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ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

On June 21, the IMF released a survey done on Jamaica's performance and economic developments under the current IMF programme. The survey highlighted the fact that the country has met more than 95% of the programme's conditions, which has resulted in an improved macroeconomic landscape. The survey identified that Jamaica's reforms are beginning to bear fruit, however bold reforms are needed as growth is still too low. In addition to bold reforms, the IMF also emphasized that fiscal discipline is crucial to restoring economic stability, as well as growth-enhancing structural reforms.

The IMF identified the following areas as needing reform:

- Increasing access to finance by increasing banking sector competition and reforming financial sector taxation.
- Downsizing the public sector through improving efficiency and reallocating public functions back to the private sector.
- Cutting bureaucracy at all levels of government to aid the business climate and strengthen productivity and competitiveness.
- Implementing labour market reforms that strengthen the link between pay and performance and increase labour market dynamism.
- Reducing crime and tackling both its economic and broader social ramifications.

For the period June 2016 relative to May 2016, the monthly average of the US dollar and the Canadian dollar depreciated relative to the Jamaican dollar, while the monthly average of the Great Britain Pound appreciated. At the end of June 2016, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by J\$1.32 or 1.06% to J\$126.01=US\$1.00. The Canadian dollar depreciated by J\$1.62 or 1.68% to end at CAD\$1.00=J\$\$97.82. The value of the Pound went down by J\$0.84 or 0.5% to end at GPB1.00=J\$\$179.13.

Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica "All Divisions" Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.9% for the period June 2016 over May 2016. This was the highest movement since July 2015 when the index moved by a similar 0.9%. The increase in the rate for June brought inflation for the calendar year to date to -0.6%. The increase in the rate for June 2016 over May 2016 brought inflation for the fiscal year to June to 0.7%. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of June 2016 was 2.5%.

Data for the month ending June 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$259.72 billion (US\$2,265.13 million).

The monetary base increased by J\$0.444 billion to J\$120.682 billion for June 2016 relative to May this year.

On the last trading day in June 2016, for the period June 01, 2016 to June 30, 2016, the main JSE index advanced by 3,155.67 points or 2.02% to close at 159,717.44 points. The JSE Combined Index advanced by 3,671.31 points or 2.20% to close at 170,807.02 points. The JSE Junior advanced by 72.40 points or 3.39% to close at 2,208.16 points. In contrast, once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at 499.06 points.

Stopover tourist arrivals for April 2016 were 188,604. For the January to April period, stopover tourist arrivals were 773,108. A total of 131,898 cruise passengers visited Jamaica in April 2016. The January to April 2016 period saw 745,220 cruise passenger arrivals at the three major ports, an increase of 90,656 passengers or 13.8% compared to the corresponding period last year.

For March 2016, the overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans decreased to 16.67% from 16.81% relative to the previous month. The weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits for the month ending was 1.47%. This represented a decrease of 9bps relative to February.

For March this year, the foreign currency loans rate increased relative to February 2016. In this regard, the rate marginally increased by 3bps to 7.35%. On the other hand, the interest rates on foreign currency deposits decreased for March relative to February this year, falling by 4bps to 1.66%.

At the end of February 2016, gross remittance inflows were US\$\$180.1 million and net remittances were US\$\$161.1 million. Total remittance inflows for January and February this year was US\$340.4 million.

There were price reductions observed in 19.05% (4) of the commodities monitored for June 2016. The price of crude oil index Brent increased in June 2016, as well as the WTI. The Brent moved up by 2.86% and the WTI increased by 4.06%. Natural gas increased by 33.85%. The IMF's Fuel Energy index increased by 4%, and the Food and Beverage Index increased by 4%. The all commodity price index increased by 3%.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

No meeting was held for the month of July.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Highlights of the meeting held on Tuesday, July 19:

ACP Assan Thompson delivered a presentation on the issues and challenges being caused by unofficial ports of entry into Jamaica. He reported that from a survey conducted by the Border Security Branch, there are approximately one hundred and forty-five (145) unofficial ports into the country.

