

JUST Programme gets \$125 Million

Latonya Linton

JIS

A sum of \$125.08 million has been allocated for initiatives under the Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST) programme.

The amount is provided in the 2016/17 Estimates of Expenditure, now before the House of Representatives.

The project seeks to improve the service delivery and management capacity of justice sector institutions; improve the capacity of Ministries, Department and Agencies to coordinate and streamline the process of developing legislation; and to improve the capacity of citizens and civil society organisations to participate in justice reform and promote public order.

So far the programme has developed a citizen scorecard and conducted island-wide survey; prepared a prosecutors manual and document on standards of professional conduct; reviewed the roles and functions of Justices of the Peace as Lay Magistrates; and conducted preliminary work on the social component of justice.

Other achievements include: commencing the review of the communication system in the Justice Sector; drafting of legislation to reform the justice system; reforming the legislative policy; and developing and implementing monitoring and coordination mechanisms for the justice sector, including justice reform subprojects and initiatives.

Targets for the 2016/17 financial year include the procurement of Information and Communications Technology equipment for the following – Ministry of Justice; Legal Reform Department; Attorney General’s Chambers; Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; Office of the Parliamentary Counsel; and the Courts.

Other targets include developing and implementing training and professional development programmes for personnel from the following – Ministry of Justice; Legal Reform Department; Attorney General’s Chambers; Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions; and the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

The project is being funded by the Government of Jamaica and Global Affairs Canada.

Legislation for digital society

The Observer



Energy, Science and Technology Minister, Dr Andrew Wheatley (right), having a light exchange with (from left): Deputy Group Managing Director for National Commercial Bank (NCB), Dennis Cohen and Group Managing Director, of NCB, Patrick Hylton, at

the NCB Digital Symposium, held at the Terra Nova All Suite Hotel, in Kingston, on April 20.

KINGSTON, Jamaica (JIS) – Energy, Science and Technology Minister, Dr Andrew Wheatley, says several pieces of legislation are in the offing to transform Jamaica into a digital society.

They include legislation to facilitate the development of the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, protection of data for increased online transactions and cyber security.

“These areas are key to maximizing the use of information and knowledge as a catalyst for growth and economic development,” said Wheatley.

The minister was speaking at the inaugural National Commercial Bank (NCB) Digital Symposium, held at the Terra Nova All Suite Hotel, in Kingston, on April 20.

Wheatley informed that within his Ministry are several plans, which seek to get more people involved in ICT, for example applications development.

“Specifically, through app development, we are hoping to develop businesses and pursue entrepreneurial endeavours,” he said, pointing to the recent staging of the KingstOOOn Animation Festival.

More than 900 animators and creators participated in the festival.

The Minister also acknowledged the importance of technology to government services and procedures, in order to improve governance structures.

They include rationalization of government in e-business and the establishment of ICT capital and planning policies.

Meanwhile, Group Managing Director of NCB, Patrick Hylton, said the staging of the Symposium was orchestrated to foster an “ecosystem of collaboration between established Caribbean companies and digital technology companies, in order to drive greater innovation and growth across the Caribbean.”

Acknowledging the steps his company has made to innovate, such as the establishment of smarter automated banking machines (ABMs) and the opening of online accounts, Hylton emphasized the importance of innovation.

“We have to change, because our customers have changed,” he emphasised.

Panel discussions on the benefits and implications for the region’s economy and other sectors were held.

Gov’t to review laws affecting Rastas

BY BALFORD HENRY

The Observer



Prime Minister Andrew Holness (centre), Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia ‘Babsy’ Grange (fourth right), Transport and Mining Minister Mike Henry (third left) and Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Elaine Foster Allen (left) with members of the

Rastafari Millennium Council following a meeting at Jamaica House on Tuesday. Photo: OPM

PRIME Minister Andrew Holness has undertaken to have the Cabinet review the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and its implications for the Jamaican Rastafari community.

Holness gave the undertaking at a Jamaica House meeting with a delegation from the Rastafari Millennium Council (RMC), who visited him Tuesday on the eve of today’s 50th anniversary of the historic visit to Jamaica of the late Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie in 1966.

