

**Address**  
**Dr. Louis Shallal – Chief Information Officer for the Government of Jamaica**  
**Jamaica Open Data Portal Launch**  
**June 24, 2016**

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**Salutations:**

Greetings on behalf of our Permanent Secretary, Hillary Alexander, who is overseas. She has been a great supporter of this initiative.

Welcome to the soft Launch of our Open Data Portal. We will keep improving the portal experience.

The Honourable Minister will express our appreciation to the donor, participants and stakeholders. I want to pay a special tribute to a lot of people who helped us along the Open Data journey. I am particularly talking of staff of the MDAs who worked hard and who provided some key data so that we can demonstrate to you later in the launch the wealth of data that can be accessed. And this is just the beginning.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership and support of the World Bank in their contribution made to this day. I am sure my colleague from the World Bank will mention them all by name.

May I take a moment to acknowledge Mr. Gary Campbell, Chair of the Steering Committee, and if I may also ask those members present from the Steering Committee to stand and be acknowledged. Thank you. We have about 20 members from the various MDAs on the Steering Committee

The Open Data Portal will have one tremendous value for the Government of Jamaica administrative organization. MDA's will have a place to share their data, to compare, to coordinate and to see the power of mash-ups.

The philosophy that is guiding Open Data Policy which has been tabled with Cabinet, is that all data are open data by design. All data are public unless there are reasons they are private.

We also thank UWI (and Prof. McNaughton) in particular for their help with data.gov.jm and also grateful for the expertise available to us through the academic sector.

On behalf of the Open Data Team on both the Government of Jamaica side as well as the World Bank and NuCivic Consultants, I want to thank you for a job well done and urge you to continue the journey.

Thank you.