ACP Thompson reported on the current and emerging threats to the island including drug trafficking, firearm trafficking, human trafficking, illegal migration, illegal fishing and illegal trade routes. He stated that Jamaica is located in a very volatile area neighboured by Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela and Costa Rica, all countries facing numerous security challenges and their activities have a negative influence on the country.

ACP Thompson further stated that with the use of available resources at its disposal, the Border Security Branch plans to do more to protect the borders of the island. He noted the required resources for this operation such as:

Land

- Trained personnel
- Proper fuelling system
- Proper asset disposal system
- Motor vehicles

Sea

- Boats
- Communication devices
- Divers and diving equipment

Geo-tracking system

Air

Drones

JCF Crime Statistics

The crime statistics for the period January 1 - July 16, 2016 were summarised and compared to the same period last year as follows:

- Murders 656 were recorded: this represents a decrease of -3 or 0%
- Shootings 588 were recorded: this represents a decrease of -12 or -2%
- Rape 267 were recorded: this represents a decrease of -106 or -28%
- Aggravated Assault 252 were recorded: this represents a decrease of -107 or -30%

In terms of Acquisitory Crime

- Robberies 804 were reported: this represents a decrease -361 or -31%
- Break ins 712 were reported: this represents a decrease of -382 or -35%
- Larceny 116 were reported: this represents a decrease of -105 or -48%

Divisions of Concern:

- St. James reported 139 murders: this represents an increase of 17 or 14%
- Clarendon reported 75 murders: this represents an increase of 12 or 19%
- St. Catherine North reported 67 murders: this represents a decrease of -4 or -6%
- Westmoreland reported 54 murders: this represents an increase of 2 or 4%

CRIME STOP

The Crime Stop Coordinator's report highlighted the following for the month of July 2016:

- The number of calls received was 39, 6 more than what was received in June.
- The success ratio was 1 in 5, in comparison to 1 in 3 in June.
- Two arrests were made, while four arrests were made in June.
- The number of calls made to 311 was 33, 2 more than what was received in June.

NOTE (1) BI	REAKDOW	N OF TIPS	RECEIVE	D FO	R JULY,	<u> 2016</u>				
1	BR/CUSTO	OMS ACT		7	ILL FIRE	ARM/AMMO	7	WANTED	PERSON	
5	DRUGS			2	ILL/ELEC	TRICITY	2	ADD/INFO	RMATION	
6	GUNMEN			1	LOTTERY	/ SCAM	4	QUERIES		
1	GUNS/DRI	UGS		3	MURDEF	3				

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Highlights of the meeting held on Wednesday, July 20:

Petrojam Fuel Prices

Mr. Chung pointed the committee in the direction of a news story carried by the Gleaner which indicated that Howard Mollison, General Manager of Petrojam, had resigned. Mr. Chung noted that Mr. Mollison was scheduled to deliver a presentation to the committee regarding the operations of PetroJam, but was not able to do so at the proposed time. Mr. Chung stated that at the last meeting with Mr. Mollison, he was advised that PetroTrin had agreed to reduce the premium on the fuel. He noted that though the reduction was good, the aim was to have the premium removed altogether and the issue will be pushed until that is done.

Retrofitting of the PSOJ

Mr. Chung informed the committee that Ms. Tracy Lacroix has been in dialogue with Kwame Hall and David Barrett regarding the PSOJ's retrofitting. Mr. Hall commented that a detailed assessment has already been carried out and that they are in the process of putting together a financing package for the PSOJ.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Scott advised the committee that Jamalco's 100MW plant has been approved by the cabinet, stating that it will consist of a gas pipeline. Mr. Scott went on to say that the JPS was working on providing funding (US\$205M). He further stated that all the funds will be committed and raised in roughly three weeks and once that is done, the first payment of US\$28M will be made and the project will commence (in terms of buildouts).

Mr. Chung enquired as to the next move considering the cancellation of the Climate Change Adaptation Project. Mr. Barrett responded that consideration was being given to beach nourishment as an alternative; he however noted that the funds allocated could not be used to finance this alternative.

