise to be kept. I note the 309-page Judgement of the Constitutional Court in the recently delivered NIDS constitutional ruling – that judgement was done within 6 months.

Still, there are too many matters in the Courts dragging on for 5 years and more, and some in excess of 10 years. A **First Class Justice System** requires that all matters be completed in under 5 years and we must give the Court System the support it needs to ensure the speedy dispensation of Justice within 3 years in the Supreme Court, and two years in the Parish Courts as soon as possible.

Certainly I will ask of the Chief Justice and his dedicated Court Staff what is needed to ensure that by the end of 2020 that there is no outstanding matter in the Courts that is over 5 years.

Towards this end, litigants in the Courts should play their role in the civil cases for which trial dates are now being set beyond 2023, and endeavour to settle their matters by mediation, which the Ministry will be promoting fully in the next fiscal year.

In the Criminal courts, accused persons who have committed the crime are being encouraged to negotiate with the prosecution for a reduced sentence in exchange for a guilty plea.

Plea Bargaining is now available for all Criminal Cases in all Courts, even though the appropriate sentence is at the discretion of the Judge.

It is very important that litigants appreciate that a guilty plea with potential for a reduced sentence, is much better than a lengthy Court case ending with a lengthy and harsh sentence. I strongly urge attorneys to encourage their clients to make use of the provisions under the Plea Negotiations and Agreements Act.
Mr. Speaker, the services under the remit of the Ministry of Justice are spread across several agencies and departments which have been performing exceptionally well.

THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT

EFFECT OF CHANGES TO TRANSFER TAX, STAMP DUTY AND ESTATE DUTY THRESHOLDS

The operations of the Administrator-General’s Department have been affected by recent changes to Transfer Tax, Stamp Duty and Estate Duty thresholds.

The recent increase in the threshold on Transfer Tax on Death from $100,000.00 to $10M will enable the Administrator-General to dispose of properties through transfer to beneficiaries where the disposal was previously at a standstill due to the estates’ and beneficiaries’ inability to pay the assessed Transfer Tax on Death under the old threshold.

The recent reduction in the Transfer Tax rate from 5% to 2% and Stamp Duty from 4% to a flat fee of $5,000.00 on sale of properties, will also result in savings to the estate and by extension a higher net return for the beneficiaries where a sale is carried out.

TRUST & ESTATE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TEMS)

The Administrator-General’s Department implemented the long awaited Trust and Estate Management System (TEMS) in July 2018, which has allowed for conversion and migration of records on a continuous basis with over 2,000 of the 6,000 estate accounting records now fully updated.

The TEMS implementation will result in greater efficiency in the estate administration process which will lead to closure of estate cases and enhanced revenue.

INSTRUMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION

The legal authority to administer the assets of intestate estates and estates in which minors are beneficiaries, comes from the Act and is done through the issuance of Instrument of Administration by the Administrator-General.

The Administrator-General is currently issuing Instruments of Administration within three months of an application being made.

Since the amendments to the Act in 2015, an average of 250 Instruments of Administration have been issued each year.
THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Mr. Speaker, at the start of the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, we projected that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) would become responsible for all prosecutors in the Court System, with Clerks of Courts renamed and placed under the supervision of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Support received from the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) in the sum of $51M will advance this move towards the Unification of Jamaica’s Prosecutorial Services. This change will assist with the reduction of the backlog of cases in the Courts, as the Clerks of the Courts will now function at a higher level, with their administrative duties reduced to allow for increased and more effective prosecutions.

Mr. Speaker, with increased workload, it is only fitting that the physical capacity of the ODPP is also increased. At the Opening of the Expanded Court of Appeal, I announced that the ODPP would be the next major infrastructural project to be executed.

Mr. Speaker, this was not a promise without vision, as plans have been put in place for the commencement of refurbishment and expansion works on the ODPP, a project which we estimate will be completed by the end of the financial year.

