



...Fuelling growth everywhere

SECTORAL PRESENTATION 2025- 2026

***"Innovating for a Sustainable Future:
Advancing Science, Energy,
Telecommunications, and Transport"***





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SECTORAL PRESENTATION

THEME:

“Innovating for a Sustainable Future:
Advancing Science, Energy, Telecommunications, and Transport”

Minister Of Science, Energy, Telecommunications, And Transport
Honourable Daryl Vaz, MP

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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Hon. Daryl Vaz (M.P.)
Minister of Science, Energy,
Telecommunications and Transport

OPENING REMARKS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, SPECIAL MENTIONS

Madam Speaker,

I rise today in this Honourable House with deep gratitude and an even deeper sense of responsibility, as we chart the course for the vital sectors under my portfolio—Science, Energy, Telecommunications, and Transport. These sectors form the backbone of our national development, driving innovation, connectivity, and efficiency in service to the people of Jamaica. Before I begin, I must take a moment to sincerely thank those who support this mission every single day.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & SPECIAL MENTIONS

Madam Speaker, today, May 20, I selected for my Sectoral Presentation has added significance. Today is my late father Douglas Vaz's birthday. He would have been 87 years old. A man who served his country as a freedom fighter and then a

Member of Parliament (MP) and Cabinet Minister in the 1980s and MP to 1993. A true patriot who inspired me to follow in his footsteps hence a 4-time consecutive MP in one constituency of 18 years and a Minister of government 13 years. **Happy Birthday dad!**

To my dear wife, Ann-Marie, my children, grandchildren, family, and friends—your unwavering love and support fuel my commitment to public service. Thank you for your patience, sacrifices, and constant encouragement.

I extend heartfelt appreciation to our Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading the Ministry; my state minister, the Honourable, J.C. Hutchinson for his continuous support; my Cabinet colleagues; and the heads

of agencies across all four sectors of the Ministry. Your leadership, collaboration, and shared commitment have helped us better serve the people of Jamaica and deliver tangible results.

To the leadership and staff of the Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications, and Transport (MSETT) thank you for your tireless efforts and work. I especially wish to recognize our Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Carol Palmer, whose steady hand and principled leadership continue to guide us. To our Senior Managers, technical experts, and administrative staff—your dedication is the engine behind our progress. I commend you all for your service to the nation.

I also express my sincere thanks to our board members, particularly my advisors Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee Jr. and Mr. Wayne Chen, whose expertise and counsel have been invaluable in shaping the strategies and successes I will share today.

To my Close Protection Officers, thank you for your steadfast support and professionalism, which allows me to fulfill my duties as both a Minister and Member of Parliament. I am deeply grateful for the sacrifices you and your families make.

To the people of West Portland who have entrusted me with the honour of representing you—thank you. I remain committed to your development and well-being.

Your voices continue to guide my work, and I am proud to serve you.

IN MEMORY OF DEDICATED SERVANTS

Madam Speaker, we have lost dear colleagues along the way. To mention two, the first, Mr. Ransford Harvey, a member of the security team, who served in this capacity for almost thirty years. He was diligent in his duties and appreciated by all who came in contact with him. The other, a Confidante, and my Executive Assistant, Miss Patricia Reid. Pat was more than a colleague, she was a cherished member of our team: loyal, hardworking, and deeply committed to our mission. Her absence is deeply felt. I again extend my condolences to her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of working with her. May her legacy of service inspire us all.

As I now begin my Sectoral Presentation, let us remain focused on the work ahead—advancing policies and initiatives that strengthen our economy, improve public service delivery, and transform lives for the better.

**The theme for today's presentation is:
"Innovating for a Sustainable
Future: Advancing Science, Energy,
Telecommunications, and Transport."**

Madam Speaker,

Throughout the fiscal year, the four key sectors under my portfolio—Science, Energy, Telecommunications, and Transport—have made substantial strides.

SCIENCE PORTFOLIO



SCIENCE PORTFOLIO

Madam Speaker, MSETT is leading a science-driven transformation, starting at the earliest levels.

Starting Young: Science in Early Childhood

In partnership with the Early Childhood Commission, the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, the Scientific Research Council (SRC) and the National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST), we have launched a pilot initiative that integrates scientific principles into early childhood education for children aged 2 – 8 years. This “Nurturing Early Scientific Thinking” (NEST) programme will equip educators with STEM kits and low-cost Activity Books to make science fun, simple and engaging in the classrooms. Madam Speaker, the next generation won’t shy away from Science—they’ll continue to embrace it as a powerful tool to transform Jamaica and shape the world with their bold innovations.

Encouraging Youth Innovation and Talent

Madam Speaker, our focus does not stop at the early childhood level. Through the Scientific Research Council (SRC):

- Over 1,900 students participated in the Young Inventors and Innovators Competition;
- Over 1,400 students were engaged in Science in the Park; and

- 101 STEM Ambassadors are now mentoring young Jamaicans.

Madam Speaker, we are not just teaching science – we are building confidence, ambition and dreams.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

Jamaica Leads the Region in Science Policy

Madam Speaker, Jamaica is the first Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Caribbean to complete the GO-SPIN (Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments) policy mapping exercise with UNESCO. This work will be published on UNESCO’s website in 2025, placing Jamaica on the global science policy map. As a result, we now have the tools to systematically improve our Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) landscape by implementing targeted interventions that will improve our science, technology and innovation index. Together with our updated National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, we are showing that Jamaica is ready to lead, not follow.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

Growing Our Economy with Science and Innovation

Indeed, Madam Speaker we are leading. In the previous Financial Year, SRC helped several small businesses improve compliance and turn ideas into income, as:

- Over 15,915 analytical tests were conducted, which supported food and water safety for 160 MSMEs, ensuring compliance with national and international regulations.
- 43 new commercially viable food products were developed for local entrepreneurs, enabling them to expand their market both locally and internationally.
- Over 250 nutrition labels were created to ensure safe and accurate consumer information.
- More than 150 people were trained in personal care product development; and with a new Personal Care Manufacturing Facility now operational, more cost-effective manufacturing solutions will be enabled.

Science is not abstract – it is a real, practical support for MSME's, Madam Speaker.

