

Announcements cont'd:

3 Our student teachers are receiving tablets too! 100 tablets were issued to teacher training institutions through the kind support of the Government of Japan and the Inter-American Development Bank during the launch of the Internal Quality Assurance Standards for Teacher Training Institutions on Friday, October 30, 2020 (see the Ministry's social media pages for pics and recording of the event).



Honourable Fayval Williams, Minister of Education, Youth & Information launches Parent Month 2020 under the theme, 'Fathers, Rise, Lead and Be Wise' on Friday, October 30. Also at the launch event was Ms Kaysia Kerr, Chief Executive Officer, National Parenting Support Commission

4 November is Youth Month! Theme: reTHINK - (Resilient through Entrepreneurship, Training, Hope, Innovation, Networking and Knowledge). The youth arm of the MoEYI was a buzz on Sunday, November 1 at the Emmanuel Apostolic Church as Minister Robert Nesta Morgan launched Youth Month 2020 and



Education, Youth & Information Minister, Honourable Fayval Williams (3rd left, front row) launched the One Laptop or Tablet Per Child Initiative designed to promote inclusivity in the education sector. With the engagement of stakeholders, the Government is seeking to provide 100,000 non-PATH students with devices to participate in electronic learning. Picture here are representatives from the Jamaica Stock Exchange, Private Sector Organization of Jamaica, NCB Foundation, Jamaica Teachers' Association, Sandals Foundation, Seprod Foundation, Guardian Life Limited, Ernst & Young Chartered Accountant, among others.

encouraged the nation to reposition how youth are viewed in society. The youth will be engaged in a number of activities: Youth Parliament, Prime Minister's Youth Awards for Excellence, Round Table Discussions, reTHINK Youth Series, Student Leaders & Governance Installation, JUTS Conference, National Youth Council of Jamaica AGM, among others.

5 November is Parent Month! and so, the National Parenting Support Commission in the MoEYI launched the month-long observance with a church service on Sunday, November 1 at Escarpment Road New Testament Church of God, The theme, 'Fathers, Rise, Lead and Be Wise' was born out of an urgent need to ensure that fathers play a more significant role in the lives of their children. As a result, the activities for the month will be centred on building the capacity of fathers. Visit the Ministry's website and social media pages for daily tips and activities.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
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Celebrating the work of the Planning and Development Division and Unsung Heroes

A chain is as strong as its weakest link is, perhaps, an overused cliché, yet one that is essentially true. The smooth and efficient functioning of every organization is held together by a myriad of hands - some on the frontline, many behind the scenes, yet all critical to its effectiveness.

In this edition of EduPulse we begin a series highlighting the "unsung heroes" in different departments – people who are working hard to help the Ministry carry out its

mandate but who are sometimes in danger of being taken for granted. By recognising these individuals, we hope that we can continue to generate a greater appreciation for each link in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information's work of educational policy development and implementation. Even though much of our unsung heroes' work goes on behind the scenes, their efforts are inspirational to others. That is why we take pleasure in turning the spotlight on these colleagues, starting with Latoya Palmer in the Planning and

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AND UNSUNG HEROES CONT'D

Development Division (PDD).

The PDD's portfolio includes the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Branch, Educational Planning Unit, Policy Analysis, Research and Statistics Unit, Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Projects Management Unit and the International Affairs Desk.

As a data-driven Division, it is critical that all information gathered, analysed and subsequently published can satisfy external inquiry as to its integrity. This requires laser-like focus and the highest levels of professionalism. In this regard, the team of statisticians, policy analysis and research education officers, data preparation officer, education planner, monitoring and evaluation education officers, policy analysis and research education officer, strategic planning and performance evaluation officer, international affairs officer and administrator among others carries out the Division's work with excellence.

Ultimately, in producing high-quality work, the PDD helps the Ministry to meet the needs of our stakeholders and the wider public with the hard data that can guide informed decision-making and policy development.



A student of the Chatsworth Primary and Infant School, St James doing a temperature check in keeping with the new protocols for the reopening of selected schools to have face-to-face teaching.



**By Jonelle Murray, Policy Analyst
—Children's Affairs Policy Division**

- 1** Provide age-appropriate information and advice to children about online threats and cyber security;
- 2** Set internet usage limits in relation to both time spent and content consumed or produced.
- 3** Install Antivirus and malware protection software on all devices being used by children; and ensure that the software is kept up-to-date.
- 4** Use web content filtering tools and solutions to protect children from harmful content.
- 5** Consider the use of parental control software to monitor online activities (Children should be made aware that their activities are being monitored).



OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Planning & Development Division is the Information Hub of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MoEYI). The Division provides data/information in an efficient and reliable way, supports the policy development process as well the development of plans, programmes, and projects. The Division also evaluates the performance of the Ministry's projects and programmes in relation to the educational goals and coordinates its activities in respect of multilateral and bilateral technical cooperation.