The additions proposed under the expansion include 37 new offices, additions in terms of an upgraded registry, meeting rooms, discrete entrances and new infrastructural features such as elevators. We must continue to support Governmental agencies by way of ensuring that employees have access to modern, first class spaces which can improve productivity and efficiency.

THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

Mr. Speaker, before I highlight the achievements of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC), I must first congratulate Ms. Judith Grant, who was officially appointed Chief Parliamentary Counsel in January 2019. Under Ms. Grant’s leadership, significant innovation has been introduced which will aid the drive to strengthen the Legislative Framework.

At the close of the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year, the Legislative Production Management System (LPMS) was introduced. The LPMS is an efficiency boosting software that seeks to reduce the propensity for errors through the provision of defined workflows for legislative tasks. It is intended to facilitate the standardization and development of sound policies and drafting instructions from which high-quality legislation can be produced.

The OPC, along with staff from the Ministry of Justice, must be lauded for pioneering this cutting edge software with First Class standards, which will now aid the Country’s legislative drafting process and will play a significant role in creating a modern Justice System that benefits all of us.

Mr. Speaker, we must also laud the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel for the pace at which the drafting of legislation has taken place. A total of 363 pieces of legislation drafts were completed, 217 of which were Draft Bills, and the remaining 146 pieces were Draft Subsidiary Bills.
Promotions for 2019/2020

Promoting Respect for Rights and Freedoms, the Rule of Law and the Constitution

Mr. Speaker, we have achieved much in the Sector in the past Fiscal Year, and we will use these achievements as the yellow brick road which will put us on the trajectory to further achieving the strategic goals of the Justice Sector.

INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

During the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year, the Ministry will continue to rehabilitate and make new investments in critical physical Court infrastructure to increase efficiency across the Sector in order to support effective operations. This Programme will include inter alia:

- Completion of the design phase for the establishment of a Judicial Complex, (a regional Supreme Court, High Court and Family Court) in Western Jamaica to co-locate justice services in order to address infrastructural gaps;

- Completion of the architectural and design works to support the construction of the judicial complexes for:
  - St. Ann
  - St. James
  - Manchester

- Refurbishment, rehabilitation and expansion of courts including:
  - The St. Catherine Family Court
  - The St. Thomas Family Court
  - The Manchester Parish Court
  - The Hanover Parish and Family Courts

- Establishment of Parish Justice Centres by 2020 in:
  - St. Andrew
  - Kingston
  - Hanover
  - St. James
  - Manchester
  - Clarendon
  - St. Thomas
  - St. Catherine
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

As it relates to the Alternative Dispute Resolution framework, the Ministry has several items on the 2019/2020 agenda.

**Child Diversion Programme**: The recent passage of the Child Diversion Act will allow for:

i. The establishment of a Child Diversion Office
ii. The establishment of Child Diversion Parish Committees
iii. Training and sensitization workshops conducted in Child Diversion practices and
iv. Commencement of the administration of Child Diversion cases.

**Restorative Justice**: In this Fiscal Year, the Ministry will continue to provide opportunities for justice interventions that seek to correct the harm caused by an offence or crime in selected at-risk communities through:

- Training of beneficiaries inclusive of School Administrators, Justices of the Peace, Clergy, Probation Officers, and Police Officers.
- Training of Restorative Justice Facilitators/Volunteers that will increase the capacity of the Justice Centres to resolve Restorative Justice Cases.
- Conducting sensitization sessions for Police at the Training College so that police officers, in their capacity as first responders, will have the ability to immediately refer an appropriate case to Justice Centres island wide

UPGRADING THE TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Under the Justice Security Accountability and Transparency (JSAT) Project, the Ministry is on a drive to improve the administrative process and capability in the Justice System to ensure timely treatment and disposal of cases through measures such as:

- The complete implementation of the Electronic Case Management System (eCMS) in the Courts to ensure the timely disposal of cases. Implementation is expected to be completed by August 2019, with full utilization by 2020.
- Training of Court staff in the use of video evidence equipment and change management.

