

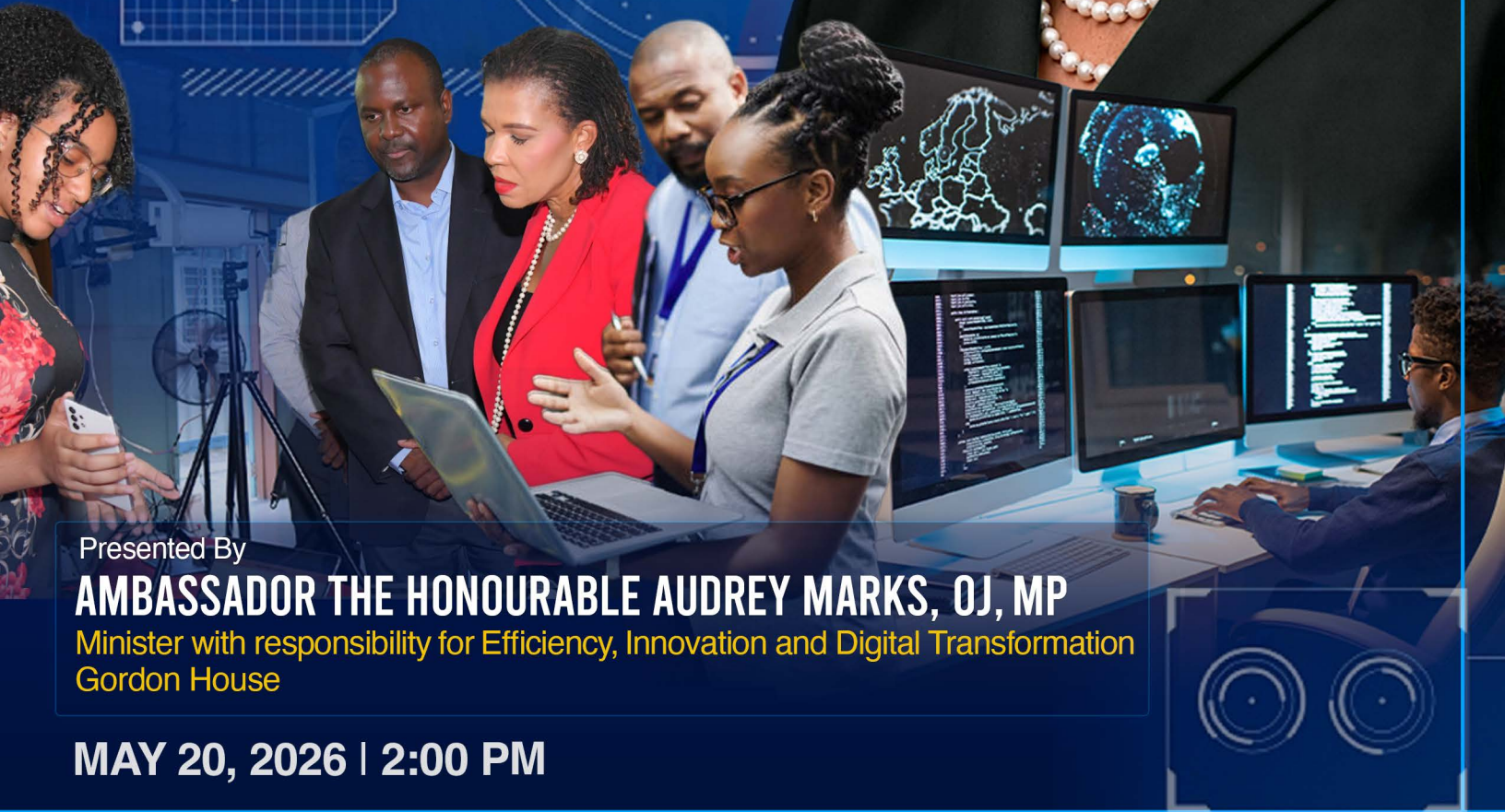


Government of Jamaica

SECTORAL PRESENTATION

FROM RESILIENCE TO RESURGENCE

BUILDING A FASTER, SMARTER, AND MORE CONNECTED JAMAICA



Presented By

AMBASSADOR THE HONOURABLE AUDREY MARKS, OJ, MP

Minister with responsibility for Efficiency, Innovation and Digital Transformation
Gordon House

MAY 20, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Introduction & Salutations

I rise today to make my first contribution in this Honourable House as Member of Parliament for Manchester North Eastern, and as Minister with responsibility for Efficiency, Innovation and Digital Transformation in the Office of the Prime Minister.

First, let me express my sincere appreciation to our Prime Minister, Dr. The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, for his leadership and for the confidence he has placed in me to help advance an agenda vital to Jamaica's future.

An agenda grounded in efficiency, advanced through innovation, and delivered through digital transformation made possible by the collective leadership of my Cabinet colleagues, the strategic stewardship of our ministries, departments and agencies, and the unwavering dedication of Jamaica's public servants.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking the people of Manchester North Eastern and acknowledging those who have travelled to be in the gallery today. From day one, you embraced me as family. You opened your homes. You shared your hopes, concerns, and aspirations for your communities and your children.

You chose Jamaica, and sent me to this Honourable House to serve as your Member of Parliament.



So to the people of Manchester North Eastern, it is an honour to represent you, and I will continue to serve you with dedication, humility, and purpose.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to acknowledge and recognise the Honourable Audley “Man-a-Yard” Shaw, who dedicated more than 30 years of service to the people of Manchester North Eastern and to Jamaica.

Mr. Shaw served as Member of Parliament, Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Minister of Transport and Mining, and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. His contribution to national development has been significant, and I thank him for his years of service to the Jamaican people.

I also extend my gratitude to my dedicated workers, supervisors, constituency team, trusted advisors, and the committed members of my security and transport team—an extraordinary family of service providers whose tireless sacrifices, unwavering loyalty, and relentless hard work have stood beside me every step of this journey.

Special appreciation is also extended to my Permanent Secretary, General Rocky Meade and the OPM team, to Agency Heads; Dr. Warren Vernon, Executive Director of NIRA; Mrs. Anika Shuttleworth, Chief Information Officer of the Information and Communications Technology Authority; and Mr. Lincoln Allen, Postmaster General of Jamaica Post.

Your partnership, dedication, and shared commitment to public service are instrumental in driving the modernisation of Jamaica and advancing a stronger, more resilient future for our people.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the partnership with the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Development Bank and the EU Mission for their invaluable support in advancing Jamaica’s critical efficiency initiatives. Their collaboration has played a vital role in strengthening the frameworks, financing, planning, and institutional support necessary to modernise public service delivery, improve governance, and accelerate national development.

Mr. Speaker, I extend profound gratitude to my family especially my children—who have so selflessly shared me with the people of Jamaica. Your unwavering love, patience, sacrifice, and steadfast support have been my strength through every season of public service.