Breaking Barriers, Empowering Communities

Science is for everyone – and we are proving just that. With:

- workshops in soap and jam-making hosted in collaboration with Lister Mair/Gilby High School for the Deaf, providing expanded opportunities for hearing-impaired students;
- tissue culture pineapple farming workshops for the St. Catherine Bee Farmers Association, to promote economic self-sufficiency; and
- soap-making workshops for 60 members of the National Council for Senior Citizens, empowering older Jamaica with income-generating skills.

Science is a tool for inclusion, dignity and opportunity.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

Building a Healthier, Safer Jamaica

Madam Speaker, in my last sectoral presentation I promised that the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS) would complete the project to install the Gamma Irradiation facility, and we delivered!

With the acquisition of this facility, in 2024 we will be able to revolutionize:

- Agriculture – by controlling pests and improving crops.
- Healthcare – by sterilizing equipment and supporting burn and cancer treatments.

- Environment – by reducing chemical use in pest control.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

NCST – Driving Innovation

- As we continue our push to facilitate innovation Madam Speaker, the National Commission on Science and Technology is advancing nutraceutical regulation for health and industry growth through the Ministry of Health and Wellness, whilst continuing to host STEM mentorship workshops, connecting students with global experts.

In this Financial Year we will continue to deepen our impact by:

- Upgrading Laboratory Facilities;

- Expanding Research & Development, with new studies in biotechnology, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture which will support national priorities;
- Scaling STEM Education and Outreach;
- Publishing the results of a landmark study on toxic metals in turmeric and turmeric products on the Jamaican market, conducted by ICENS, with further research on other spices underway; and
- modernizing the National Medal and Innovation Awards.

We are building a future-ready nation – equipped to compete, innovate and thrive on the world stage.

This Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.



ENERGY PORTFOLIO



ENERGY PORTFOLIO

Madam Speaker, on the matter of Jamaica's renewable energy development ranking, Jamaica rose eight places on the Climatescope Index by Bloomberg NEF in 2024, moving from 47th to 39th among 105 countries. According to the report Madam Speaker, with a power score of 2.04, the power score of Jamaica is better than the regional average of 1.93 in Latin America.

Climatescope is a global ranking of emerging markets based on their attractiveness for clean energy investment, and our advancement reflects Jamaica's strong legislative framework, robust regulations, and well-defined targets and incentives.

Renewable Energy (RE)

As a government, we are strategically advancing toward our 2030 goal of generating 50% of Jamaica's electricity from renewable sources through targeted investments, policy reforms, and infrastructure development. As at May 2025, we have achieved 12.5%; with an additional 100 MW set to come on stream in 2025/2026 FY representing 4.5% and bringing the total to 17%. Subsequently, an additional 220 MW will go to market in 2025 to come on stream in 2027/2028 FY and will represent an added 10%, thereby bringing the total to 27%.

Madam Speaker, the JPS is expected to add 130 MW in 2027/2028 FY, and this 6% will bring the total to 33% by 2028. Finally,



the Generation Procurement Entity (GPE) will go back to market for 300 MW and that will take on stream the additional 23% to round out the 50% target.

Leveraging Technology Incentives

Madam Speaker, we have also pursued policy measures to improve energy storage capacity. CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) approved Jamaica's request to suspend the Common External Tariff on 91,600 lithium-ion batteries – valued at J\$1.5 billion (US\$9.7 million) - for two years, starting February 2025. This 20% duty exemption followed extensive stakeholder consultations with the Government of Barbados, and a verification site visit to a Barbadian company that currently produces lithium-ion batteries.

Madam Speaker, as of January 1, 2024, importers began benefitting from duty-free access to select renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, including compact fluorescent lamps, advanced air conditioning systems, solar mounting accessories, and rechargeable batteries. This arrangement, approved under Article 83(3) of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas at the 57th Meeting of the COTED in November 2023, continues through December 2025.

Let me emphasize, Madam Speaker, that these duty exemptions remain unaffected by recent US Trade adjustments. However, under the revised Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), which

once provided a non-reciprocal export duty waiver, Jamaica must now operate at 10% of the value of the exported finished products. Petrojam is currently assessing the implications for our Most Favoured Nation Status, while the Ministry monitors solar imports from China for price fluctuations.

Improved Performance of Solar and Hydropower Generation Plants

Despite the impacts of Hurricane Beryl, Jamaica's clean energy infrastructure showed resilience. In 2024, solar and hydropower plants generated 11% and 7% more energy respectively, adding 21,209 MWH to the grid and helping to offset reduced outputs from the wind farms, natural gas and petroleum fuelled plants.

Refining the Electricity (Net Billing) Programme's Processes and Procedures

In response to rising demand for renewable self-generation, the Ministry updated its procedures for the Electricity (Net Billing) Regulations to better align with the 2022 regulations. In 2024, sixty (60) licences were issued, totalling 0.8 MW of capacity. In total, Jamaica now boasts 1,239 licenses (for households and businesses) representing 26.1 MW of distributed solar capacity, up from 1,179 licensees with 25.3 MW of capacity in 2023.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

Madam Speaker, as I stated in my update on 9th April 2025, it is clear - Jamaica has not been well served by its electricity industry.

The arrangements put in place by the PNP governments...

- The Jamaica Public Service licence in 2001; and
- The Electricity Act in 2015

...are both deeply flawed, and this Government is now taking the hard decisions to correct the failures of those opposite.

JPS Licence

On the licence, as I have said in this House previously the global and economic

situation has changed substantially since 2001. Therefore, the licence terms which were renewed in 2015 were not suitable then and are even less suitable now.

A stark example of this, and one that was felt by every single Jamaican, was the failure of JPS in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl. The delays in restoring power and the missed deadlines were unacceptable. A situation where I had to intervene on behalf of this Government to hold JPS to account.

More broadly, under this licence, electricity prices remain among the highest in the region. This is intolerable. Both for family budgets and our critical



private sector, limiting the creation of jobs and economic prosperity. All because for too long we have been locked into this legacy arrangement which does not work for a modern Jamaica.

However, I am pleased to say, for the first time since 2015 we have the opportunity to deliver real change. Change for the benefit of Jamaica and Jamaicans. I can assure you that we will do whatever it takes to do that. Whether it be through a newly negotiated licence with JPS or entirely new arrangements we will not rest until we have an electricity sector our population deserves.