The work of the Division is supported by 30 staff members across five units and a Desk, namely, The Strategic Planning and Evaluation Branch (SPEB), Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PMEU), Educational Planning Unit (EPU), Policy Analysis, Research and Statistics Unit (PARS), Project Management Unit (PMU) and The International Affairs Desk.

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING & EVALUATION BRANCH (SPEB)

The Strategic Planning & Evaluation Branch (SPEB)

articulates the strategic direction of the Ministry and its Agencies. One main function is the preparation of the Strategic Business and Operational Plans. The Branch produces the Ministry's Strategic and Operational plans as well as its quarterly, half yearly and Annual Reports.

The Branch executes its functions within the purview of the Ministry of Finance and Public Service as it implements the Medium Term Results Based Budgeting (MTRBB) across the sector. This approach allows for the:

- Harmonization or linking policy, planning, resource allocation of Gov. /MDAs with budget process and the integration of the budget into performance management/accountability system of Government
- Shifting of the budget process to medium term timeframe allows for future cost of existing programmes/projects - reflected in 'Forward Years

Recently, the Unit launched its Corporate Planning Network which seeks to:

- ♦ Allow key officers within the Ministry and portfo-

lio entities to keep abreast of new strategic planning approaches, tools and techniques Ensure that officers are kept up to date with changes in planning, budgeting and reporting requirements;

- ◆ Engage in quarterly session and reviews to exchange ideas, share planning and implementation challenges; and
- ◆ Strengthen the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting capability within the Ministry and portfolio entities

THE PROGRAMME MONITORING AND EVALUATION UNIT (PMEU)

The Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PMEU) has responsibility for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of all projects, programmes and policies undertaken by the MoEYI. The functions of the PMEU are facilitated through the design of Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks, Monitoring and Evaluation Planning & Execution and the initiating and supervising of M&E Consultancies. Outstanding achievements of the Unit include:

- ◆ Report on the IDB/Japan Funded Technical Cooperation Professional Development Consultancy designed to support the MoEYI's Mathematics specialists and coaches and teacher educators in mathematics teaching practices ; and
- ◆ The PISA Needs Assessment Report; prepared and presented to the PISA Management Team to support the administration of the PISA 2021 assessment.

THE POLICY ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, AND STATISTICS (PARS)

The Policy Analysis, Research, and Statistics (PARS) Unit embraces the Analysis, Research, and Statistics functions of the Ministry. The Policy Analysis and Research section produces research reports on key topics as determined by the Senior Management Team and relevant information and analyses of the Education System in the form of Policy Briefs; pro-

vides accurate, relevant and timely data/ information for monitoring the system and for effective policy decisions; reviews policies prepared by other Ministries/Agencies and provides technical assistance to Units/ Divisions/Departments/Agencies in the development of policies.

As is customary the PARS Unit does the preparation of annual performance reports for Jamaican schools/candidates in the following examinations: Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), Caribbean Advance Proficiency Examination (CAPE), National Vocational Qualification Jamaica (NVQ-J), City and Guilds and the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC).

Currently, the Unit is actively engaged in finalizing the Pathways to Education Policy aimed towards providing a framework for the Jamaican education

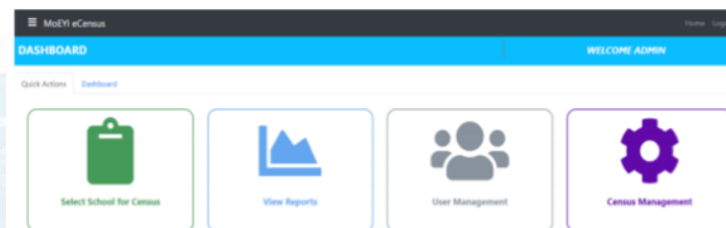
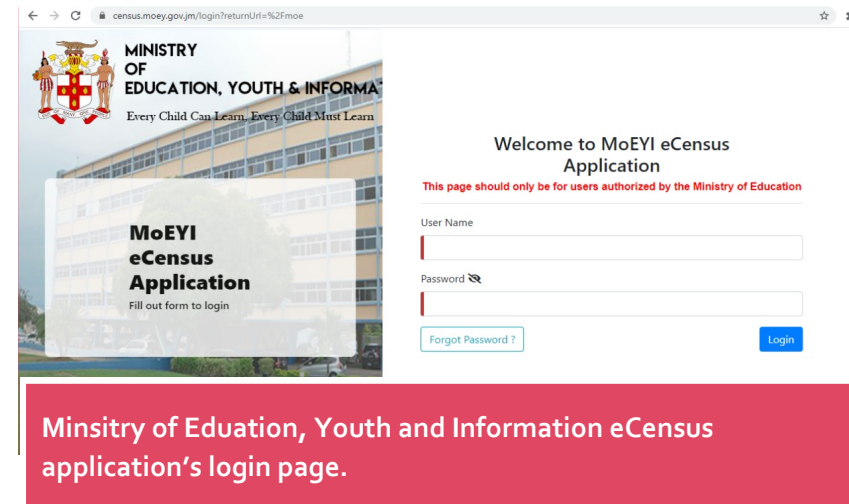


