

**Greetings**  
**Hon. Fayval Williams**  
**Minister of Science, Energy & Technology**  
**Commissioning of Maverly Primary Junior High Community Access**  
**Point**  
**Wednesday May 15, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.**

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**GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS**

- Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Member of Parliament for St. Andrew North Western Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke
- Chief Executive Officer of the Universal Service Fund, Mr Daniel Dawes and members of the USF team.
- Chairman of the Maverley Primary and Junior High School Board, Mr Robert Lawrence
- Principal Mrs. Dorothy P. Taylor and Staff of the Maverley Primary and Junior High School
- Parents
- Students
- Other stakeholders
- Members of the Media

Good morning! Let me start by expressing how excited I am to be here as the Minister of Technology to commission this facility which will undoubtedly transform the lives of the students of Maverley Primary and Junior High and the wider community.

The establishment of this Community Access Point is part of the Ministry's drive through the USF to bridge the information divide and ensure that everyone has access to the internet.

We are committed to this goal and we pursue it with passion because we know what a critical tool the internet can be in helping individuals to achieve success.

### **A School of Excellence**

Now, we know that the Maverley Primary and Junior High School with its population of just under 350 pupils is no stranger to success.

An excellent example of this is your ingenuity in fostering a passion for books through the creation of the '**Drop Everything and Read**' – **DEAR** initiative. This programme has been able to improve the literacy skills of your pupils and is even being replicated by the Ministry of Education in other institutions. Your cadet corp, which entertained us this morning, is another feather in your cap and is considered to be one of the best in St. Andrew. And how can we forget your gold medals in the JCDC speech and drama competitions and your footballers who I am told recently placed second in the Johnson's Pharmacy Football competition. Your institution is no stranger to exemplary

performance. **It's our hope that this Community Access Point will help in the continuation of this trend of excellence.**

This computer lab, which has been outfitted with 29 computers, desks and chairs, printers, state of the art air conditioning units and other infrastructure, was established at a cost of \$11.43 million. We have made this investment in you and your future. And we are hoping to see exponential returns, through your use of technology to unearth your potential.

### **Improving the Use of CAP Sites**

This community access point brings to 310 the number of facilities opened by the USF in underserved areas across the country. Yesterday, while making my Sectoral presentation in Parliament, I noted my intention to ensure that these CAP sites are maximised and meet the needs of our young as well as our more mature population over 50-years old.

A recent audit conducted by the USF, revealed that while many of these computer labs are being actively used by the members of the community for meaningful activities such as distance learning, communication and business ventures, there are about 30%, or a little under 100 of these labs that are being underutilized.

The USF, with support from the Ministry has been meeting with these administrators to determine the issues affecting these community access points in a bid to devise plans to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. The meetings have also served as a way for Community Access Point Managers to learn from their fellow Administrators who have created and are executing exemplary and sustainable operational plans for their facilities. As we continue to increase internet connectivity, we must ensure the infrastructure are making the impact they are intended to make.

We have no doubt that the Maverley Primary and Junior High Community Access Point, with our support, will be one of these outstanding facilities from which other Community Access Point Administrators can learn valuable lessons.

### **Closing**

In closing, I want to thank you again for welcoming me into your community and to let you know that we are looking forward to great things from this Community Access Point.

Thank You.