SUPPORT TO VICTIMS

The Ministry will continue its responsiveness via special interventions targeting children and marginalized communities exposed to violence, to build resilience and decrease the impact of trauma, which can have a detrimental effect on physical and mental health. Interventions to take place through the Victim Services Division include:

- **West Kingston Satellite Counselling Centre** — provision of therapeutic and psycho-socio-emotional services to crime victims in West Kingston; and
- **Cultural Resocialization Initiative** — delivery of behavioural, trauma focused intervention for at-risk and hurting children between the ages of 6-18 years from various inner-city communities by way of therapeutic sessions, targeting behaviour modification and coping skills.
Mr. Speaker, the New Face of Justice has been paramount in the evolving landscape of Jamaica’s developmental thrust, and fittingly so, as the Reform of the Justice System is a priority of the Government of Jamaica under the National Development Plan - Vision 2030.

At the Ministry of Justice, our work is integrally linked to the achievement of Goal Number Two (2) of the National Plan, The Jamaican Society is secure, cohesive and just.

I am proud to be at the helm of a Ministry on fire, as we remain committed to advancing a First Class Justice System.

This year, Mr. Speaker, we will not dampen the fire that is ablaze at the Ministry, but we will continue to be trailblazers as we strengthen the collective effort of the Government of Jamaica and the Judiciary to make Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