Electricity Act 2015

The changes we will make to the licence arrangements cannot though be considered in isolation. JPS have done what they can to manage the system within the constraints of a regulatory framework which is not suitable for a modern energy and electricity system. I thank their shareholders both for this and for continuing to invest in Jamaica.

However, the framework within which this licence operates needs to adapt; it doesn't provide the right incentives and it's failing the Jamaican people. The world has changed; technology has changed and our expectations for energy provision have changed. We cannot continue with an electricity system which has such high costs, and we cannot continue with a system on which 30% of the power is stolen.

This is why the work of the Joint Select Committee, which I chair and who are tasked with reviewing the Act, is so critical.

We have consulted widely, encouraging participation from the public and industry alike reviewing every aspect of the act from strengthening our response to natural disasters to options for reducing theft and losses, to considering competition where appropriate and regulation where it is not.

Implementation of changes to the Act will be carried out in conjunction with changes to the licence regime, to ensure a holistic view is taken across the sector.

It will not be easy, and the benefits will not come immediately. It will take time. Everyone must do their bit.

Next Steps

We will shortly come forward with our plans, specifically in relation to the licence. We, unlike our predecessors, will not miss this opportunity to reset the electricity sector for the benefit of the entire population.

Government of Jamaica House Wiring and Inspection Programme

Madam Speaker, I now turn to provide an update and offer clarification on the Government of Jamaica's House Wiring and Inspection Programme—a vital initiative aimed at improving household safety and expanding access to electricity for our most vulnerable citizens.

Following a meeting held on April 22, 2025, involving the Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport (MSETT), the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), and the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS), a number of operational matters were raised ahead of the scheduled implementation start date of May 1, 2025.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to correspondence received from JPS, I wish to clarify a specific reference made in Ministry Paper 09/25, which outlines the Revenue Measures for the 2025/26 fiscal year. The Paper currently states that new prepaid electricity customers will be eligible for the credit facility during the six months immediately following the effective date of the policy.

Importantly, the provision that the credit facility will terminate eleven months after the effective date remains unchanged. This means that a customer who becomes eligible in September 2025, the final month of the five-month window—will still receive the full six-month credit benefit, extending through to April 2026.

Additionally, Madam Speaker, I must clarify the matter of programme targets. The facility will support a maximum of 20,000 new prepaid customers. However, only those onboarded within the five-month eligibility period—between May and September 2025—will be accommodated. This approach ensures

that the integrity of the programme is maintained and aligned with the fiscal constraints.

It is also important to note that the budget allocated for this initiative pertains specifically to the 2025/26 fiscal year.

Madam Speaker, JPS has also taken the position that the prepaid credit is non-transferable. The credit will be assigned specifically to both the approved customer and the wired and certified premises.

Should a customer relocate during the six-month credit period, the remaining credit will be forfeited.

Similarly, any new occupant of the vacated premises will not be eligible to claim any remaining benefit.

Madam Speaker, the House Wiring and Inspection Programme is a meaningful step toward greater equity and access in the energy sector. These clarifications are important to ensure that the programme is implemented efficiently, transparently, and in keeping with the objectives of social inclusion and responsible public financial management.

Non-Technical Loss Reduction

Madam Speaker, in 2024, Cabinet approved the National Electricity Loss Reduction Plan (2024 – 2034). Over the past 20 years, persistent losses have

threatened grid stability and economic competitiveness.

To combat this, JPS will invest J\$13.2 billion (US\$84 million) over a ten-year period to improve its technical and commercial operations. Government oversight will include stricter regulations, penalties, public outreach and training, – with the goal of reducing losses and renewing the system.

Madam Speaker, the Ministry remains on course and is committed to advancing a modern secure and sustainable Jamaica. We have laid the groundwork for greater resilience, lower costs and enhanced energy independence.

Petrojam

Madam Speaker, from January to December 2024, the Government, through Petrojam, supplied 11.1 million barrels of petroleum products to both local and export markets. This volume was achieved through a combination of refining and importing finished petroleum products. Crude oil was sourced from key partners, including Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador, ensuring a diversified and stable supply chain.

Contribution to Export Earnings

From 2024, Petrojam exported approximately 4.5 million barrels of petroleum products, generating over US\$500 million in export earnings. A landmark achievement in this regard, Madam Speaker, is a new contract to



supply Trinidad and Tobago with both high-sulphur and very-low-sulphur fuel oil. This deal is projected to yield J\$14 billion in export earnings, further strengthening Jamaica's energy trade position in the region. Despite some challenges, Petrojam continues to make a strong contribution to national revenue. The necessary steps will be taken to ensure that this continues.

As such, Madam Speaker, over the next three to five years, Petrojam will focus on optimizing its existing operations while advancing cleaner energy solutions. Key elements of this strategy include, among other things:

- The production and supply of Ultra-Low Sulphur Diesel (ULSD), expanding access to environmentally friendly fuels.
- Strengthening the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply to support energy diversification.
- Advancing Jamaica's climate change agenda by implementing a comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) programme, driving the installation of solar systems, enhancing energy efficiency in refining operations, and increasing the production of sustainable biofuels.

Petrojam, Madam Speaker, is progressing with its project to install facilities that will convert Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) into asphalt, increasing monthly output from 4,000 barrels to 19,000 barrels. The project is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of the 2025/26 fiscal year, ensuring greater domestic availability and export potential.

Petrojam aims to refine 8.2 million barrels of crude oil (approximately 22.5 kilo-barrels per day) to meet domestic and export sales targets. The remaining supply will be supplemented by imported petroleum products and blendstock to ensure a stable and competitive energy market.

Oil and Gas

In relation to Oil and Gas Madam Speaker, in March 2025, the Production Sharing Agreement with United Oil and Gas was extended to January 2028 with updated work programme items in Jamaica's offshore. The extension allows United Oil and Gas to continue de-risking the offshore prospects and continue their search for an exploration partner with the aim of drilling and exploration well with the drill or drop decision now due by January 2028.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO



TELECOMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO

Madam Speaker, the telecommunications sector plays a strategic role in bridging the digital divide, enhancing national digital infrastructure, and driving the transition to an inclusive, knowledge-based economy.

