



SPEAKING NOTES
HON. FAYVAL WILLIAMS, M.P.
MINISTER OF SCIENCE, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
AT THE
GOJ/PCJ ENERGY CHAMPION AWARD CEREMONY @ 11:00 a.m.

Salutations:

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The pleasure is mine to share with you at this the second staging of the GOJ/ PCJ Energy Champion Competition Awards Ceremony. Today, we celebrate and highlight the bold moves being made by our public sector entities in the areas of energy conservation and efficiency.

I must commend the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme (EECP) team for the tremendous work that you have done in Jamaica's energy sector over the years.

Ladies and gentlemen, even before I was assigned responsibility for the Energy portfolio, it was my firm belief that energy is the lifeblood of our economy.

At present, much of Jamaica's energy is supplied by external sources. This puts significant pressure on our resources as our energy spend can get as high as \$2 billion US dollars annually.

Now, I know all of us here, fully understand that the more money you spend paying high energy bills at home, is the less you have to address your other critical expenditure. So you can appreciate the magnitude of the task facing the Government of Jamaica – balancing all our priorities and needs with a finite budget.

Consequently, the sustainable development of the local energy sector and the increased use of indigenous sources for energy generation such as solar and wind is a top priority – not only for the Ministry that I now have the privilege of leading – but for the entire Administration.

While several of the Government’s strategies to transform the country’s energy landscape are medium term prospects, one of our immediate measures to cut our national energy bill, is through the implementation of intervention projects like this, which is aimed at curtailing energy usage within the public sector.

The GOJ - Leading the Energy Charge

The Government of Jamaica, through the Ministry, has long declared its intention to be the national leader in energy efficiency and conservation.

In this regard, the PCJ through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme (EECP) – is promoting and implementing practical cost saving measures within the public sector, bringing us closer to achieving our goal.

Since the commencement of the EECP Programme in 2013:

- 80,000 square feet of heat reducing film has been installed at 37 public sector facilities;
- 200,000 square feet of cool roof solution has been applied at 11 government buildings; and
- Twenty-five (25) public facilities have been equipped with new energy efficient air conditioning systems.

As a result of these interventions:

- CO₂ emissions have been reduced by 5,800 tonnes, which is equivalent to removing 1,260 cars from our roads.
- Additionally, national oil consumption has been reduced by 3,500 barrels, helping the Government save approximately \$2.2 million US dollars.

Upcoming Projects for 2019/2020 Fiscal Year

I am pleased to announce that there is even more good news as four (4) additional public sector facilities are scheduled to benefit from EECF interventions in the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

Energy efficient air conditioning solutions will be installed at the Post and Telecommunications Department's head office in Kingston as well as three locations of the Jamaica Constabulary Force - the Mobile Reserve Unit, National Police College and the May Pen Divisional Headquarters.

The projected cumulative spend on these projects is close to J\$250 million dollars.

Significantly, upon completion of these interventions, electricity usage for air conditioning is projected to be reduced by 34% at the Post and Telecommunications Department and by 40% at the Jamaica Constabulary Force's facilities.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to say that **when it comes to energy efficiency, the Government of Jamaica is leading by example.**

Energy Champion Competition

I must add that while leadership is about setting an example, it is also about support, and this brings me to the business at hand today- **the Energy Champion Competition.**

Since its launch, the competition has been met with great enthusiasm and support at all levels, from the decision makers who have to pay the energy bills, to the workers and supervisors who implement conservation measures during their day to day operations.

This year, the monetary benefits of competition has been improved with the first place prize increasing from one (1) to 5 million dollars and the runner up prize increasing from \$650,000 dollars to \$1.5 million dollars. This is testament that **saving energy PAYS!**

The EECP has also introduced a new category just for schools to encourage our educational institutions to get on the conservation train.

You see, ladies and gentlemen, the **Energy Champion Competition** supports two of the primary goals of our National Energy Policy:

- Goal Number 1 – to enable Jamaicans to use energy wisely and aggressively pursue opportunities for conservation and efficiency; and
- Goal Number 6 – To ensure that Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies are a model and leader in energy conservation and environmental stewardship in Jamaica.

So, it is imperative that the message of energy conservation and efficiency be spread and embraced island-wide. Every Jamaican, whether young, old or self-employed, plays a critical role and can actively reduce their energy consumption in their homes, schools and places of employment.

Every Jamaican can help create savings which will allow for the reallocation of resources now being spent on energy, to other personal and national priorities.

I want to commend all the entrants past and present for their participation in such a worthwhile initiative. Your enrollment in this competition shows your readiness to not just talk about conservation but to take decisive action to actually make a difference.

I want to encourage all Ministries, Departments and Agencies to keep the energy conservation momentum going. If you have benefitted from interventions from the PCJ, I urge you to protect the investments.

If your agency is not yet a beneficiary, I encourage you to get on board by assessing your energy use and implement strategies to cut your energy expenses. I am sure the entire EECF team will be happy to show you how.

And to our private sector counterparts, it's an exciting time to get excited about energy conservation. Look within your own operations, explore the opportunities that can drive energy efficiency, and watch in real time how your activities improve your bottom line and make your organisations viable for years to come.

Once again, my commendations to the PCJ and particularly the EECF team for devising a meaningful platform where energy conservation is engaging and rewarding. I look forward to seeing this competition expand its reach and its impact in the future.

I thank you.