I also extend sincere appreciation to my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of this Honourable House, recognising that nation-building is strongest when guided by shared purpose, constructive partnership, and our collective commitment to advancing Jamaica and the well-being of its people.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today not only as a representative for Manchester North Eastern but as a servant of the Jamaican people guided by a clear mandate to modernise how the government works, expand opportunity through technology, and ensure that progress reaches every community across Jamaica.

This moment is both an honour and a responsibility, and I am grateful for the confidence reposed in me to serve the people of Jamaica at such a pivotal moment in our nation's journey.

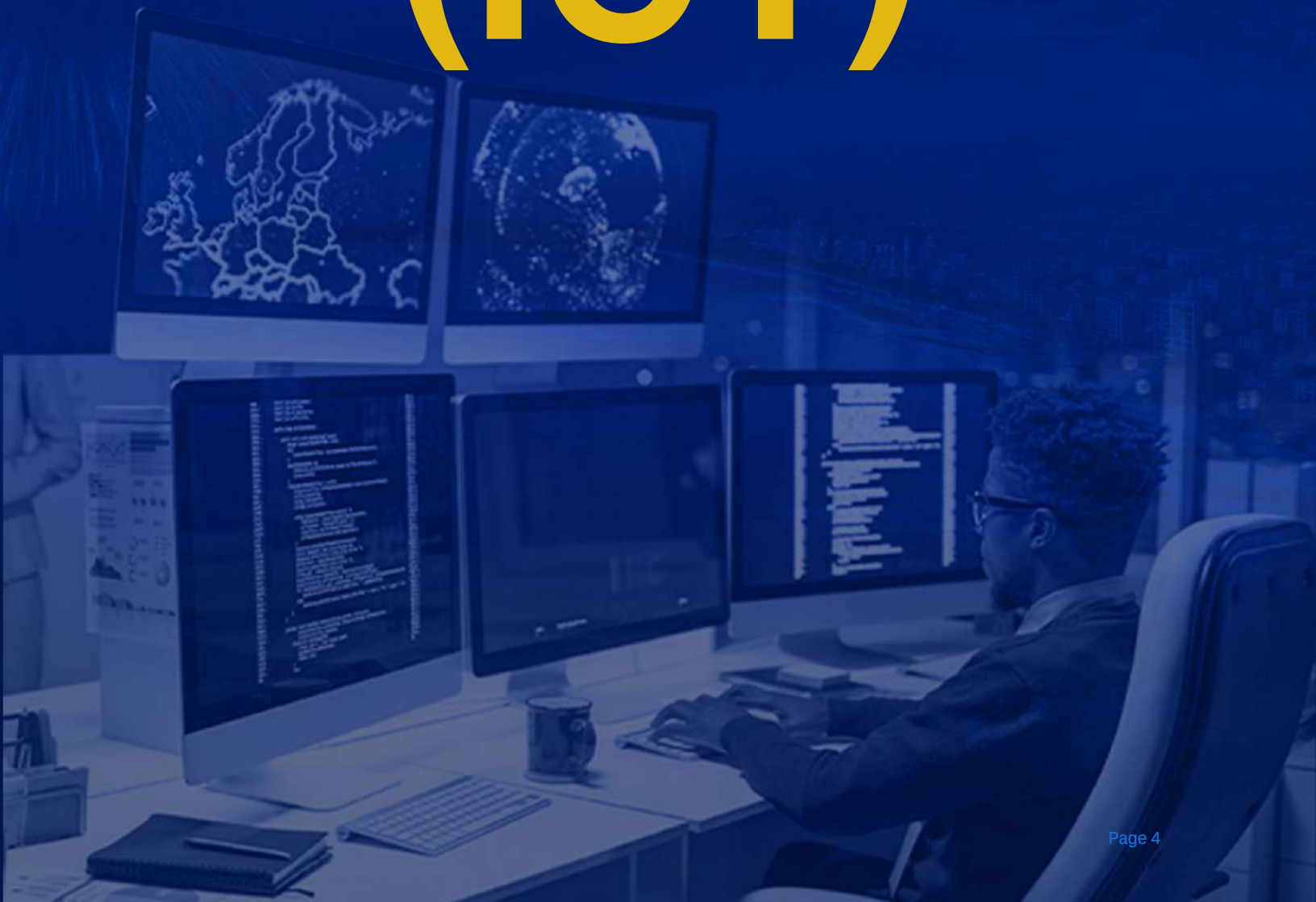
Mr. Speaker, today I will present to this Honourable House, to every Jamaican across this nation, and to our brothers and sisters throughout the Diaspora, how the Government's Streamlining Processes for Efficiency and Economic Development (SPEED) agenda is driving Jamaica beyond resilience and boldly into an era of national resurgence.

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica's transformation is no longer a matter of choice—it is an urgent national imperative. The world is evolving rapidly, and if we are to secure our place, protect our future, and unlock our full potential, we must move with speed, and unwavering determination.

Today, people expect to access services from their devices. They expect instant responses and real-time information. And they expect the process to be as simple and seamless as transferring money through online apps, shopping online, communicating instantly on WhatsApp, and streaming movies with the click of a button. After all, this is the 21st century.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY (ICT)



Nuttn Naah Gwaan? Let Me Share What a Gwaan

1.1M+

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
PROCESSED ONLINE

40,398

TAJ MOBILE APP USERS AND
GROWING

103,089

TRAFFIC WARRANTS SIGNED
ELECTRONICALLY BY JUDGES

Mr. Speaker, I can report to this Honourable House that Jamaica is rising to meet this challenge of changing times. Let me start with the work of the Information and Communications & Technology Authority (ICT Authority).

While the ICT Authority Act was passed in 2019, it was only last year, in April 2025, that the Authority was formally operationalised with a clear mandate to strengthen governance, accelerate digital transformation, and bring greater coordination to how technology is managed across Government... And we are already starting to see the results one year later.

Jamaicans often say “**nuttn naah gwaan**,” so let me share what a gwaan...

First, as was announced by the Prime Minister last year, the Electronic Motor Vehicle Registration (eMVRC) and Digital Fitness Certificates are now a reality.

Working in partnership with the then Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport (MSETT), Tax Administration Jamaica, the Island Traffic Authority, and the ICT Authority,

the Government successfully modernised Jamaica’s motor vehicle registration system by transitioning from traditional physical documents to electronic Motor Vehicle Registration and Digital Fitness Certificates—delivering greater convenience, efficiency, security, and ac-

Mr. Speaker, to date, more than 1.1 million motor vehicle registrations have already been processed online, reflecting a real and measurable impact of digital transformation. This platform goes beyond simply converting paper processes into digital ones—it is reshaping how citizens experience government service. Jamaicans now receive timely notifications whenever their certificates are nearing expiration, allowing them to stay compliant without uncertainty or last-minute stress. Renewals are also fully available online, enabling citizens to complete the process quickly and conveniently from wherever they are, without travelling to Tax Offices or standing in lines. This is a modern government in action—more efficient, to make everyday life easier for the Jamaican people.