Through agencies, such as eLearning Jamaica Company Limited and the Universal Service Fund, this administration has invested no less than five billion dollars in the past four years in providing Jamaicans, across the length and breadth of the country, with improved access to technology.

Supporting Access to Technology

As eLearning Jamaica proudly celebrates its 20th anniversary, we salute this agency for its commitment of integrating technology into the educational landscape. In the last Financial Year alone, eLearning Jamaica:

- Provided over **11,000 laptops and customized desktop computers for special needs** students as well as **1,100 projectors**, valued at **\$874 million** and continued delivery of **800 interactive panels** to over **700 institutions**.
- Procured **400 charging carts** valued at **\$73 million** for distribution to educational institutions to enhance device accessibility and mobility; and
- Provided **2,700 teachers** with laptops, under the **Own Your Own Device**

programme, bringing the total number of beneficiaries under that programme to approximately **26,000 educators at a cost of \$2.3 billion**.

Madam Speaker, *this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.*

Madam Speaker, through the eLearning Jamaica:

- The Jamaica Library Service received **400 laptops** valued at **\$24 million** to be used as a part of digitization of Libraries Island wide;
- The Early Childhood Commission was provided with **40 laptops (valued at \$2.4 million)** to enhance service delivery to their stakeholders;
- **200 laptops** valued at **\$12 million** were provided to lecturers at UTECH for research and course delivery;
- Over **300 devices** valued at **\$18 million** were distributed to the Holy Trinity and Newell High Schools to improve literacy and numeracy for grade 7 students; and
- **50 devices** valued at **\$2 million** were donated to the Women's Crisis Centre to support teen mothers to continue their education.

The Universal Service Fund, through its Connect a Child and ICT Device for

Individuals and Organizations in Need programmes, supported eLearning Jamaica's activities by distributing:

- **630 tablets** valued at **\$20.8 million** to students from low-income families to support their equal access to educational opportunities;
- **58 ICT** devices to needy citizens across Jamaica at a cost of **\$10.5 million**; and
- **ICT devices 58 valued at \$7 million** to organizations, to enhance their technological capabilities.

In addition, Madam Speaker, 10 schools received coding and robotics kits to support STEM development activities, as well as training in Artificial Intelligence to enhance technological capabilities within educational institutions. And the University of the West Indies received a state-of-the art training facility to equip educators being trained via its School of Education, with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to integrate new and emerging technologies effectively in classroom instruction. Dubbed the IGNITE Hub, that is, **Innovative Growth in Next-Generation Instruction & Technology Education**, the facility boasts advanced technology such as:

- **Virtual Reality (VR) Headsets** – to allow teachers to simulate real-life classroom scenarios, enhancing interactive learning strategies;
- **Motion-Tracking Cameras** – to enable seamless hybrid learning, allowing lecturers to move freely while being tracked; and

- **Interactive Panels, AI-powered teaching assistants, adaptive learning platforms, and multimedia content creation software** – to support hands-on training.

For the upcoming Financial Year, Madam Speaker, eLearning will continue the:

- Distribution of over 4,000 additional technological devices across all levels of the public educational sector, including special needs schools; and
- Expansion of STEAM capacity-building programmes, including robotics, artificial intelligence, data protection, and coding workshops.

Madam Speaker, **this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.**

Advancing Digital Literacy

Madam Speaker, in a bold move to modernize governance, the Ministry—through e-Learning Jamaica—will today hand over 63 tablets, one for each Member of Parliament and constituency. This is a strategic leap toward digital leadership, putting real-time information and powerful tools directly into the hands of our lawmakers.

Each device is preloaded with access to all Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, along with essential apps to help MPs better serve their constituents and deliver Government benefits.

Notably, the tablets will also feature my full Sectoral Presentation to Parliament, ensuring every MP has immediate access to the Ministry's vision, priorities, and policy direction.

This is a win for every Jamaican—a clear signal of our commitment to transparency, accessibility, and a digitally connected future. No one will be left unaware of the benefits the Government of Jamaica provides.

Advancing Digital Transformation

Madam Speaker, through Universal Service Fund (USF), 100% of the major townships across Jamaica have been outfitted with public Wi-Fi through the Connect-Jamaica Public Wi-Fi Programme, with five new public wi-fi hotspots being deployed in the 2024/2025 Financial Year in:

- **Half-Way-Tree (St. Andrew)**
- **Papine – University Square (St. Andrew)**
- **Mandeville (Manchester)**
- **Waterfront (Kingston)**
- **Cross Roads (St. Andrew)**

These activities, Madam Speaker, are complemented by the Community Wi-Fi Programme, which, since its launch in 2020, has seen 315 community Wi-Fi hotspots valued at **1.2 billion dollars** being successfully installed across the 63 constituencies serving **235,000 active users** across the island and the numbers continue to grow.

The fifth community Wi-Fi hotspot was installed in each of the 63 constituencies in the 2024/2025 Financial Year.



This means, Madam Speaker, that citizens across the length and breadth of Jamaica are not too far away from publicly provided Wi-Fi. This means, Madam Speaker, that the digital divide is closing slowly, but surely. We are not stopping there; as we continue to allocate over 1 billion dollars each year, to invest in the Government's National Broadband Infrastructure (NBI). This means, Madam Speaker, that this Government is delivering on its promise of a better Jamaica; Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

Equipping the Next Generation through Technology

However, Madam Speaker, it is not just about investing in the technology, the people of Jamaica and particularly, the youth, are at the heart of what we do. For this reason, USF:

- Continued its investment in the Technology Advancement Programme. This investment, worth 210 million Jamaican dollars was executed in collaboration with the Amber Group and HEART NSTA Trust, and saw Cohort III (2023-24) of that programme, graduating 236 unattached youth between the ages 18-35, with ICT skills;
- Worked with educational institutions to establish 30 ICT clubs in schools and host its 2nd ICT Club Conference;
- Hosted a four-week Crack the Code, coding competition, during Youth and Technology Month, for youth aged 12-21, focusing on HTML, CSS, and Visual

Studio Code, to encourage digital skill development; and

- Awarded 12 full scholarships (valued at \$13 million) to support high-achieving students pursuing ICT undergraduate degrees at UWI, UTECH, and UCC for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Madam Speaker, through these strategic initiatives, the government, through the USF, continues to drive digital inclusion, ensuring accessible, sustainable, and transformative ICT solutions for all Jamaicans as we strive to achieve a better Jamaica. **Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.**

Securing the Radiofrequency Spectrum, Today and Tomorrow

Madam Speaker, the Spectrum Management Authority continued to strengthen Jamaica's wireless communications sector by ensuring efficient spectrum allocation and regulatory compliance.