AOB

Mr. Scott suggested that an update of the DBJ study on the returns for solar energy be done. Mr. Hall agreed and reasoned that the findings of the study have become outdated due to significant changes in prices and other factors related to the use of solar. Mr. Scott advised that he would speak to the DBJ regarding the updating of the study.

Mr. Barrett advised the committee that in August, another opportunity to benefit from the USAID CARCEP Small Grant Loan would be available. He further advised that the loan supports project development from feasibility to the implementation stage.

Mr. Barrett enquired if there were any updates from the meeting held with the Trinidadian Prime Minister. Mr. Mahfood responded that there was nothing definitive coming out of the meeting. He noted that the issues seemed to have been pushed aside; he however stated that the PSOJ will definitely be pressing the issues especially those related to subsidies and trade.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

No meeting was held for the month of July.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership as at Corpor		Associations	Individuals	New Members	Resigned
January 2016	192	27	43	2 Individuals	1 corporate
					1 individual
February 2016	192	27	43	Nil	Nil
March 2016	193	27	43	1 Corporate	1 corporate
April 2016	193	27	43	Nil	Nil
May 2016	200	27	44	7 corporate	Nil
				1 individual	
June 2016	200	27	44	Nil	Nil
July 2016	202	27	47	2 corporate	Nil
				3 individual	

- Joined in January Individual members Suzanne Shaw and Jeremy Whittaker
- Resigned in January Individual member Corine la Font and Corporate member, NMH Trading
- Joined in March Corporate member, Edufocal Ltd
- Resigned in March La Maison Property Services
- Joined in April Nil
- Joined in May Corporate members: Power Solutions Technology Limited, Island Outsourcers, Knott Francis Eventures, BCB Scientific Sales and Services, DRT Communications, Brandram Henderson WI Limited and Seawings Freight Forwarders and Customs Brokers. Individual member, Lisa Marie Elliott.
- Joined in June Nil
- Joined in July Corporate members: Designs by Marc Limited and Philip Morris Jamaica. Individual members: Renee Morrison, Claudja Williams and Courtland Wilson.

Prospects sent information during the period:

Contact Person	Company/Association	Contact Information
Kirk Hamilton	Individual member	khamil24@gmail.com
Hugh Graham	Paramount Trading	hgraham@paramountjm.com
Dwight Ferguson	Cesco Limited	dwightf@cescoja.com
Melanie Levy	Candy Craze	sweetmsja@gmail.com
Marion Ebanks	Freedom Financial (Jamaica)	mebanks@freedomcaribbean.com
Keneisha Hewitt	Association Member, JCAP Jamaica	khewitt@jacapjamaica.com
	Chrysalis Communications	natasha@thinkchrysalis.com

Communication to Members

The following correspondences were sent to members:

- 1. **July 1** email with caption, *PSOJ Analysis on Brexit*
- 2. **July 4** email advising members that nominations for the 2016 Hall of Fame Awards are now being accepted, with caption, 2016 PSOJ Hall of Fame Nominations Now Open
- 3. **July 5** email with caption, *Exactly 1 Week to Go! PSOJ Annual Economic Forum Next Week Tuesday July 12*
- 4. **July 8** email with caption, *Employee Refunds for Income Tax Threshold Increase*
- 5. **July 8** email with caption, *Upcoming External Events*

- 6. **July 11** email with caption, *PSOJ/JMMB Annual Economic Forum Tomorrow*, *Tuesday July 12*
- 7. **July 13** email with caption, *PSOJ/JMMB Annual Economic Forum Recap*
- 8. **July 14** email advising members of the next staging of the President's Forum, with caption, *You are Invited! PSOJ President's Forum Tuesday, July 26*
- 9. **July 18** email with caption, *Texaco Summer Blast*
- 10. **July 19** email, with caption, *One Week to Go! PSOJ President's Forum Next Week Tuesday, July 26*
- 11. **July 20** email advising of the availability of the 2015 Annual Report and the upcoming Annual General Meeting, with caption, *PSOJ 2015 Annual Report and Annual General Meeting*
- 12. **July 20** email with caption, *Upcoming External Events*
- 13. July 22 email with caption, 2016 PSOJ Hall of Fame Nominations Close on Aug 5
- 14. July 25 email with caption, PSOJ President's Forum Tomorrow Tuesday, July 26
- 15. **July 28** email with caption, *President's Forum Recap*