Second, is the Tax Administration Jamaica Mobile App

Through the TAJ Mobile App, citizens are now able to complete a range of transactions directly from their devices including making tax payments and or paying for other Government-related services such as police record applications, Tax Compliance Certificate applications, Driver's License Applications, just

So far, the mobile application has already attracted more than 40,398 users and counting.

Again, Mr. Speaker — This means completing transactions from your device instead of travelling from home or office, or taking time away from work to pay taxes.

Third, is the Implementation of Digital Signature Services.

Although the Electronic Transactions Act was passed as far back as 2006, full national implementation required far more than legislation—it demanded the digital infrastructure, governance systems, security architecture, and coordinated government execution necessary to transform law into everyday reality.



A critical pillar of this transformation was the establishment of Jamaica's National Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), which this Government has now successfully implemented. This foundational system has enabled the issuance of secure electronic passports and electronic National Identification Cards, creating the trust framework required for legally recognised digital transactions.

Mr. Speaker, with this infrastructure in place to support the legislation, I was pleased to announce the full implementation of electronic signatures across Government in March 2026— 20 years after the Act was first passed... This milestone marks a historic leap forward in national digital transformation because today digital signing allows documents to be securely executed electronically. This means people and businesses can now submit and receive authenticated documents at Government Offices without relying on paper or in-person visits for a 'wet ink signature'.

So, instead of travelling from office to office, paying to print documents, making photocopies, physically stamping and certifying paperwork, Jamaicans will increasingly be able to complete important transactions electronically.

Less paper. Less waiting. Less bureaucracy. More efficiency for the Jamaican people.

Mr. Speaker, implementing the acceptance of electronic signature across government has been transformational for the Courts in their adoption of digital signing.

Since 2026, 322,364 traffic tickets have been issued so far. In 2025, 714,362 traffic tickets were issued. Some of these traffic ticket matters require a warrant to be signed and issued by a Judge.

Judges are now enabled to sign traffic ticket warrants electronically, and so far, approximately 103,089 traffic ticket warrants have been electronically signed by Judges.

Mr. Speaker, with digital signing of warrants, this means less physical movement of documents, fewer administrative delays, reduced printing and storage costs, and faster processing across the justice system.

It also means judges can review and execute documents more efficiently without being entirely dependent on physical files being delivered from one location to another. And importantly, it frees up the judges' time for other critical duties in the advancement of the justice process in Jamaica.

This is how digital transformation should work — not just digitising paperwork, but improving how the Government actually functions and delivers services to people every day.

Mr. Speaker, the public can check their own traffic ticket status using the Government's official traffic ticket digital service available at <https://trafficticketlookup.gov.jm>

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Jamaica is also working to improve digital payments and financial inclusion.



I am proud to share that the ICT Authority has successfully strengthened and modernised the Government's secure online payment gateway, PayGate—an essential advancement in Jamaica's digital transformation journey that is making government services more accessible, secure, and convenient for citizens and businesses alike.

PayGate facilitates online payments in both Jamaican and United States dollars using Visa and MasterCard and integrates with the major local commercial banks for payment processing.

During this last financial year, six government entities were added to the platform and over 1 million transactions were processed, enabling citizens to conveniently pay property tax, business taxes, motor vehicle fitness and registration fees, and other government charges through the TAJ online portal and mobile app.

The Jamaica Customs Agency use of PayGate is allowing importers and brokers to pay customs duties, import permits, licenses and certificates electronically, reducing processing times and improving the ease of doing business.

The remaining transactions were processed by the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission, Kingston Freeport Terminal Limited, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, and the Port Authority of Jamaica, demonstrating the growing adoption of digital payments across Government.

I will now pivot to this financial year and share a few priority areas for the next phase of Jamaica's digital transformation.

First, let me highlight Jamaica's Digital Document Wallet

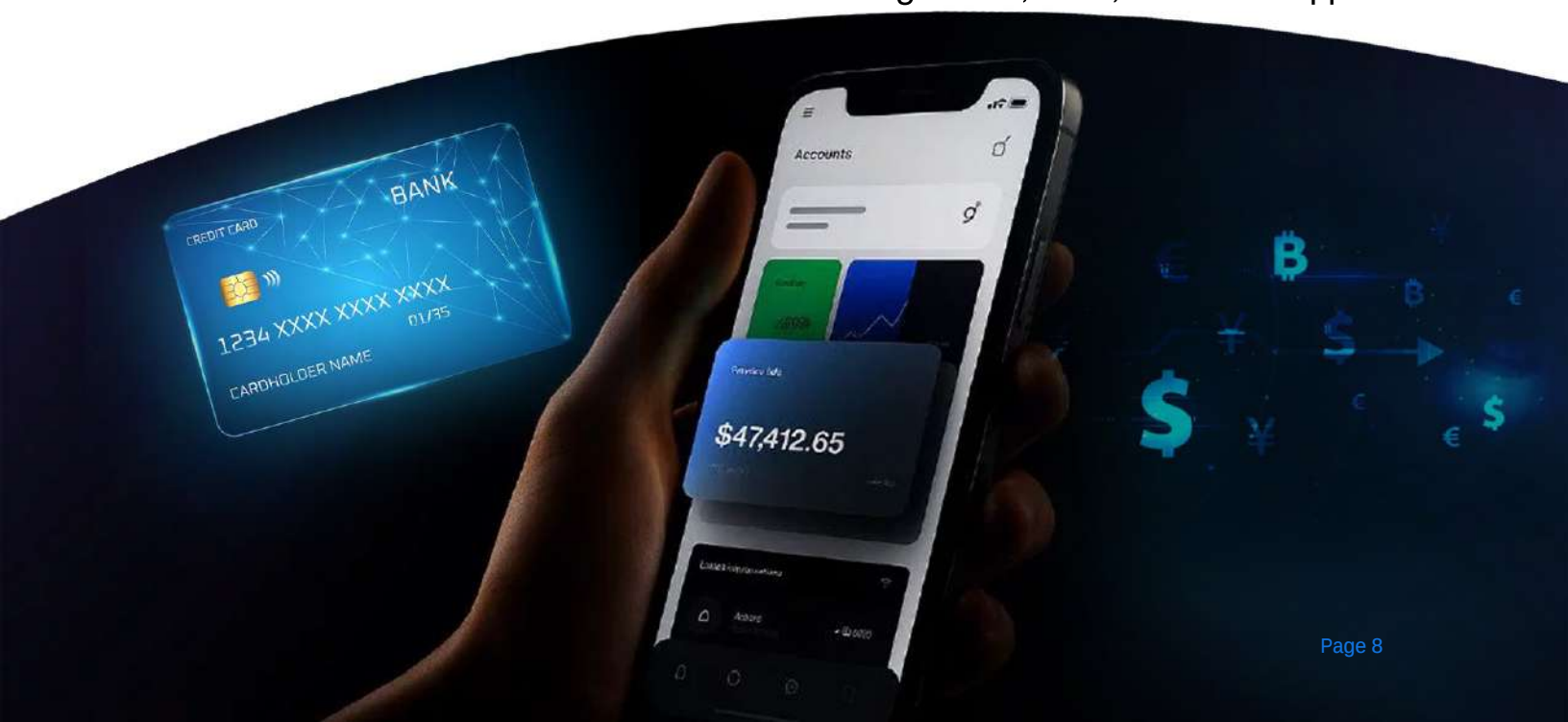
Mr. Speaker, building on the multi-agency success of the Electronic Motor Vehicle Certificates, the government will introduce a Document Wallet.