For the Financial Year 2024/25 the Spectrum Management Authority responded to Jamaica's growing communications, fulfilling its mandate by:

- Issuing **212 new spectrum licences**, surpassing the KPI of **184**.
- Renewing **547 licences**, exceeding the **target of 481**.
- Successfully completing the public call for applications for licences in **600 MHz spectrum band**, securing a potential of **US\$24 million** in spectrum licence fees.

- Resolving **eight interference cases**, ensuring the continued safety of aeronautical communications.
- Conducting **frequency and modulation audits** island-wide.

In the 2025/2026 Financial Year, SMA will:

- Continue the **modernisation of the Radio Monitoring and Direction-Finding System (RMDFS)** to improve efficiency.
- Integration of **Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining** for enhanced spectrum monitoring.
- Establish strategic spectrum monitoring stations in key areas, including near airports and aerodromes.
- Strengthen evidence-based policy frameworks to support Jamaica's transition to an advanced wireless infrastructure.

Securing Telecommunication Services Before and After a Natural Disaster

Madam Speaker, Hurricane Beryl taught us some valuable lessons. An important one is the vulnerability of our communications infrastructure and its interdependence on other utilities. Yes, last year, I was hard on our telecommunication service providers and even on the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR); but only because, like all my colleagues here, I want the best for this country. Madam Speaker, some promises are easy to keep; others require grit and hard work to see them to fruition.

For this hurricane season and beyond, a more agile and robust response is anticipated. Our major telecommunication providers have promised to up their game, from moving more equipment on island once an announcement of an impending hurricane is made, to investing in additional generators and solar technology to decrease dependency on a single source of energy and ensure greater up time for cell sites.

Coordination, Madam Speaker is key.

Both major telecommunication service providers and JPS have indicated that there will be even greater collaboration and coordination going forward, in preparing for and responding to and ensuring swift recovery after natural disasters. Indeed, I was advised that on the 31st of March, an inter-utility hurricane simulation exercise was organized by the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited, with key stakeholders in the telecommunications industry and stakeholders involved with disaster preparedness and emergency response.

Madam Speaker, while we welcome the assurances and the actions thus far, we are still not leaving anything to chance. Therefore, in this Financial Year, the Ministry along with key stakeholders such as the telecommunication regulators and stakeholders involved in emergency response, will engage with industry players to develop a National Emergency Telecommunications Plan.

The National Emergency Telecommunications Plan will outline a comprehensive strategy that will promote coordination among all stakeholders to ensure that communications services are available throughout the entire lifecycle of a disaster and particularly during disaster response and recovery.

Madam Speaker, **this Government promised you a better Jamaica, Commitment made, Commitment fulfilled.**

Theft and Vandalism of Telecommunications Infrastructure

However, I could not speak here today without addressing two things. First the issue of theft and vandalism. Madam Speaker, for years telecommunication service providers have complained about the additional cost imposed on their businesses because of theft and vandalism of telecommunications infrastructure. Earlier this year, operators were faced with a repair bill of more than USD 200,000 through one act of vandalism, while the current penalties in the law for these nefarious actions are a mere fraction of the cost.

But today, Madam Speaker, laid on the Table of the House, is another commitment fulfilled, as the Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Act, which was tabled today in this House, promises a significant increase in the penalties under the Telecommunications Act for trespassing, meddling, interfering or tampering with any telecommunications facility.

SMadam Speaker, we are waging the war on serious crimes and wanton criminality, and we are winning, and we intend to do the same here with theft and vandalism of equipment. This **Government promised you a better Jamaica, Commitment made, Commitment fulfilled**

Third Domestic Mobile Telecommunications Provider

The second issue Madam Speaker is the status of third domestic mobile telecommunications provider. Madam Speaker, like all Jamaicans, I look forward to the expansion of service and increased competition, which the introduction of a new player into the telecommunications space promises. Therefore, I too would have liked to have seen this third provider already offering services to the Jamaican people but am cognizant that in a strong and fiercely competitive market, such as Jamaica, getting it right at the outset is important if the objectives are to be achieved. Therefore, I have been given the assurance that the company is far advanced in its preparatory activities and the people of Jamaica can expect roll out of services soon.

Madam Speaker, everything that we do is to ensure that Jamaica is an active, agile, participant in the digital era, proudly competitive and fully connected. And, as you can see, Madam Speaker, **Commitment made, Madam Speaker; Commitment fulfilled.**

TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO



TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

Rural School Bus Programme

“NO SCHOOLERS! NO SCHOOLERS!”—

Madam Speaker, these are the harsh words all the children across rural Jamaica hear every morning and afternoon. This back-to-school (September morning), the shout will not be **NO SCHOOLERS** but **“SCHOOLERS ONLY!”** – a dedicated school bus system for students only. What a day this will be – a school bus with the following technology options:

- **Automated Fare Collection System** - this will provide safe, efficient, convenient and hassle-free payment for students.
- **Driver Monitoring Systems (“DMS”)**
camera - that allows for driver monitoring via infrared.
- **Geo-Fencing of routes** - An established system will provide an alert if there is any deviation of bus from assigned routes.
- **Speed Control** - The system will be able to monitor speed, and an alert provided if it crosses the threshold.
- **Seamless Parental Control** - parents will get access to a user-friendly parental portal via an App that provides bus schedules, routes and real time tracking information, allowing parents to plan and monitor their child's transportation to and from school.

- **Attendance Tracking** - track student attendance on buses, maintaining accurate records for accountability and ensuring that no students are left behind or misplaced during transit.

Madam Speaker too many children have died on their way to and from school in public passenger vehicles. Additionally, they are harassed, preyed upon, endangered and many have been subjected to “lap up” in buses or be left on the road while seeking transportation to and from schools.