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Functions/Events

- July 5 PSOJ Mentorship Dinner
- July 12 PSOJ/JMMB Annual Economic Forum
- July 26 PSOJ President's Forum

July 5 – PSOJ Mentorship Dinner

The third staging of the bi-monthly Mentorship Dinner took place at the usual venue, the Spanish Court Hotel. The guest mentor was Thalia Lyn, CEO of Island Grill and she spoke about the challenges she has faced in business over the years and the various innovations that have been added to the Island Grill menu and the back-story behind them. 10 mentees, including both PSOJ members and non-members were in attendance.

July 12 - PSOJ/JMMB Annual Economic Forum

The Annual Economic Forum took place on Tuesday July 12 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel under the theme, *Developing Beyond the IMF*. The event featured a panel discussion where JMMB's Jermaine Burrell, PSOJ's Dennis Chung and WBO's Sandra Samuels-Reid (speaking on behalf of Lorna Green), gave their perspective on what the country needs to do to develop after the IMF agreement ends early next year. Professor Densil Williams also gave his academic perspective on what needs to be done.

The guest speaker was German Galvan, Associate Principal at popular global management consulting company, McKinsey & Company, and he showed a parallel between Jamaica and Singapore and the lessons Jamaica could take away from the Singapore experience.

Approximately 150 persons were in attendance and the event received good press coverage.

July 26 - PSOJ President's Forum

The fourth staging of the bi-monthly President's Forum took place at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, with guest speaker, Dennis Cohen, Deputy Group Managing Director at NCB, who spoke on the topic, *Digital Disruption*. Approximately 110 persons were in attendance.

Public/Media Relation - Press Releases/Media Advisories/Radio & TV interviews

Print

1. **July 1, 2016** – The Observer, Page 22, PSOJ Annual Economic Forum Advertisement.

