Quarterly Press Briefing
January to March 2013
Vision 2030 Jamaica Report

Under the Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan framework, we are reporting comprehensively on key indicators of national well-being for this quarterly press briefing under six main reporting areas—Health Status, Education Status, Labour Force Quality, Security Status, Justice Status and Economic Growth. An overview of performance shows progress in five of the six areas, and a decline in one indicator for Education Status.

Under Health Status, we report on immunization coverage for children. The immunization coverage for children between 0-11 months for BCG, OPV and DPT/DT (covering tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus
respectively) increased to an average of 95.5 per cent in 2012, up 1.6 percentage points from an average of 93.9 per cent in 2011. The immunization coverage for children between 12-23 months for MMR (covering measles, mumps and rubella) also increased to 92.3 per cent in 2012, up 5.8 percentage points from 86.5 per cent in 2011.

In Education, the gross enrolment rate of students at the tertiary level for the academic year 2011-2012 fell to 29.5 per cent, based on final figures, a decline of 3.6 percentage points compared to a gross enrolment rate of 33.1 per cent for the academic year 2010-2011. The decline in the gross enrolment rate occurred despite an increase in the absolute number of students enrolled in tertiary institutions and programmes, due to an increase in the size of the tertiary age cohort (20-24 years).
Labour Force Quality improved, with an average of 23.8 per cent of the total labour force having vocational or professional certification based on the quarterly labour force survey for January 2013, an increase of 1.0 percentage point from 22.7 per cent in the January 2012 survey.

In reporting on Security Status, we note that the indicator formerly classified as Major Crimes is now classified as Serious and Violent Crimes. The indicator now includes Aggravated Assault, while sexual intercourse against a child under the age of 16 is now included under Minor Crimes, in keeping with international classifications. With respect to Serious and Violent Crimes (murder, shooting, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, break-ins and larceny), 79 serious and violent crimes per 100,000 population were committed over the period January to March 2013, a decline of 15.6 per cent from 94 per 100,000 population over the similar period in 2012. The murder rate for January to March
2013 was 9.5 per 100,000 population, down 7.2 per cent from 10.3 per 100,000 population over the similar period in 2012.

These figures extend the downward trend in crime rates that began in June of 2010 into a third consecutive year.

Under Justice Status, the case clearance rate in the Resident Magistrates’ Courts (or the ratio of new cases filed to cases disposed of each year) increased to 92.1 per cent in 2012, up 9.4 percentage points from 82.7 per cent in 2011. This excludes data on Traffic Matters.

Finally, under Economic Growth, the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expressed in US dollars rose to US$ 5,290 in 2012, up 6.4 per cent from US$ 4,973 in 2011, based on an increase in nominal GDP over the past three years. This economic indicator is expressed as a moving 3-
year average, to smooth out annual fluctuations and show the underlying trends.

This concludes the reporting on key indicators of national well-being for this quarterly press briefing.