This will allow citizens to securely store and share Government-issued documents electronically - including not only their Motor Vehicle Documents, Birth Certificates, National Identification Card and any other Civic Document that they want to store in the wallet.

More Convenience and more Efficiency!

Second, is GovNotify — Integrated Government Notifications

Mr. Speaker, GovNotify will centralize Government notifications and updates through email, SMS, and WhatsApp.



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Mr. Speaker, GovNotify will centralize Government notifications and updates through email, SMS, and WhatsApp.

The people of Jamaica will be able to receive reminders for expiring passports, drivers' licences, and other important updates similar to notifications being received for motor vehicle registrations and fitness certificates.

Because — we all need reminders sometimes!

These are not isolated initiatives. They represent a deliberate shift toward a government that is more efficient. But to deliver these services seamlessly and at scale, they must be connected.



So Mr. Speaker, I am very excited to share that last month, April 2026, we implemented **The Jamaica Data Exchange Platform (JDXP)**. The JDXP, is a foundational pillar of our digital transformation agenda. **At some point, every Jamaican has had to move from office to office carrying documents, repeatedly filling out the same forms, and waiting far too long just to get business done.**

In govt., there is a very powerful force called Turf! The JDXP represents a major shift from Turf to Joined Up Government -

From data silos → To data sharing
From fragmented systems → To integrated interoperable Government
From slow manual processes → To real-time seamless services

The JDXP allows authorised government systems to exchange information electronically in a controlled and standardised way. It allows institutions to securely verify information directly at the source instead of requiring citizens to carry documents everywhere. Think of JDXP as a trusted digital bridge connecting Government agencies and businesses. Which means if you go to open a bank account, your identity can be verified in real time using your National Identification Card (NIC). Not a JP Letter, Not a reference form. No back and forth. No duplication. No delays.

And Mr. Speaker, it is my intention that opening a bank account in Jamaica should move to first world standards — where accounts can be opened in under one hour.

JDXP will make that possible and will also make possible a major new change in how business is done with the government - we are now able to introduce The Once-Only, Zero Bureaucracy Principle

Mr. Speaker, the people of Jamaica should not be required to provide the same information to the Government repeatedly. Through the Once-Only principle being powered by the Jamaica Data Exchange Platform, information provided once to the Government can now be securely shared, with consent, and reused across multiple ministries, departments, and agencies—reducing duplication, improving efficiency, and delivering a more seamless, citizen-centred public service experience.

Mr. Speaker, these initiatives represent a deliberate and structured approach to modernising public services and improving the everyday experience of the Jamaican people. The foundation has been established. The systems are being integrated. And the direction is clear.

So, Mr. Speaker — nuff tings a gwaan!

NIRA

THE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY



Mr. Speaker, I will now move to the second part of my update — the work of the National Identification and Registration Authority, NIRA.

In today's world, verifiable identity is what allows people to access jobs, banking services, healthcare, education, government services, and economic opportunity. If we are serious about reducing bureaucracy, improving efficiency, and modernising public services, then we must also modernise how identity and civil registration services are delivered.

Mr. Speaker, over the past year, NIRA has been quietly building the foundation for that transformation and we are already starting to see meaningful results.

I would like to announce today that NIRA is Jamaica's Newest Digital Twin Government Service.

NIRA is now among the first government offices in Jamaica to provide 24/7 online access to all of its essential services whether you are at home, at work, or overseas in the Diaspora.

Jamaicans can now complete urgently needed transactions online, including applications for document recovery, birth, death, identification card, renewals and marriage certificates, and many more.

These services deliver real and meaningful benefits to citizens by reducing administrative delays in critical areas such as school admissions, visa applications, bank loan approvals, insurance claims, and access to countless other essential services that Jamaicans depend on every day. This means less waiting, fewer obstacles, faster processing, and greater convenience for individuals and families seeking to improve their lives.

For businesses and institutions, these innovations create a stronger, more secure foundation for efficiency by enabling faster onboarding of employees and customers, improving identity verification, and strengthening fraud prevention measures.



Secondly, I would like to highlight NIRA's Post-Hurricane Melissa Document Recovery Programme

Mr. Speaker, disasters have a cruel way of taking from people what they cannot easily replace. When someone loses a birth certificate, marriage certificate, or deed poll, they can lose access to jobs, banking services, healthcare, education, and even Government support.

That is why NIRA operationalised a national Document Recovery Programme following Hurricane Melissa to provide rapid support to affected Jamaicans. To date, NIRA has processed 47,562 document recovery applications, helping thousands of Jamaicans rebuild their lives in the aftermath of disaster. Importantly, 856 of our most vulnerable citizens received these essential services free of cost, ensuring that compassion, dignity, and national support reached those who needed it most.

And, Mr. Speaker, recognising that hardship does not end with hurricanes alone, this vital programme has now been permanently institutionalised to support Jamaicans impacted by fires, floods, and other emergencies.

This means that in times of crisis, citizens will continue to have reliable access to critical document recovery services —strengthening national resilience and ensuring no Jamaican is left behind. Access is also available online at nira.gov.jm.

Mr. Speaker, the programme was piloted in my constituency, and now we are ready to expand to all 63 constituencies. Members of Parliament would have received an email invitation to indicate their willingness to participate in the programme.

Mr. Speaker, the National Identification Card project has also purchased Mobile Units that will be used for the Constituency Outreach programmes aimed at bringing Government services closer to the people. The mobile units will be ready in June 2026.

NIRA will partner with Members of Parliament, Councillors, Community-Based Organisations, Churches, Schools, and other bodies to bring registration and identification services to communities, so citizens won't have to travel long distances or face unnecessary inconvenience just to access identity services.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to highlight the expansion of NIRA's National Identification Card services nationally.

Over this past month, NIRA has also significantly expanded access so that Jamaicans can get a National Identification Card, beyond the Central Sorting Office on South Camp Road.

National Identification services are now being rolled out across:

1. **Montego Bay** (in Central St. James – Mr. Speaker)
2. **St. Ann's Bay** (in St. Ann North Eastern, Member Matthew Samuda)
3. **Port Antonio** (in Western Portland, Member Daryl Vaz)
4. **May Pen** (in Clarendon Central Member Williams),
5. **Santa Cruz** (in St. Elizabeth North Eastern, Member Jess)
6. **Mandeville** (in Manchester Central Member Crawford)
7. **Twickenham Park** (in St. Catherine South Central, Member Wheatley)
8. **Portmore** (in St. Catherine Southern, member Fitz Jackson) and
9. **Downtown Kingston** (in Kingston Central, Member Donovan Williams).