- 2. **July 3, 2016** The Sunday Observer, Page 21, Special Advertisement Feature by the Heart Trust NTA (remarks by Senator Ruel Reid), In-Text Mention: "...there was also renewed partnership between the trust and the PSOJ to train10,000 unattached youths in the YTE Programme.
- 3. July 4, 2016 The Observer, Page 10, PSOJ Annual Economic Forum Advertisement.
- 4. **July 5, 2016** The Gleaner, Page 10, Article entitled Vatican rep wants Caribbean countries to share resources" In-Text Mention: "...just a week before the start of the Georgetown meeting, William Mahfood President of the PSOJ said his nation was an ATM".
- 5. **July 5, 2016** The Gleaner, Section A2, Feature entitled "Note This", In-Text Mention, "William Mahfood, President, PSOJ says Jamaica has been the ATM for T&T.
- 6. July 5, 2016 The Gleaner, Section B3, PSOJ Annual Economic Forum Advertisement
- 7. **July 6, 2016** The Gleaner, Front Page, Article entitled "PSOJ concern don't make sense to me says T&T Prime Minister".
- 8. July 7, 2016 The Observer, Section B4, PSOJ Annual Economic Forum Advertisement.
- 9. **July 8, 2016** The Observer, Page 4, PSOJ Annual Economic Forum Advertisement.
- 10. **July 8, 2016** The Observer, Page 7, Article entitled: "We train, you hire". In-Text Mention: "McKay hopes to replicate the programme in all inner city schools and is already in dialogue with the PSOJ..."
- 11. July 11, 2016 The Gleaner, Section C5, PSOJ Annual Economic Forum Advertisement.
- 12. July 12, 2016 The Observer, Page 7, PSOJ Annual General Meeting Advertisement.
- 13. July 12, 2016 The Gleaner, Section A7, PSOJ Annual General Meeting Advertisement.
- 14. **July 13, 2016** The Observer, Page 4 and 5, Article entitled "Gov't plans new, less strict IMF agreement for 2017- but PSOJ concerned".
- 15. **July 15, 2016** The Observer, Page 6, Article entitled "Jamaica Beyond the IMF" In-text Mention "... on July 12, the PSOJ held its annual economic forum entitled, Developing Beyond the IMF..."
- 16. **July 16, 2016** The Gleaner, Section A4, Article entitled "Gov't should adequately fund OCG operations-PSOJ".
- 17. **July 18, 2016** The Observer, Page 18, Article entitled "Give INDECOM, Public Defender more money says PSOJ".
- 18. **July 18, 2016** The Observer, Clovis Toons, Cartoon depiction of Mr. Mahfood holding a newspaper with the caption "PSOJ calls on Gov't to adequately fund OCG".
- 19. **July 18, 2016** The Gleaner, Section D8, Photograph of Mr. Mahfood, Mr. Chung and Mrs. Stimpson at the PSOJ/JMMB Economic Forum.
- 20. **July 20, 2016** The Gleaner, Front Page, Article entitled "To T&T with Love- Private Sector bosses soften tone on trade relations after meeting with Rowely".
- 21. **July 21, 2016** The Observer, Page 6, Article entitled "T&T PM assures that all visitors will be treated with respect" Photograph of Mr. Mahfood, Prime Minister Rowley, Minister Vaz and Warren McDonald.
- 22. **July 22, 2016** The Observer, Page9, Article entitled "Jamaica Beyond the IMF (Part 2)" In-text Mention "at the July 12th PSOJ annual economic forum..."
- 23. **July 24, 2016** The Gleaner, Section C2 Snapshots, Photograph of the PSOJ Annual Economic Forum.
- 24. **July 27, 2016** The Observer, Page 5, Article entitled "Mahfood denies selling out to T&T during Rowley's visit"

25. **July 31, 2016** – The Gleaner, Section C2 Snapshots, Photograph of Mr. Chung and Ms. Bogues at the PSOJ President's Forum.

Online

- July 6, 2016 Gleaner-Jamaican PSOJ's Concerns 'Don't Make Sense To Me', Says Trinidad &Tobago Prime Minister http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20160706/jamaican-psojs-concerns-dont-make-sense-me-says-trinidad-tobago-prime
- 2. **July 6, 2016** PSOJ concerns 'don't make sense' Trinidad PM Jamaica Gleaner http://www.izatrini.com/post/146981623436/psoj-concerns-dont-make-sense-trinidad-pm
- 3. **July 13, 2016** Jamaica Observer-Business-Gov't plans new, less strict IMF agreement Shaw seeks lighter IMF load http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/business/Shaw-seeks-lighter-IMF-load 66977
- 4. **July 15, 2016** Jamaica Observer-Business-Jamaica beyond the IMF (Part 1) http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/business/Jamaica-beyond-the-IMF--Part-1-_67224
- July 15, 2016 Jamaica Observer-News-PSOJ calls on Gov't to adequately fund OCG http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/PSOJ-calls-on-govt-to-adequately-fund-OCG
- 6. **July 16, 2016** The Gleaner-Gov't Should Adequately Fund OCG Operations PSOJ http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20160716/govt-should-adequately-fund-ocg-operations-psoj
- July 17, 2016 Jamaica Observer-News-PSOJ hopeful of resolution of issues between T&T, Jamaica http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/PSOJ-hopeful-of-resolution-of-issues-between-T-T--Jamaica
- 8. **July 18, 2016** Jamaica Observer-News-Give OCG, INDECOM, public defender more money, says PSOJ
 - http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Give-OCG--INDECOM--public-defender-more-money-says-PSOJ 67490
- 9. **July 18, 2016** IRIE FM-PSOJ hopeful about TNT Prime Minister's visit http://iriefm.net/psoj-hopeful-atnt-prime-ministers-visit/
- 10. **July 20, 2016** The Gleaner To T&T with love Private-sector bosses soften tone on trade relations after meeting with Rowley http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20160720/tt-love-private-sector-bosses-soften-tone-trade-relations-after
- 11. **July 25, 2016** Jamaica Observer-Business-Jamaica beyond the IMF (Part 2)-Caricom, Brexit and Jamexit http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/business/Jamaica-beyond-the-IMF--Part-2-67899
- July 27, 2016 Jamaica Observer-Business-Mahfood denies selling out to T&T during Rowley's visit
 http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/business/Mahfood-denies-selling-out-to-T-T-during-Rowley-s-visit
- July 31, 2016 Jamaica Observer-Business-Hylton expects 'significant implications' for Jamaica from Brexit http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/business/Hylton-expects--significant-implications--for-Jamaica-from-Brexit_68920