The 10-member team of Rastafarians, including reggae star Bunny 'Wailer Livingstone, former Columbia Records executive Maxine Stowe, and attorney-at-law Hannah Harris Barrington, met Prime Minister Holness, and Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia 'Babsy' Grange inside the courtesy room at Jamaica House.

Barrington, who was born in England of Jamaican parentage, pleaded for the prime minister's support of the RMC's efforts to get parliamentary acknowledgement of the UN 2007 declaration and its implications for the Rastafari community in Jamaica.

Holness admitted that he admired the resistance of Rastafarians to oppression as well as their regard for human rights.

"I admire and indeed support the move to seek to clothe this in some kind of legal framework, to protect the rights of our people. I will take a very close look at what you have presented here in seeking ratification of the UN declaration, and will have the government move as quickly as possible on it, providing that there are no unseen obstacles," the prime minister told the group.

In response to pleas from Stowe for greater protection for the use of Jamaica's ganja as an international product, and to ensure greater flow of benefits from Jamaican music from the international record companies, Holness confirmed that the new Administration has been looking at the issue of legalisation of ganja, and the use of the drug locally and how the country can fully exploit its benefits.

"We have set up a sub-committee (of the Cabinet) to take a very close and detailed look at the present legislation, which actually promises more than it delivers," Holness said.

He stated that a lot of people were under the impression that the legislation delivers free use and trade of the drug, but that was not the case.

"Indeed, it does not necessarily address the potential for the exploitation of the people who for years have suffered under the old regime and probably will not benefit. So, we are very sensitive

to that and that committee is being chaired by Minister (Mike) Henry,” he informed the delegation.

American held with US\$100k at Sangster Airport pleads guilty

The Observer



ST JAMES, Jamaica — A United States resident who appeared in the Montego Bay Resident Magistrate’s Court yesterday to answer to money laundering charges has entered a guilty plea.

He is 35-year-old Dalton Forrester of Brooklyn, New York.

Reports are that on Saturday, April 9, Forrester arrived in Jamaica from New York City. He was in the process of clearing customs when irregularities were detected. A search of his luggage revealed a total of US\$101,378 concealed in his luggage and on his person. Forrester was unable to provide a satisfactory account for the cash.

Further investigations by C-TOC and the Financial Investigation Division (FID) revealed that Forrester was operating as a courier, transporting the proceeds, illicitly gained through lottery scamming.

He pleaded guilty to the following charges:

Cross Border Movements of Funds

Bringing into Jamaica Criminal Property and

Possession of Criminal Property

He will be sentenced on Tuesday, May 2.

Man in ackee murder case denied bail

The Observer



THE man who allegedly chopped another to death in front of his two young sons, following a dispute over ackees, was refused bail when he appeared in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court yesterday.

David Burke was allegedly chopped to death by the accused, Rosyiade Cunningham, and two other men, after Burke reportedly saw Cunningham picking his ackees and told him to stop.

Allegations are that about 8:00 am on February 5, Burke, a 35-year-old woodcarver, and his two sons were at home at South Road in Kencot, Kingston 5, when he had an argument with Cunningham whom he had allegedly seen picking his ackees.

Cunningham reportedly left and returned with two other men and proceeded to chop the complainant with machetes in the presence of the two boys.

Burke who received chop wounds on the left side of his head, shoulder and other parts of his body was rushed to Kingston Public Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Cunningham was later arrested and charged but his alleged accomplices are still on the run.

Yesterday, when the case was mentioned, Attorney Patrick Peterkin asked Parish Judge Simon Maddix to consider granting his client bail.

But the prosecutor told the judge that the police were opposed to bail based on the fact that the two witnesses are children and fears for their safety if the accused is granted bail, and also the fact that two other suspects are still at large.

Parish Judge Ellis subsequently upheld the police's objection and denied Cunningham bail.

— Tanesha Mundle

Hanover students to face court on sex charge

The Observer



MCCARTHY ... in recent times, the police have seen an increase in minors posting sexual activities on the Internet.

A number of students attending a high school in Hanover are to appear in the Lucea Family Court later this month for a sexually explicit offence committed in January.

The students, a female included, whose names have been withheld by the police, were taken into custody earlier this month and charged.

Community Safety and Security Territorial Officer for Hanover, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ainsley McCarthy, told the **Jamaica Observer West** that a video of the sexually explicit activity was circulated on social media.