Thank you.
### Appendix 1

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**  
Property Management and Special Projects Branch  
Project Status - Financial Year 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Project(s)</th>
<th>Work Category</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
<th>Total Projected Expenditure</th>
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<td><strong>First Quarter (2018/19)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Public Building West (Court of Appeal)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
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<td><strong>Second Quarter (2018/19)</strong></td>
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<td>Manchester Parish Court (Cross Keys)</td>
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<td>Completed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>St James Parish Court (Montego Bay)</td>
<td>Server &amp; Storage Room Reconfiguration</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>7,553,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Supreme Court (Public Building East)</td>
<td>Painting Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>18,240,250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Santa Cruz Justice Centre (St Elizabeth)</td>
<td>New Construction Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>24,084,060.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Manchester Parish Court (Mandeville)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>6,262,806.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Family Court Attendance Centre</td>
<td>Container Retrofitting Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>50,734,031.24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>$161,611,562.64</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Third Quarter (2018/19)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Corporate Area Criminal Court (Kingston)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>19,657,400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>St Ann Parish Court (St Ann's Bay)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>22,537,155.00</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>St Elizabeth Parish Court (Black River)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>25,344,548.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clarendon Parish Court (Frankfield)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>17,817,687.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>St Catherine Parish Court (Portmore)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>9,776,937.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Clarendon Parish Court (May Pen)</td>
<td>Staff and Public Sanitary Facility Upgrade</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>6,087,015.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Manchester Parish Court (Cottage)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,561,785.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Parish Court (Santa Cruz)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,975,578.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kingston &amp; St. Andrew Parish Court (Gordon Town)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,896,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Courts Islandwide</td>
<td>Supply and installation of external signs</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>8,642,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Trelawny Parish Court (Ulster Spring)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>2,932,710.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serial</td>
<td>Project(s)</td>
<td>Work Category</td>
<td>Project Status</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kingston Justice Centre (Hagley Park)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>19,522,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Public Building West (Court of Appeal)</td>
<td>ICT Equipment</td>
<td>Ongoing delivery</td>
<td>7,705,876.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Family Court (Rock, Trelawny)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>46,913,655.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Justice Centres Islandwide (Trelawny, Port Maria, Mandeville &amp; Westmoreland)</td>
<td>Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Security Systems</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>8,126,789.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Public Building West (Court of Appeal)</td>
<td>Fabrication of Furniture</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>11,664,528.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Public Building West (Court of Appeal)</td>
<td>Painting Works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>9,372,891.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>St Catherine Justice Centre</td>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>1,450,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>$222,986,064.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth Quarter (2018/19)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>Project(s)</th>
<th>Work Category</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Family Court (Rock, Trelawny)</td>
<td>Office Furniture</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,466,660.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Manchester Parish Court (Mandeville)</td>
<td>Sewer System</td>
<td>Work in progress; pending signed contract</td>
<td>5,246,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Justice Centre (Santa Cruz)</td>
<td>Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Air Conditioning Unit</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>933,261.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Regional Judicial and Parish Complexes</td>
<td>Geotechnical Survey Services</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>22,618,217.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Manchester Parish Court (Cottage)</td>
<td>Bathroom refurbishing works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,561,785.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Manchester Parish Court (Porus)</td>
<td>Bathroom refurbishing works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,848,726.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kingston &amp; St. Andrew Parish Court (Gordon Town)</td>
<td>Bathroom refurbishing works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,896,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Parish Court (Santa Cruz)</td>
<td>Bathroom refurbishing works</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>1,975,578.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trelawny Parish Court (Duncans)</td>
<td>Refurbishing Works</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>5,298,590.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>$42,845,217.83</td>
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**Total Expenditure** $1,299,972,326.98
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEGISLATION</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  The Arbitration Act, 2017</td>
<td>To create modernized provisions for Arbitration and adopting the UNCITRAL Model Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3  The Integrity Commission Act, 2017</td>
<td>To make provision for a single commission to deal with corruption and related matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4  The Plea Negotiations and Agreements Act, 2017</td>
<td>To repeal the Criminal Justice (Plea Negotiations and Agreements) Act and make new provisions for a system of plea negotiations and plea agreements; and for connected matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  The Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Act, 2018</td>
<td>To amend the Child Care and Protection Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6  The Child Diversion Act, 2018</td>
<td>To make provision for diversionary measures regarding children found to be in conflict with the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7  The Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act, 2018</td>
<td>To amend various pieces of legislation to broaden the rules regarding joinder of offences and remove the jurisdictional restrictions of courts and other matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8  Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Regulations, 2018</td>
<td>Regulations to give effect to the Minister of Justice's power under section 29 of the Dangerous Drugs Act, to constitute an appeal Tribunal pursuant to section 9A(7) of the Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9  The Indictments (Amendment) Act, 2018</td>
<td>To amend various pieces of legislation to broaden the rules regarding joinder of offences and remove the jurisdictional restrictions of courts and other matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 The Justices of the Peace Act, 2018</td>
<td>To implement measures to strengthen the regime governing the functions of the Justice of the Peace in Jamaica.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 The Justice of the Peace (Official Seals) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018</td>
<td>to allow for the redesign of the Justice of the Peace Seal under the new dispensation in which JPs will, be considered for the Island instead of each parish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Mutual Legal Assistance to Belgium – Order, 2018</td>
<td>To provide Mutual legal Assistance to the Kingdom of Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 The Re-naming of the Courts of Petty Sessions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2018</td>
<td>To provide for Courts of Petty Sessions to be renamed as Lay Magistrates' Courts to amend the Judicature (Parish Courts) accordingly, to provide for connected matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Act, 2018.</td>
<td>To enable offences under Section 4 of the Act to be tried before a Judge of the Circuit Court sitting without a jury, and without a preliminary examination or committal proceedings being held.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Legislation Drafted – 2018/2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEGISLATION</th>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Accession to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirements for Legislation of Foreign Public Documents, 1961 (The Apostille Convention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Constitution (Amendment) (Appointment of Additional Judges) Bill</strong>&lt;br&gt;and&lt;br&gt;“Judicature (Parish Courts) (Amendment) Act, 2017”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gun Court (Amendment) Bill</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Judicature (Rules of Court) (Civil Procedure Rules, 2002) (Mediation Fees) (Validation and Indemnity) Bill, 2018</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Notaries Public Bill</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Judicature (Resident Magistrates) (Amendment) Bill, 2015 &amp; Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Bill, 2015</strong>&lt;br&gt;1: To make provision for the right of appeal by the prosecution against perceived inadequate and unlawful sentences; and to appeal for a retrial where a verdict has been affected by an administration of justice offence such as jury tampering.&lt;br&gt;2: To enforce more stringent penalties for obstructing or perverting the course of justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Bill</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>