These locations are scheduled to be fully operational by the end of May 2026.

The Savanna-la-Mar Registrar-General's Department office was destroyed during Hurricane Melissa. Member Dwayne Vaz, in response, a new location is currently being renovated at the Savanna-la-Mar Post Office, with reopening scheduled for mid-July 2026. The new location is being configured to provide both civil registration and national identification services, as well as a modern post office banking hall.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to 'Sav', several other post offices are presently being renovated. By July 2026, the service centres at Brown's Town, Spaulding, Ocho Rios, St. Ann's Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Santa Cruz, and Montego Bay are scheduled for completion.



My neighbor, **Member from North West Clarendon – Mr. Azan**, you have witnessed firsthand the significant transformation underway at the Spaulding Post Office—an investment that, upon completion, will deliver not only a modernised postal facility but also a state-of-the-art National Identification and Registration Centre. This development will expand access to essential government services directly to the people of the constituency and surrounding communities.

NIRA Learning Centre and Professional Training



NIRA is Building National Capacity

Mr. Speaker, one of the most significant achievements of this year has been the establishment of the NIRA Learning Centre—a transformative investment in building the human capital required to power Jamaica’s modern identity and civil registration services.

Already, 229 employees are actively enrolled in the National ID Professional Course, receiving specialised training to deliver world-class identification services, while an innovative digital training programme has also been developed to strengthen the capacity of more than 1,000 Marriage Officers and Civil Registrars across Jamaica. This bold initiative is not only enhancing operational excellence today but is also building a highly skilled national workforce capable of sustaining Jamaica’s digital transformation for generations to come.

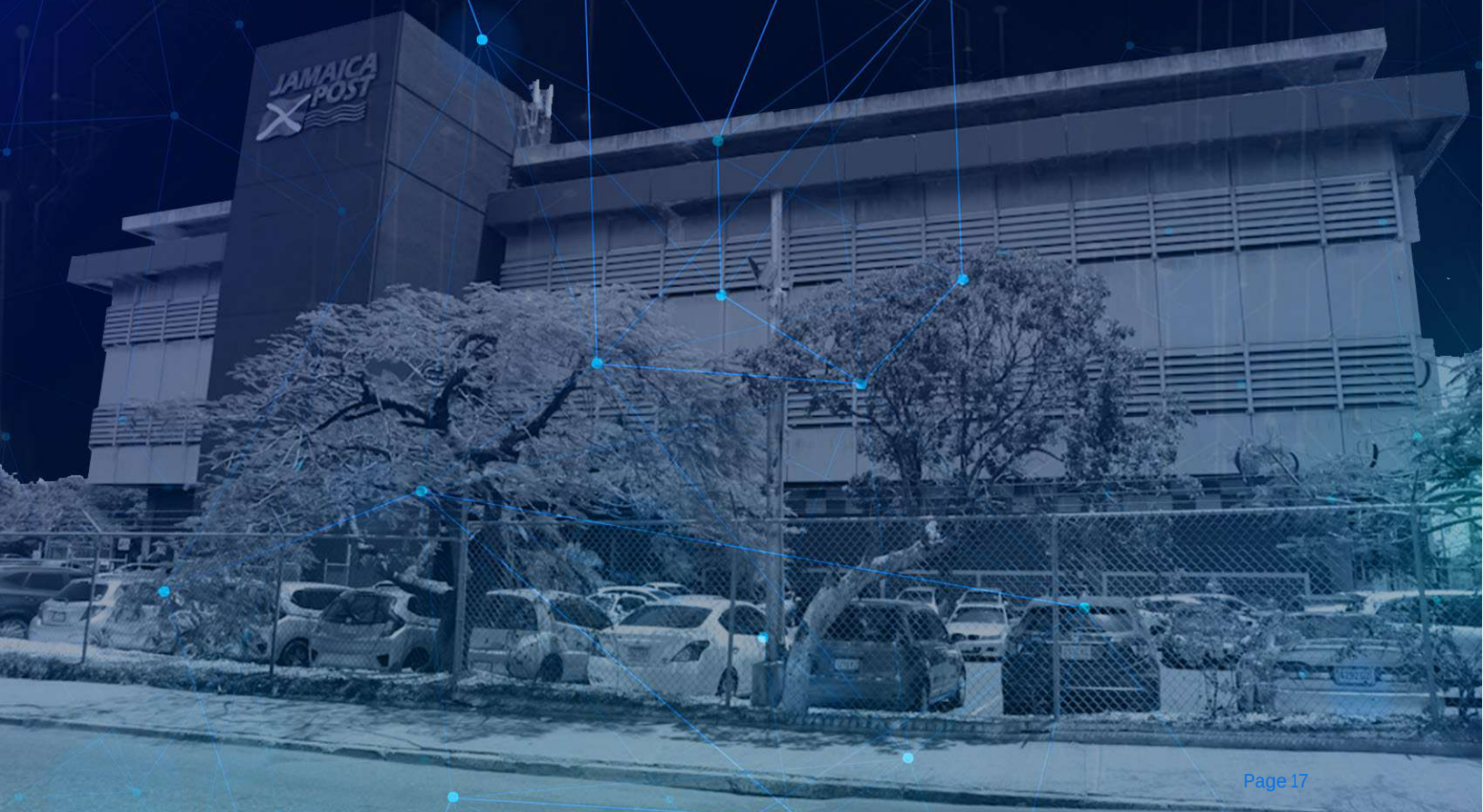
Preserving National Records:

Mr. Speaker, the Government is advancing plans for a modern National Records Storage Facility to protect and preserve Jamaica’s civil records and important public records for future generations. Mr. Speaker, national records are not just files. They are part of Jamaica’s identity.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, we reaffirm our commitment to building a Jamaica where identity unlocks opportunity, protects dignity, and strengthens national development.

Because a stronger Jamaica begins with a secure identity and a secure identity begins at NIRA... from Birth to Death.