The location where the incident took place is yet to be ascertained, but the police say they are continuing their investigations in order to determine the location.

According to DSP McCarthy, in recent times the police have seen an increase in minors posting sexual activities on the Internet.

“The use of social media for the transmission of sexually explicit material is one of the things that we [police] are seeing students doing now, and it is an offence for any person who transmits it. So, if somebody sends it to your phone and you in turn forward it to another phone, you are guilty of an offence for forwarding the sexually explicit material. And we see that happening on a wide basis, especially among our school children,” he explained.

June 14 For Security Guard Cocaine Trial

The Gleaner

WESTERN BUREAU:

The trial of the two St James men who were arrested after 66 kilograms of cocaine that was allegedly found inside the security vehicle in which they were travelling, in 2013, has once again been deferred to a later date.

Owen Glaze and Andrew Brown, who are slated to stand trial on charges of possession of, dealing in, taking steps to export, and trafficking cocaine, had their bails extended until June 14 following their most recent appearance in the Montego Bay Resident Magistrate's Court on Wednesday.

When the case was mentioned before Presiding Magistrate Natalie Hart-Hines, it was put off to the next court date at the request of the defendants' attorneys.

Previously, the trial was expected to start on Monday, April 18, but it had been deferred due to the absence of one of the defence lawyers, who was engaged in another matter in the St James Circuit Court at that time.

Seven witnesses are expected to give testimony for the prosecution once the trial gets under way.

THREE YEARS AGO

Glaze and Brown were arrested on April 20, 2013 by members of the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency, the Transnational Crime and Narcotics Division, and the Jamaica Defence Force during an operation along the Mount Carey main road in St James.

It is alleged that during the police operation, the defendants' vehicle was stopped and searched and cocaine valued at approximately J\$264 million found. Glaze and Brown were subsequently arrested and charged.

- C.T.

US man fakes disappearance to escape child-porn charges

The Observer



GEORGIA, United States (AP) — A missing kayaker who was the focus of a two-day air and sea search off the Georgia coast staged his disappearance to escape prosecution on charges that he sought sex with a child, authorities said Wednesday.

Cody Magee, 38, of Savannah was being held Wednesday in Oklahoma City on an arrest warrant issued roughly 1,000 miles away after he missed a Monday court hearing in Georgia, said Savannah-Chatham County police spokesman Sonny Cohrs. His wife filed a missing person report after he disappeared Sunday night, Cohrs said.

"He was supposedly going kayaking and was supposed to be gone for an hour," Cohrs said. "He never came back."

The Coast Guard launched a two-day search for Magee around Tybee Island, a beach community 18 miles east of Savannah, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Anthony Soto. Crews covered more than 2,500 square miles before the search was called off Tuesday night, Soto said.

A few hours before midnight Tuesday, a police officer in Oklahoma City pulled Magee over after a routine license plate check showed he had been reported missing, said Oklahoma City police Sgt Gary Knight. Police found a handgun and rifle in his car, Knight said.

Magee talked with the officer and was taken to a hospital, Knight said, though he declined to say why. Savannah police said in a news release that Magee was "considered a danger to himself." Georgia authorities were working to extradite Magee, who faces charges of child pornography and attempted child molestation in Effingham County west of Savannah.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Magee last June after undercover investigators posing online as a young teenager lured him to a home, said Sgt Don White of the Effingham County Sheriff's Office.

"He was chatting with what he thought was a 14-year-old girl," White said. "He wanted to act out some rape fantasies with her."

Magee shared images of child pornography during the online exchanges with undercover investigators, White said. During the arrest, he said, deputies found a handgun in Magee's pocket.

Stuart Patray, identified by the public defender's office for the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit as Magee's lawyer, didn't return a phone call Wednesday.

It wasn't known Wednesday if Magee would face additional charges for faking his disappearance, Cohrs said.

The Coast Guard deployed an 87-foot cutter, two smaller boats and five aircraft to search for Magee after he was reported missing, Soto said, though he didn't know how much the search cost. The search was suspended Tuesday night after investigators learned his disappearance was a possible hoax, the Coast Guard said in a news release.

Soto said he didn't know what tipped off investigators. But the search stopped roughly three hours before Magee was pulled over in Oklahoma.

The End