This government, Madam Speaker, will be rolling out phase two of the dedicated rural school bus system to minimize the misery index of our rural students and enhance their safety during daily commute. The continued roll out is scheduled for the start of the new school year and will see dedicated school buses being provided to approximately 258 of the over 850 rural schools, which is just about 30% of the total rural population. A drop in the bucket really, Madam Speaker; but we are on a mission!

So, phase one is already under way in Clarendon, St. Thomas, and St. Catherine; and phase two will see 100 fully refurbished buses, retrofitted to enhance safety,

being deployed across parishes - with 60 buses deployed in September 2025 and another 40 buses by January 2026.

Madam Speaker, I want to make it abundantly clear – the government is not competing with the rural taxi operators; we are only making it easier, **SAFER AND more SECURE** for **OUR** students to be transported to and from school. Their wellbeing is no competition Madam Speaker; we simply **MUST** safeguard our future. The buses provided will be **only for students. They will not carry other passengers; therefore, it is not a threat to the economic livelihood of transport operators.**

Already, the impact has been felt — even one school in Portland has seen remarkable benefits. Now, imagine what 100 buses across all parishes will mean:

efficient, reliable, safe, comfortable, and affordable transport for our students and most importantly, peace of mind for parents and caregivers, after decades of suffering!

It is very disappointing that some individuals, who know themselves, have expressed negativity and even wish failure upon the school bus programme for political gain. Madam Speaker, this is just “Simply BADMIND!” When they had the chance to make a meaningful impact and provide a solution to this challenge Madam Speaker, nothing was done. Now that we are taking Action... It is a little too late for the bagga mouth. The Rural School Bus System is happening.

To be clear — as Minister, and Member of Parliament representing a Rural constituency, I remain fully committed to the development of rural Jamaica.



September Morning (2025), this vision will become a reality and mark a new day for our students. We will be rolling out buses, on top of buses and more buses and buses and buses. Madam Speaker, prior to the rollout of these buses, driver vetting and training will be conducted by the JUTC in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Madam Speaker, the rural school bus system will not only tackle the social and physical issues plaguing rural students across Jamaica, but it will also have a fiscal impact on the lives of parents and students in rural communities. These buses are being purchased because of the sound management of our tax dollars. Subsidized fares for rural students will be between **\$30 and \$50** per trip. This will mean fares of approximately **\$60 to \$100** per day. Let's do some math Madam Speaker; when compared to the current fares of **\$150 to \$300 per trip or \$300 to \$600** per day the savings will be massive.

This Government, through many different avenues, continues to put more monies back into the pockets of Jamaican citizens. So, to rural parents across Jamaica, your weekly transport expenses to and from school will be reduced from **\$3000** per week, per child, to approximately **\$500** per week per child. That is an **83%** reduction Madam Speaker and No Politician, No Member of Parliament and No Jamaican should ever BADMIND a system that can do that for the Rural families across Jamaica.

And we know that some families have more than one child going to school; so, a mother of two will save approximately **\$20,000** per month or approximately **\$60,000** per term by using the rural school bus system for her children. For the school year, that is **\$180,000**, and that gives us **180,000** reasons to ensure that despite what people will say about the buses, we will not allow the negativity and pessimism of the Opposition to cause this Rural School Bus system to be delayed.

Madam Speaker, I won't advise them on how to spend the savings that will come from the rural bus system, whether it is a ProBox or saving for some other aspiration; what is undoubtable is that we are making a tangible impact on the cost of living for Rural families across Jamaica.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

So far, working with the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, the current route mapping has been underway. Going forward, the Ministry will initiate consultations with all Members of Parliament, region by region, to determine the most effective routes, schools to be served, and designated loading zones. This step is critically important to ensure that the programme is responsive, inclusive, and successful—delivering real impact for the future of our students in rural Jamaica.

Integration of Functions and Operations Montego Bay Metro

Madam Speaker, the Cabinet approved the integration of functions of the Montego Bay Metro (MBM) into the JUTC effective April 1, 2025. This means that as part of the transition, MBM will be subsumed as a designated depot within the JUTC network, operating under the company's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The integration of the functions and operations of MBM into JUTC is a strategic move to strengthen operational efficiency, enhance accountability, and optimize scheduling, routing, and fleet utilization—ultimately delivering a higher standard of public transportation service.

The expanded service will be structured to meet the increasing transportation needs of key economic sectors, including

tourism, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), construction, and general service industries, as well as school communities.

To support this objective, an additional ten buses have been earmarked for the Montego Bay Depot, serving commuters across the key western parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James, Trelawny, St. Ann and St. Elizabeth.

Madam Speaker, a dedicated City Bus Shuttle Service will also be introduced in Montego Bay, providing reliable and efficient connections between key locations.

Jamaica Urban Transit Company Ltd (JUTC)

Madam Speaker, over the past year, JUTC has taken decisive steps to improve efficiency, ease commuter experience,



accessibility and affordability. Accordingly, all the buses are already on the ship that means that in June 2025 (next month), 100 new buses, 70 CNG-powered and 30 diesel coaches—will be delivered. It is important to note Madam Speaker, that 10% of these buses will be specially made for the disabled community. Additionally, 46 midlife buses (16 Golden Dragon 9M and 30 Volvo diesel articulated) buses are being refurbished at a cost of US\$193.2M and US\$10M, respectively. Thank you, Minister Fayval Williams and Former Minister Nigel Clarke, for these buses as well as the 100 school buses.

Preparing for Fleet Growth and New Routes

Madam Speaker, the articulated bus refurbishment program is underway. The first engineering prototype bus will be completed and rolled out at the end of May. The parts were ordered for the next 10 buses, so work can begin on the next five buses which we anticipate, Madam Speaker, to be completed by the beginning of August, after which five buses will be worked on at a time for delivery every two months.

In anticipation of 100 new buses and the refurbishment of 46 existing ones, JUTC has commenced research and planning for express and regular services to areas such as Ocho Rios, Montego Bay, Mandeville and Port Antonio, essentially expanding inter-parish access and reliability.

Expansion of JUTC Bus Services to Key Locations.

As part of the Government's commitment to improving public transportation access, the JUTC has launched new services in underserved communities in urban and rural areas like Morant Bay, Yallahs, May Pen and Old Harbour. Premium and peak-hour routes have also been added to support workers, students and the general travelling public.