JAMAICA POST



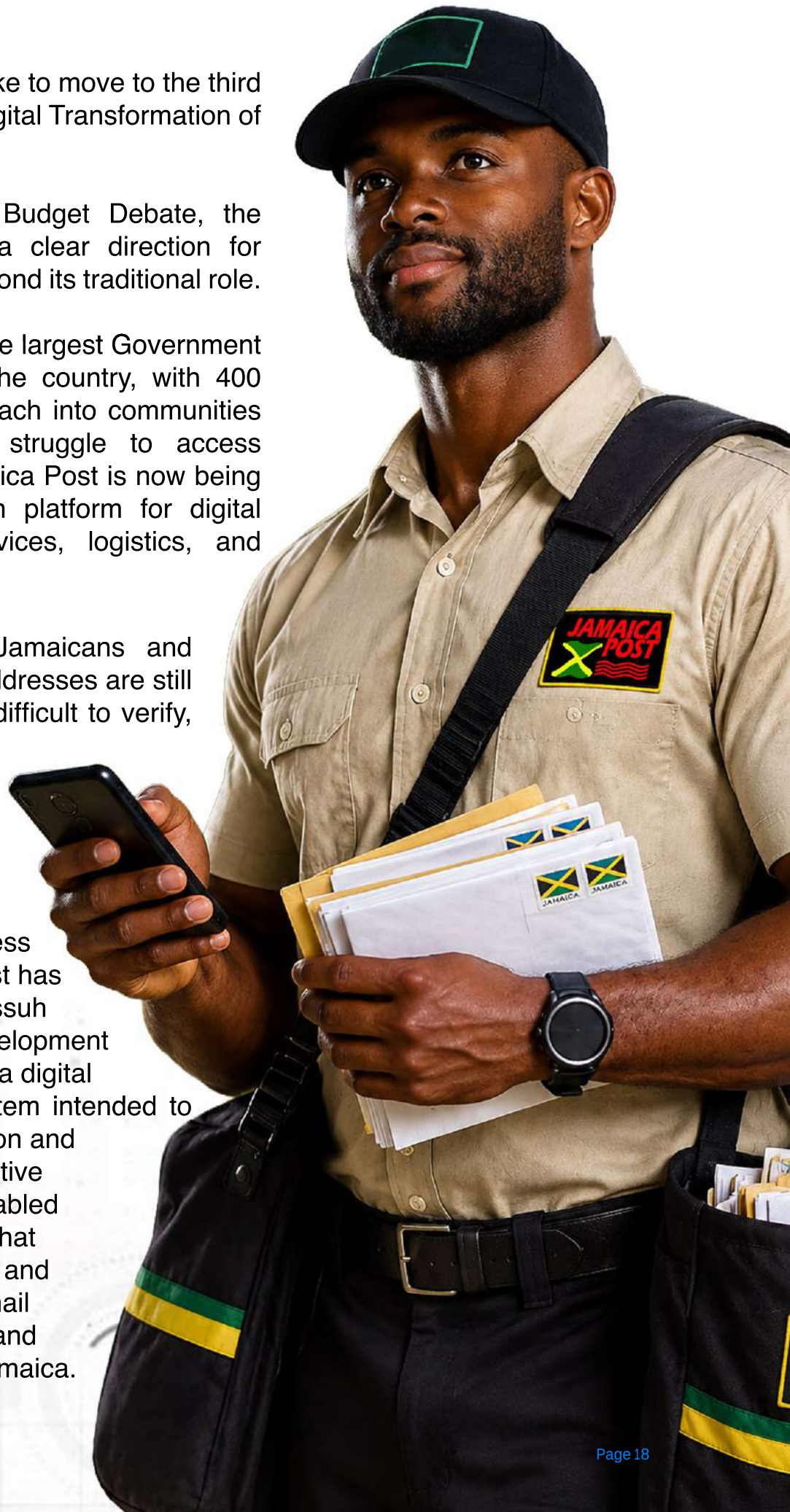
Mr. Speaker, I would now like to move to the third part of my update — the Digital Transformation of Jamaica Post

Mr. Speaker, during the Budget Debate, the Prime Minister signalled a clear direction for Jamaica Post to evolve beyond its traditional role.

The Post Office is one of the largest Government service networks across the country, with 400 Postal Points with deep reach into communities where many Jamaicans struggle to access services. That is why Jamaica Post is now being repositioned as a modern platform for digital access, Government services, logistics, and e-commerce opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, for many Jamaicans and businesses today, formal addresses are still non-existent, inconsistent, difficult to verify, or difficult to locate — creating challenges for deliveries, logistics, emergency response, and e-commerce.

As part of the effort to address this challenge, Jamaica Post has been collaborating with Yassuh Jamaica Limited on the development and pilot implementation of a digital postcode and address system intended to improve location identification and delivery efficiency. This initiative introduces a technology-enabled digital address framework that uniquely identifies locations and improves the efficiency of mail delivery, logistics services, and online commerce across Jamaica.



Providing every home, business and lot with an address reduce inefficiency and modernize national infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica Post also expanded Express Mail Service access from 25 post offices to 66 locations islandwide during the last financial year.

Many of my colleagues have reached out to me regarding elderly citizens and pension collection issues, and we are addressing that... However, the Post Office will be equally important to young people in Micro, Small and Medium-sized businesses, i.e online entrepreneurs, and members of the creative industry who rely on affordable, reliable access to international markets.

For many small business owners, access to shipping and logistics is not just a convenience. It is access to income. It is access to customers. It is access to growth.

Which is why, Mr. Speaker, Jamaica Post has secured and is implementing the Delivered Duty Paid (DDP) solution, to restore parcel and package delivery services to the United States.

Simply put: when a Jamaican citizen sends a package to the United States, that package is subject to customs duties and taxes upon arrival. However, in the past, many small items under US\$800.00 entered duty-free, i.e., benefited from a US\$ 800.00 de minimis. However, changes introduced by the United States government through Executive Order 14324 removed the de minimis and effectively removed the duty-free

treatment for international postal shipments entering the United States, which now require that those duties be calculated and paid before the package even leaves Jamaica.

Think of it like pre-clearing your parcel through US Customs from right here at home, so that when it arrives in the United States, there are no surprises, no delays, and no rejected shipments.

Jamaica Post has now put in place the system and partnerships to do exactly that: calculate the applicable duties, which are paid online and remit directly to US Customs on behalf of the sender.

At the counter in the Post Office, the customer then purchases regular postage stamps to send the items to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of this technological solution, Jamaica Post can now resume package and small packet delivery services to the United States market on June 1, 2026. This is extremely important for our MSMEs, our online entrepreneurs, and every Jamaican selling products internationally through digital platforms. It reopens a critical trade channel, supports business growth, and strengthens Jamaica's participation in the global digital economy.

So, Mr. Speaker — nuff tings a gwaan at Jamaica Post too, but we are not stopping there.

Let me now highlight a few priority areas for the next phase of transformation at Jamaica Post.

First, is the One Stop Govt Services Initiative

Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to announce the Government Service Centre Initiative being piloted by Jamaica Post. Through this initiative, Post Offices will increasingly become modern, one-stop service centres where citizens can access Government services online, especially Jamaicans who may need assistance using digital platforms.

In partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, Government Service Centre will first be launched at selected post offices across the island, with plans to expand even more with the NIRA-renovated post offices thereafter. In support of this initiative, the IDB will provide JMD approximately \$224 million in financial support, along with technical assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this is about ensuring that no Jamaican is left behind in the digital age.

Secondly, the Expansion of Connectivity and Public WiFi

Mr. Speaker, access to digital services depends on reliable internet connectivity.

