

**Greetings**  
**Hon. Fayval Williams**  
**Minister of Science, Energy & Technology**  
**The High Commission of Canada**  
**Cleantech Business Mission to Jamaica**  
**February 26, 2019 @ 8:00 a.m.**

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**Salutations:**

- **Canadian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Laurie Peters**

**PANELISTS**

- **Mr. Ron Dizy, Advanced Energy Centre at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto**
- **Dr. Malaika Masson of the Inter-American Development Bank**
- **Our very own Mr. Fitzroy Vidal from within the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology**
- **Mr. Joseph Williams of the Caribbean Development Bank; and finally but by no means least**
- **Representatives of companies interested in exploring investment, partnership and joint venture opportunities in Jamaica's clean technology/renewable energy marketplace. Good Morning!**

I am very honoured to be addressing you, at this, the final day of your Cleantech Business Mission in Jamaica. Your visit and venture is not only well-timed, but urgently needed.

The latest **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report** which was released in October 2018, has given the world only 12 years to radically cut greenhouse gas emissions. Ladies and gentlemen, in real terms, we have only twelve years:

- to reduce our risk of extreme heat, drought, famine and significantly intensified storms and hurricanes;
- Twelve years, to change our energy habits or lose more of the flora and fauna that make our towns, communities and countries unique;
- We have 12 years to act strategically, or face the disappearance of entire islands and countries' coastal towns due to rising sea levels; and finally
- We have 12 years to save or preserve some semblance of life on earth as we know it, or condemn future generations to climate change catastrophe.

We have no choice but to act, and this Mission, which comprises eight companies that are interested in doing business in Jamaica's clean technology or renewable energy, is a hopeful indication of positive strides we can make together to help the world keep global temperatures from rising at a maximum of 1.5 degree celcius.

### **Jamaica's Energy Vision**

Jamaica's National Energy Policy 2009 to 2030 was tabled in 2010 and agreed by a positive resolution of Parliament. The policy's overall goal is to create:

***“A modern, efficient, diversified and environmentally sustainable energy sector (that) provides affordable and accessible energy supplies with long-term energy***

***security. (This must be supported) by informed public behaviour on energy issues and an appropriate policy, regulatory and institutional framework”***

Since approving this policy in 2010, the energy landscape has changed significantly. Renewable energy and natural gas are now playing a greater role in the country’s energy diversification programme. Our original target of having 20% of our energy demands being met by renewable sources will be increased. Prime Minister, Andrew Holness in October of last year, while heading the Energy Ministry, announced that Jamaica will officially increase its renewable energy target to 50 percent.

Ladies and gentlemen, Jamaica must be ambitious in its clean and renewable energy goals. The 2018 Climatescope report by energy researcher BloombergNEF, ranks India second to Chile among emerging economies to lead the transition to clean energy.

It is important to note that India’s current ranking comes after the country climbed three spots in just one year. In one year, their government’s firm support towards renewable energy saw an increase in investments and clean energy installations.

India’s clean energy investment totalled \$7.4 billion in the first half of 2018, with solar power projects accounting for the majority of those investments. In fact, their solar market almost doubled in size in 2017, with annual solar powered systems

touching 9.4 Gigawatt. The country also now boasts the world's largest renewables auction market- allocating renewable energy contracts to the lowest bidders in order to meet their country's defined investment targets.

Coming closer to home, in preparing for today's meeting, I came across an article on **CleanTech Canada's** website where it noted that Canada has successful examples of renewable energy sources being integrated in remote communities to create what many of us here today take for granted – electricity with the flip of a switch.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are the types of ambitious ideas that we must explore in Jamaica as we commence the revision of our National Energy Policy. We must think outside the box as we review several of our sub policies to establish new renewable energy targets. The energy sector is the fuel that drives economic, scientific and technological innovation for growth. Your presence over the last two days is commendable as we coalesce our resources and expertise to reach farther than our individual nations could do on their own.

### **Our Priority Programmes**

The Government is committed to creating a diversified and efficient energy sector. Major focus will be made on developing an **electric vehicles policy** that creates an enabling environment and establishes a timeframe for the introduction of electric vehicles for public transportation.

This is but one area for public/private sector partnership. An area, you can explore.

In addition to this, the Ministry will strengthen the regulatory and institutional framework to increase private investment and transition to cleaner fuel by finalizing regulations for **Net Billing, Auxiliary Connections and Power Wheeling** to allow persons to generate their own energy from renewable energy sources.

## **Conclusion**

Ladies and gentlemen, the environment is ripe for your investments, the stage is set to explore and share ideas for joint ventures and our local business community welcomes the partnership as both our nations enter a new phase in our clean/renewable energy journey. All the best for today's workshop and I look forward to the report and decisions that will follow.

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