Madam Speaker, I would like to provide an update to the house on at least one of the new routes added to the JUTC. On Thursday I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Morant Bay Urban Centre. It was a pleasure to see the development taking place in St Thomas and I was humbled to be a part of the Government that was bringing new life to St Thomas.

Without a doubt, the Ministry will be adding to this development. 10 Schools within the parish of St Thomas are set to benefit from the Rural School Bus System with the allocation of 7 buses to the parish.

Additionally Madam Speaker, the recently added 701 and 702 routes implemented by the JUTC to serve the commuters of St Thomas are a resounding success. The 701 Bus Route, which travels from Downtown Kingston to Yallahs and back has transported **51,061 passengers** between December 2024 and April 2025.

The 702 Bus route Madam Speaker, travelling from Downtown Kingston to Morant Bay and back has served **53,955 passengers** between December 2024 and April 2025. Cumulatively, a total of **105,056 passengers** to and from St Thomas have benefitted from this service.

Introduction of a Range-Extender Electric Vehicle (RE-EV)

In April 2025, the JUTC began testing its first **Range-Extender Electric Vehicle (RE-EV)** — a hybrid model that combines battery-electric propulsion with a small onboard generator to extend range and flexibility. Key features of the RE-EV:

- Travels over 1,500 km before refueling
- Can operate for up to three months before needing full recharge

- Zero tailpipe emissions, aligning with national climate goals

If proven successful, this technology will further reduce operating costs, eliminate range limitations, and open new possibilities for fleet-wide electrification, especially on long-haul or high-frequency routes. Madam Speaker, these initiatives align with Jamaica's sustainability goals and will reduce operational expenses.

Improved Customer Service and Commuter Experience

Madam Speaker, beyond fleet expansion, the JUTC is prioritizing customer satisfaction by enhancing service quality with customer service training, real-time tracking via digital tools, and stronger supervision, thereby creating a more commuter-friendly environment where passengers feel valued and respected.



To keep public transportation accessible, particularly for low-income earners, the Government has approved fare reductions. This measure will ease financial pressure on commuters, increase ridership and promote equitable access to transport services.

Strengthening Safety and Security

Madam Speaker, passenger safety and enhancing public confidence in the transit system remain top priority. JUTC has strengthened safety by increasing security presence, installing CCTV cameras, and enforcing protocols to ensure a safe travel environment.

As part of the Government's commitment to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, strides are being made by JUTC to modernize its fleet and reduce reliance on costly and carbon-intensive diesel fuel. Of the 250 buses deployed daily, the JUTC now operates:

- **127 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses**
- **6 Battery-Electric Buses (BEB) and**
- **1 Range-Extender Electric Vehicle (RE-EV)**

This means that **53.6%** of JUTC's operable fleet now runs on cleaner, low-emission technologies. This shift, which began in earnest in September 2024, has yielded significant cost savings and environmental benefits, lowering carbon emissions in alignment with Jamaica's broader sustainability goals. The average monthly

fuel cost per diesel bus is **\$1.07 million**, compared to **\$0.35M** per CNG bus.

As more CNG buses were integrated, the average fuel cost per bus fell from **\$660,000** in October 2024 to **\$520,000** by April 2025. The total savings over the seven-month period: over **\$485** million spent on diesel vs. **\$301** million on CNG, clearly demonstrates the cost advantage of clean fuel technologies.

Madam Speaker, steps are not only being taken to reduce operational costs, but in a bid to protect company assets, a joint operation between the JUTC and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has led to multiple arrests and seizures, which have resulted in tangible outcomes, such as a significant reduction in fuel deliveries to the Spanish Town Depot following the January crackdown. Fuel loads fell from **8 loads (254,576L) in December 2024**, and **7 loads (222,754L) in January 2025**, to just **1 load (31,822L) in February 2025**. Imagine that Madam Speaker!

Since then, deliveries have stabilized at **4 loads (127,288L) per month** in March and April 2025. This is attributable directly to the disruption of theft operations. This, Madam Speaker is a saving for the JUTC and extension the government of over **26 million dollars**.

Madam Speaker, we have heard the calls for accountability, we have seen some of the evidence, as such, the Ministry is taking the requisite steps to have a

forensic audit of the entity undertaken this year, as we seek to have a more efficient and sustainable operation of the JUTC.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

THE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA (AAJ)

Madam Speaker, a significant milestone in 2024 for the Government, through the Airports Authority, was the launch of American Airlines' scheduled service to Ian Fleming International Airport (IFIA).

What started in February as twice-weekly flights, now facilitates expanded service to daily flights by December 2024. IFIA welcomed 19,414 passengers in 2024, with projections of 25,500 in 2025, and 50,000 by 2028. Discussions are underway to attract additional airlines, further boosting IFIA's connectivity and capacity.

Major Capital Investment in Aviation Infrastructure

Our airports are critical drivers of Jamaica's economic growth, and sustained, strategic investment is essential to expanding tourism, facilitating trade, and strengthening global connectivity. Between 2025 and 2029, a total of **US\$372 million (J\$61 billion)** is earmarked for capital investment, with AAJ's Direct Investment in FY 2025/26 accounting for **US\$53 million (J\$9 billion)**, and MBI & PACKAL Combined Investment between 2025-2029 accounting for **US\$233 million**

Additionally, the AAJ is investing in critical shoreline protection for NMIA and Port Royal Road, with a **J\$658M** seawall project to mitigate hurricane-related damages. The AAJ is actively pursuing several strategic airport projects, namely:

- **Lionel Densham Aerodrome at a cost of (US\$2.9M)** – Upgrading facilities
- **Holland Bamboo Airstrip** – Reactivation for tourism and regional connectivity
- **Ken Jones Aerodrome** – Assessing expansion potential

In alignment with the Prime Minister's 2023 budget announcement, the AAJ is progressing with:

- **Tinson Pen Relocation to NMIA** – Studies underway, with conclusions expected by June 2025
- **Negril Airport Development (US\$39M initial investment, US\$460M total)** – A Public-Private Partnership model is being explored to establish an international airport at Little London, Westmoreland.