That is why Jamaica Post has secured grant funding of approximately J\$6,800,000 from the Universal Postal Union to strengthen internet connectivity, starting with nine Post Offices, including public WiFi access at five locations, particularly in underserved and rural communities.





Thirdly, Expanding EMS Across Jamaica

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica Post continues to expand Express Mail Service access across the country.

During this financial year, Express Mail Service (EMS) will expand to an additional 44 locations, increasing its national footprint to 100 post offices islandwide. By 2027/2028, the Department aims to further strengthen this critical service by expanding EMS to 150 postal locations across Jamaica—ensuring that every constituency has access to at least two EMS service points and bringing faster, more reliable postal services closer to communities nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, this also means more Jamaicans and more small businesses will have reliable access to faster international shipping and global markets from closer to where they live and operate.

Finally, Modernising and Restoring Postal Infrastructure

Mr. Speaker, no transformation effort can succeed without modern infrastructure.

Jamaica Post many of our post offices have faced decades of deferred maintenance, compounded by severe damage from Hurricane Beryl in 2024 and Hurricane Melissa in 2025. In total, 108 Post Offices are significantly impacted.

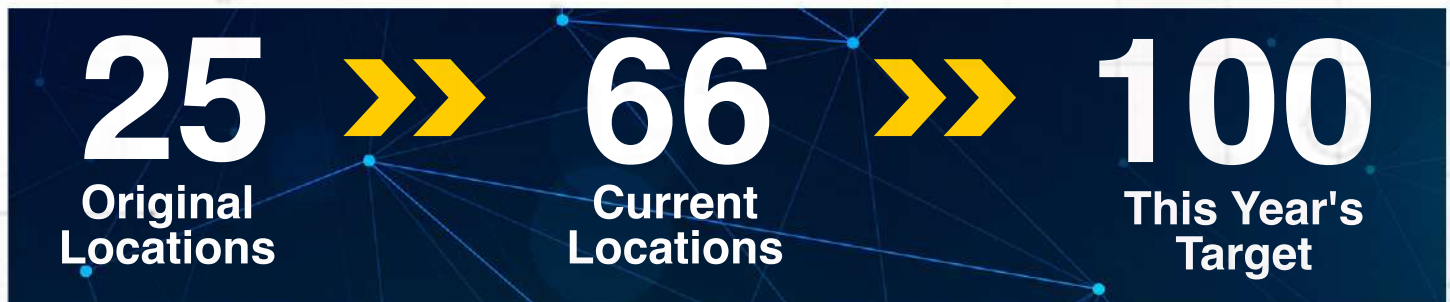
But, Mr. Speaker, restoration and modernisation efforts are now fully underway to rebuild stronger, smarter, and more resilient services for the Jamaican people.

Twenty-five (25) affected locations are targeted for repair during the 2026/2027 financial year, while under the NIDS Project, 23 post offices are being comprehensively refurbished and modernised.

To date, four locations — the Central Sorting Office, Liguanea, Mona, and Half-Way-Tree — have already been completed.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is about more than repairing buildings. It is about restoring access to services. It is about strengthening communities. Jamaica Post is not simply adapting to change. It is becoming a modern national platform connecting people, businesses, and Government services in a more seamless and inclusive way.

Express Mail Service Expansion

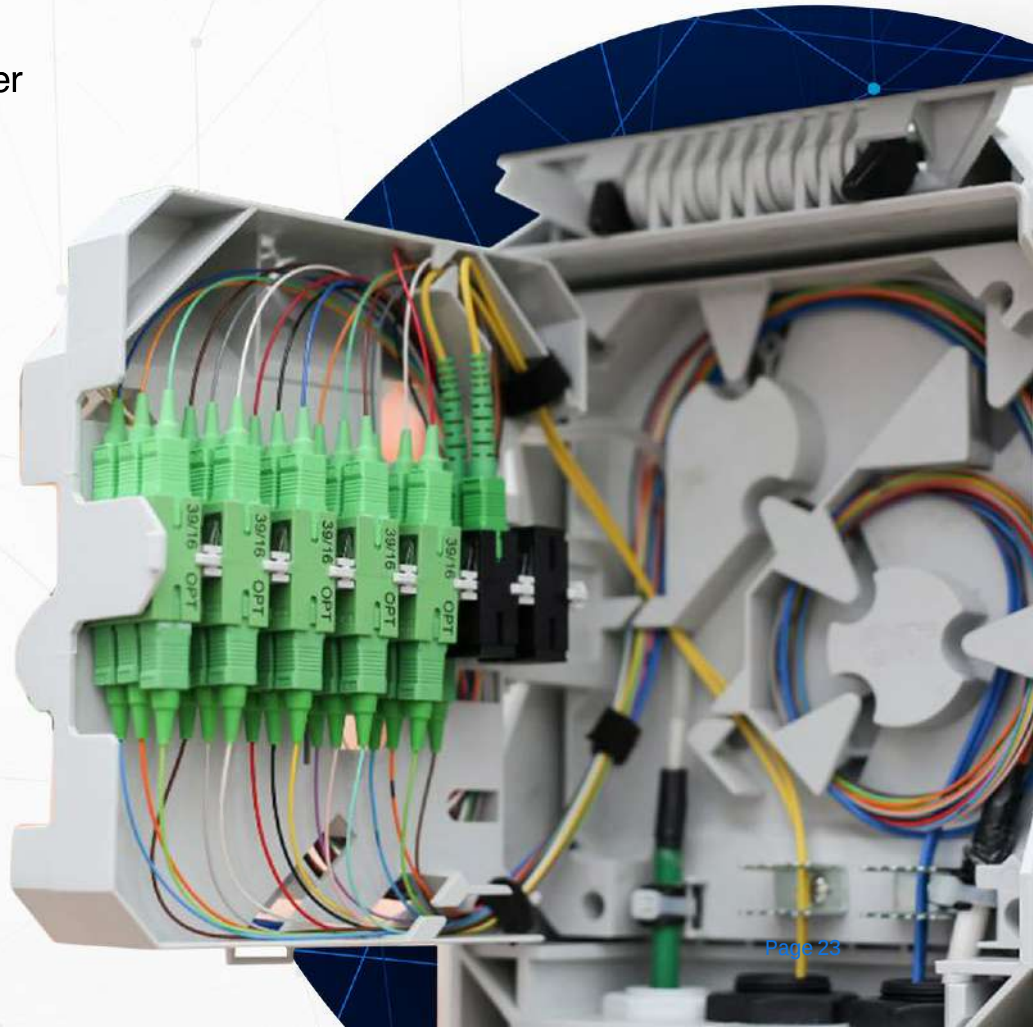


National Initiatives Across the Government.

Mr. Speaker, the National Broadband Network, as currently designed, represents a transformative national investment that is expected to connect up to 2,768 government locations, including schools, while extending high-speed broadband access to approximately 490,000 homes across Jamaica—including 140,000 households in underserved communities. This initiative will significantly strengthen digital inclusion, expand access to opportunity, and help bridge Jamaica's connectivity divide.

