

Keynote Address
Hon. Fayval Williams
Minister of Science, Energy & Technology
Wartsila Energy Solutions Forum
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Salutations:

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Ladies and gentlemen, Good Morning!

It is a well-known fact that energy is the lifeblood of the economy, as such, I consider it a great pleasure to deliver this keynote address at this very important Energy Solutions Forum.

I consider this forum to be timely and critical to Jamaica's energy sector as we strive to create ***a modern, efficient, diversified and environmentally sustainable energy sector.***

Jamaica's Energy Revolution

As Energy Minister, I can truly say that I am extremely pleased with our accomplishments in energy over the years. As a small island developing state, Jamaica has punched way above its weight in the energy arena.

When we examine the data, in 2008, Jamaica's electricity installed capacity showed:

- Petroleum at 95%
- Hydro and wind at 2.6% and 2.4% respectively

Ten years later, we have significantly diversified our electricity installed capacity and at the end of 2018:

- Petroleum accounts for 74.1%
- Wind- 10%
- Hydro- 2.8%
- Natural Gas- 11.1% and
- Solar- 2%

Come next year, we project that:

- Petroleum will account for 44.8%
- Wind – 9.6%
- Hydro – 2.7%
- Natural Gas –37.5%; and
- Solar – 5.4%

Renewable Energy Development

Jamaica is a **regional leader in energy!** and we are cognizant that diversification is integral to securing Jamaica's energy future.

We have some of the largest wind and solar facilities in the form of the 62.7 MW Wigton Windfarm, 36 MW BMR wind facility and the 20 MW Content Solar plant.

With the addition of the 37 MW Eight Rivers solar facility in June 2019, Jamaica will be generating 17% of its electricity from renewable sources (wind, solar and hydro).

Ladies and gentlemen, **we have set lofty goals for renewable energy!**

Our original target of having 30% of renewables in our energy sector by 2030 has been revised to 50%. The revision, spearheaded by our Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, is based on the performance of the sector and the significant changes expected in the energy landscape. **Ladies and gentlemen, we can and will meet this goal.**

Integrated Resource Plan

We are working assiduously to ensure that we maximize our renewable energy potential.

Together with key stakeholders, the Ministry is developing an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which will be a comprehensive decision support tool to plan and meet Jamaica's electricity needs over the next 20 years.

As you would imagine, renewable energy features strongly within the IRP, with a projection for approximately **56% of our electricity generation to come from renewable sources, such as wind and solar, by 2037.**

Energy and Reducing our Carbon Footprint

Ladies and gentlemen, Jamaica's programme of energy infrastructure modernization, diversification and incentivizing efficiency is expected to significantly reduce carbon emissions growth over time.

We are aware that energy is a crucial aspect of the climate change agenda. Through our many energy initiatives Jamaica is committed to mitigating the equivalent of 1.1 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide per year by the year 2030.

New Initiatives

Energy is a dynamic portfolio and as a Ministry we are planning for even greater developments in the sector.

At the policy level, we will be:

- revising our National Energy Policy and sub policies to further develop the energy sector and establish new targets especially for renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation
- We are completing an Electric Vehicle Policy, as well as promulgating regulations under the Electricity Act to treat with this matter; and
- We are re-establishing the Jamaica Energy Council, which will be a body that is comprised of energy stakeholders that will discuss issues as well as developments in the energy sector through collaboration, cooperation and inclusion.

We will also be carrying out energy interventions at schools, hospitals, health centres and other public facilities with a cumulative value of more than **\$1 billion dollars** this financial year, all in an effort to conserve and efficiently use our energy resources.

Closing

Ladies and gentlemen, time would not permit me to outline all the many plans and initiatives that we have for Jamaica's energy sector.

It is a sector which constantly requires us to adapt, reshape and recalibrate.

As a Ministry, we maintain dialogue with our partners and stakeholders to keep abreast of new concepts and ideas that will help us **grow with energy**.

Dialogue that shares best practices and trends to transform and build a robust energy sector which can meet our diverse energy needs.

My commendations once again to Wartsila for staging this forum. I am truly happy to be here and I look forward to the ideas and the discussions which will provide additional context and insight to the plans and strategies that we have for Jamaica's energy sector.

Thank you.