Madam Speaker, the Airports Authority of Jamaica stands resolute in shaping the future of air travel – strengthening infrastructure, building resilience, and unlocking opportunities for economic and national development.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

Madam speaker, key developments within the Transport Authority reflect the Government's continued commitment to modernizing Jamaica's transport infrastructure, strengthening our regulatory framework and building a more efficient, safe, and responsive public transport system.

Amended Transport Authority Regulations

As we take steps to improve the regulatory framework, amendments to Transport Authority Regulations have become a necessity. Hence, the new Transport Authority (Amendment) Regulations 2025 incorporates the following provisions, among others:

- A new offence – is being created prohibiting public passenger vehicles from stopping, setting down, soliciting and picking up passengers at gas stations, restricting them to using only designated PPV STOPS, thus reducing congestion and disorder in the public space.
- Under the Regulations, the Transport Authority will be empowered to establish and maintain a PPV Driver's Register that monitors the conduct of drivers of public passenger vehicles to ensure that they satisfy the fit and proper criteria.
- The Transport Authority will be empowered to conduct a yearly inspection of all licensed stage carriages and express carriages as to

their suitability to carry passengers and grant the owners of licensed stage carriages and express carriages an annual licence permit in the prescribed form upon payment of the prescribed fee.

Madam Speaker, a person who contravenes any of these requirements commits an offence, and is likely to be penalized, in accordance with the regulations.

Madam Speaker, keeping in the vein of changes, the Authority has taken steps to enhance operational efficiency through online licensing. This means that with the introduction of the Transport Authority Advanced Management System (TAAIMS), customers can now apply for and receive Licences online – reducing congestion, increasing convenience, enhancing operational efficiency and **LOWERING THE MISERY INDEX** of our citizens.

Parking Solutions for PPV Operators

Inadequate Taxi Car Parks, Transport Centres and terminal facilities Madam Speaker has always been a challenge for the public passenger transport sector. We recognize this as an issue and are working with all our partners to bring relief to this particular area. I wish to inform you of some solutions currently being developed.

- **Discovery Bay:** The Transport Authority has partnered with the St. Ann

Municipal Corporation to construct a Taxi Car Park in Discovery Bay for the Taxi Operators plying the routes: Discovery Bay to Falmouth, Discovery Bay to Brown's Town, Discovery Bay to Runaway Bay, Discovery Bay to Farm Town, Discovery Bay to Saint Ann's Bay and surrounding areas. The facility will serve as the main terminal point for 253 taxis operating in that area.

- **Downtown Kingston:** The KSAMC has agreed with the Transport Authority to convert the South Parade Car Park into a Taxi Car Park. This new taxi car park will be the terminal point for four route taxi routes. The facility will help in alleviating the chronic traffic congestion in downtown Kingston. Some amount of retrofitting is required, and the authorities are working collaboratively to identify sources of funding.

Ride Hailing

The issues surrounding the matter of ride hailing services in Jamaica remain on the radar of this Government.

Madam Speaker, in January 2025, Cabinet gave approval for the development of the National Ride-Hailing Policy to establish the regulatory framework for the operation of ride-hailing services in Jamaica. As per the policy development process, work is now ongoing to prepare the Policy document.

A Steering Committee is being established to provide oversight to the development of the Policy. Work is underway to advance the Policy to the Green Paper stage of the policy process within the next three months; at which time, pending Cabinet Approval for tabling in Parliament as a Green Paper, the general public will be invited to provide feedback. The Ministry will ensure that the draft Policy is exposed to the scrutiny of the public, as all efforts are now being made to have it approved and promulgated by the end of this fiscal year (March 31, 2026).

Notwithstanding the policy being in the development stage, all operators of vehicles offering rides to the public for a fee are subject to the regulations of the Transport Authority in accordance with the law.

Madam Speaker, at the start of this process it was painstaking to get all stakeholders and all the Ride-Hailing companies to the table. But through decisive action and cooperation, we now have most Ride-Hailing companies operating within Jamaica at the table, and following set guidelines, provided by the Transport Authority and the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Madam Speaker, this Government promised a better Jamaica. Commitment made; Commitment fulfilled.

ISLAND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Advancing Road Safety, Service Efficiency, and Digital Transformation

The mandate of the ITA remains clear—**to enhance road safety, improve service delivery, and drive digital transformation within Jamaica's transport sector.**

Madam Speaker, as announced by the Prime Minister, the Certificate of Fitness and vehicle registration processes will be amended. The changes will reflect that new vehicles will receive five-year certificates; vehicles under 10 years will get three-year certificates; and vehicles over 10 years will remain as one-year renewals.

To enable these reforms, both legislative amendments and technology upgrades are required. The Ministry, working with the inter-agency working group, is preparing amendments to facilitate registration periods of up to two years for private motor vehicles.

Madam Speaker, in alignment with the

Prime Minister's mandate to modernize government operations, the Ministry is actively streamlining processes, cutting bureaucratic delays, and enhancing service delivery to ensure a more efficient and customer-focused public sector. This move, Madam Speaker, will revolutionize the vehicle registration process across Jamaica, reducing hours spent in queues and tax offices and improving productivity in other areas.

This process is far advanced with the full rollout expected in **July 2025**. Even more exciting, Madam Speaker, is that with these announced changes, the necessary steps are being taken to have the new arrangements and offerings fully available online!

Yes, Madam Speaker, so plans are underway to do away with the stickers on our windshields in a phased approach, and having these available online, both for use and for verification purposes by the necessary authorities.

CONCLUSION

Madam Speaker, as I close, let it be known that this Ministry and Government is not merely charting a course—we are blazing a trail. We are laying the foundation for a future where every Jamaican has access to the power of technology, the security of sustainable energy and science, the promise of seamless connectivity, and the freedom of reliable, modern transport.

This is not just about infrastructure—it is about impact. It is not just about innovation—it is about inclusion. And it is not just about development, it is about delivering

transformation that touches every corner of this country and every life within it.

So, to the people of Jamaica, I say this: the Government is not waiting for the future to happen. We are building it—boldly, deliberately, and together.

Madam Speaker, the work continues, and the mission is clear: **“Innovating for a Sustainable Future: Advancing Science, Energy, Telecommunications, and Transport.”**