Speeches/Remarks Delivered by the President

1. **July 12** – Delivered Welcome and Opening Remarks at the Annual Economic Forum held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

2. **July 26** – Delivered Welcome and Opening Remarks at the President's Forum held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

Speeches/Remarks Delivered by the CEO

- 1. **July 13** Delivered greetings at the launch of the National Dietetics and Nutrition Preceptor Week held at the Knutsford Court Hotel.
- 2. **July 21** Delivered greetings at the Organisation of American States' private and public consultation meeting held at the Marriott Hotel.
- 3. **July 27** Delivered guest speaker remarks on Brexit at Mayberry Investment's monthly Forum held at the Knutsford Court Hotel.

Radio/Televisions Interviews with the President

- 1. **July 19** 5:45pm telephone radio interview on RJR's Beyond the Headlines with host Dionne Jackson-Miller, to discuss the luncheon that was held with members of the private sector and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.
- 2. **July 20** 7:45am telephone radio interview on Nationwide News to discuss the luncheon that was held with members of the private sector and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Radio/Televisions Interviews with the CEO

- 1. **July 3** 12:15pm in studio radio panellist on RJR's *That's a Wrap* current affairs programme, with host Earl Moxam.
- 2. **July 7** 7:15am telephone radio interview on NewsTalk 93 FM to discuss the latest JPS rate increase.
- 3. **July 8** 5:45pm telephone radio interview on NewsTalk 93 FM to discuss the Annual Economic Forum.
- 4. **July 11** 7:30am telephone radio interview on Nationwide News to discuss the Annual Economic Forum.
- 5. **July 11** 9am telephone radio interview on Power 106's *Real Business* with host Ralston Hyman to discuss the Annual Economic Forum.
- 6. **July 13** 7am telephone radio interview on LOVE FM to discuss the 37thCARICOM Heads of Government Conference.
- 7. **July 15** 8:45am telephone radio interview on RJR to discuss the Annual Economic Forum.
- 8. **July 15** 6pm telephone radio interview on NewsTalk 93 FM to discuss what the private sector expects from the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago's visit to Jamaica.
- 9. **July 18** 9:30am telephone radio interview on Power 106's *Real Business* with host Ralston Hyman, to discuss the press release issued urging the government to provide funding to the office of the Contractor General.
- 10. **July 21** 2pm in-office television interview as a part of a documentary on migration and Jamaica.

Radio/Television Mentions

1. **July 3** – Excerpts of the CEO's remarks regarding the current crime situation on RJR's *That's a Wrap* programme was carried on TVJ News at 7pm.

- 2. **July 4** Excerpts of the CEO's remarks regarding the current crime situation on RJR's *That's a Wrap* programme was carried on RJR News at 7am.
- 3. **July 12** Excerpts of the Annual Economic Forum was carried on CVM News at 8pm.
- 4. **July 18** The PSOJ was mentioned during a report on RJR on the Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister's visit to the island, with voice clip from the President.

Press Releases Issued to the Media

- 1. **July 7** PSOJ & JMMB Group Explore Life after the IMF
- 2. July 8 PSOJ Supports JHTA on State of Emergency; Calls for Effective Policing Against Crime
- 3. **July 15** PSOJ Recognises the Need to Adequately Fund the OCG

August 8, 2016