Mr. Speaker, the NBN project and the Trans Americas Fibre System for the Subsea Cable Project, which seeks to dramatically increase Jamaica's internet speed, with up to 20 terabits per second of bandwidth, collectively aim to strengthen the country's digital infrastructure and transform its digital architecture as we evolve into a digital society.

Mr. Speaker, the goal is simple: to give every Jamaican better internet access at more affordable prices, so that whether someone lives in Kingston or the most remote community, they can learn, work, build a business, and turn great ideas into real opportunities that can uplift their family, transform Jamaica, and even compete on the world stage.



Mr. Speaker, if Hurricane Melissa had directly struck Kingston and St. Andrew, Jamaica's devastation would have been far more severe, and recovery significantly delayed. The heart of government operations could have been wiped out! This reality makes one thing clear, strong physical infrastructure alone is not enough. Jamaica must also build resilient digital infrastructure to ensure government services, critical systems, and national operations to withstand hits and continue even in times of disaster.

As such, I am the biggest supporter for the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority (NaRRA). As a democracy, I have no issues with the debate to address concerns to ensure proper accountability and let me pause to acknowledge the work done by Minister Chuck, Cab. Sec. Audrey Sewell, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the dedicated civil servants supporting and advising the legislative committee of the Cabinet. I want to assure the nation that before this draft bill came to Parliament, we had numerous meetings and vigorous debates to ensure that the concerns of probity and accountability were matched, but not compromised with the objective of efficiency.

Let me also commend the House Leader for his all the meetings that were convened to ensure our Parliamentary team had every opportunity to ventilate their concerns and come to this Hon. House as a unified team to present and defend this worthwhile legislation.

So let me be clear, we have this one moment in time, to set Jamaica on a transformative path of planned, sustainable, resilient and efficient development and that is the singular purpose of NaRRA.

Now let me share, why I am so excited about NaRRA. In Feb. of this year, I was invited by the EU and (pause to acknowledge Amb. Askola for the tremendous support) to look at how Europe has built climate resilience through the use of advanced technology, and I got fully exposed to the concept of Digital Twins. I immediately saw the answer for a resilient and efficient Government, a Digital Twin—to ensure Jamaica can remain operational, responsive, and resilient no matter the crisis and at the same time also complete the reform and modernization of our bureaucracy.

The Government Digital Twin Programme is a bold and transformative national initiative that will leverage the strategic efficiencies of the to create Jamaica's Digital Parallel Government Ecosystem.

This means:

- A Government that operates physically and digitally.
- A Government that serves its people 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- A Government that remains open, secure, and resilient under any circumstance.

Mr. Speaker, to secure Jamaica's future, we must evolve beyond traditional physical service delivery into a Government Digital Twin: a fully integrated, secure, parallel ecosystem where every critical public service that can be digitized exists simultaneously in both physical and digital form.

The Government Digital Twin will establish unified government service portals that communicate seamlessly, allowing citizens to provide their information once and securely access multiple government services, regardless of which public body delivers the service.

Mr. Speaker, with the Digital Twin, government services will remain available regardless of Hurricanes, Floods, Pandemics, Infrastructure outages, Geographic barriers or Economic shocks.

As such, I am now working to put the Government Digital Twin project under NaRRA to supercharge its implementation. With NaRRA, major national innovation and digital transformation projects can be assessed and implemented on a timely basis to benefit Jamaicans.

This will work to reduce the high levels of duplication - particularly where those duplications are costly.

Every digital public service will move through a disciplined process:

Concept › Prototype › Security Testing › Production › National Rollout

Mr. Speaker, this is how Jamaica will move decisively from years of delay to a future of faster, smarter, and more responsive public service delivery. Through this framework, longstanding challenges in procurement, permits and licences, regulatory coordination, and government payments will be systematically transformed—unlocking greater efficiency, reducing frustration, and creating a modern government that works better for every Jamaican.

Mr Speaker, with NaRRA as the anchor Government Digital Twin, it is my intention to make interacting with the government so efficient, my current job will become redundant!



Innovation - National Solutions Registry

Mr. Speaker, As I come to a close, I want to highlight and thank the Prime Minister for including innovation as part of my portfolio responsibility. Having lived experience as a young innovator, where I was hard-pressed from all sides, and feeling beaten down by the system. I want to ensure that no other Jamaican entrepreneur, innovator or pioneer faces the same difficulty I faced many years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I know that this Andrew Holness led Government is friendly to Businesses, Entrepreneurs and Innovators. Without innovation, Jamaica cannot achieve its growth agenda. To grow like first world economies, we must support those small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, reducing bureaucracy, improving efficiency and enabling digital transformation are necessary but without creating a framework under which innovation is supported, encouraged and celebrated Jamaica will not grow as fast as we need it to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to attend the Build, Innovate and Win Hackathon event by Intellibus and the JDF, at the National Arena where over 750 young, energetic and innovative Jamaicans turned out to create prototypes and conceptualize solutions to real life problems in 24 hours across multiple sectors. I was blown away by the solutions they came up with, and I believe that we must institutionalize this approach to innovation where we develop our local talent, support them and help them commercialize ideas and business.

Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned so many times and will mention again, Silicon Valley is not just a place; it is a culture that supports innovators and pioneers. That culture can and will be replicated in Jamaica.

That is why, I am happy to announce today, that the Government intends to establish a National Solutions Registry to provide Jamaicans with a direct platform to identify and submit innovative ideas and practical solutions to the challenges they face. Those recommendations will be reviewed and routed to the relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies for action. This initiative will help transform citizen feedback into tangible government responsiveness, problem-solving, and national innovation.

And to do this, the Government will Mobilize Jamaican talent locally and abroad; Partner with universities, engage private innovators, Accelerate deployment and build national innovation pipelines.

Conclusion

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the responsibility that I lead Efficiency, Innovation and Digital Transformation is meant to cut across all Ministries, Agencies, and Departments within the Government of Jamaica. Our purpose is aligning all of government to partner, collaborate and execute on projects and solutions so that the Government, taken as a whole, becomes more efficient in how we operate and extend services to citizens.

In so doing we will facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship to grow the economy and, most importantly, ensure that Jamaica becomes a digital society.

I look forward to working with every Minister, every spokesperson, every civil servant and every Jamaican to ensure that at the end of this 3rd term - Jamaica will be able to compete with Singapore with Efficiency as a Resource just as important as oil and minerals.

Mr. Speaker, the journey from resilience to resurgence is steadily advancing. Strong tions are being laid, critical systems are being progressively modernised as we continue building a government that moves with greater SPEED — delivering faster services, expanding opportunity, and improving the everyday lives of the Jamaican people.

Let us therefore continue working together Government and Opposition alike to build a Jamaica that is more efficient, more innovative, more resilient, and more united.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