Figure 5: The Dashboard (Home) Page

Ministry of Education, Youth and Information eCensus application's home page.

system that is inclusive, and facilitates a seamless transition of students from birth to early childhood, to primary and to secondary and beyond. The Unit was also integral in the development of a proposal for the MoEYI's Webinar under the theme "Managing the Jamaican Education Landscape during the COVID-19 Pandemic: From Planning to Implementation", assisted by the Planning Committee that was established.

The Statistics section has been mandated to provide a roadmap for a more data-centric future. The Unit collects, collates or analyzes and disseminates data



Ministry of Education, Youth and Information eCensus application's login page.

on all aspects of the education system inclusive of school planning, teachers, students, examination and finance.

It is also responsible for producing on an annual basis, the Educational Digest, Educational Statistics, Directory of Educational Institutions and School Profiles.

In March 2020, the Statistics Unit, with the assistance of eGov Jamaica launched the MoEYI's e-Census Application. This Online Census has replaced the paper-based census collection tool which will revolutionize the way we do data collection and make the process an easier experience for our stakeholders.

THE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING UNIT (EPU)

Educational Planning underpins the smooth functioning of any well-run Education Sector. As such, the role of the Education Planning Unit (EPU) is to ensure that there is access to public education and that necessary resources are considered to meet the demands of the system. The EPU utilizes geo-informatics - which is the mixing of education system data with georeferenced information - to guide plans for schools and highly contextualized policies. With regards to the reopening of schools for face to face instruction , the Unit has been immersed in ensuring that the geospatial information through the GIS tool was effectively used to aid the analysis of vulnerability risk factors and deter-

mine the schools which could safely return to face to face teaching and learning.

The Unit is currently collaborating with MDAs, other local partners and external experts such as our International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP)/UNESCO partners, to develop new educational planning tools and methodologies, which will enable the MoEYI to use more micro-level georeferenced data in their practices, to improve current micro-mapping techniques, school mapping and make educational policies and interventions more responsive to constantly changing needs.

THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU)

The Project Management Unit (PMU) is dual pronged in nature as it provides project management and project finance oversight. The Unit's main role is to coordinate and monitor the implementation of all unilateral, bi-lateral, multi-lateral as well as locally funded projects to ensure the realization of optimum social and economic benefits to the Education Sector. The Unit through its mandate has forged partnerships with various International Development Part-



Team members from the Planning and Development Division at the Geographic Information System Week at the UWI, showcasing a map of all schools' location and demographics .

ners (IDPs) to secure funding for the education sector.

THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DESK

The International Affairs Desk is responsible for the coordination of strategic partnerships between the Ministry and its International Development Partners (IDPs). This section liaises with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with respect to bilateral agreements, technical cooperation and the development of memorandum of understandings (MoU) in which the Ministry is involved. The International Affairs Desk also coordinates the work of the Ministry with respect to human rights and trade in services. Additionally, the Unit coordinates reports, position papers and other matters relating to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Bank and other IDPs.

The PDD has a renewed vision and thrust in achieving the National Outcome #2 of the Vision 2030 National Development Plan “World Class Education and Training” and the Sustainable Development Goal #4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” despite the challenges faced in this new “norm” of education. The Division implore its stakeholders to be mindful of this as it plans the future strategies. The dynamics of education will be more exciting and all stakeholders must prepare to embrace what is to come.



Minister of State Hon. Robert Morgan (right), presents a copy of the Quick Reference Guide for the Government's Records and Information Management (RIM) Programme implementation to Executive Director for the Overseas Examinations Commission (OEC), Hector Stephenson, during Monday's (September 28) digital launch of the initiative targeting for the third cohort of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: THE UNSUNG HEROINE

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MoEYI) comprises an impressive staff complement; from administrators and analysts to empowerment and education officers, from accountants and ancillary staff to facilities and information systems personnel.

The Employee Spotlight series aims to highlight the brilliant and talented individuals who work at the MoEYI. In each issue we will feature one of the excellent employees of the MoEYI. For this issue, we feature Ms. Latoya Palmer, an Administrator in the Planning and Development Division.

Ms. Palmer joined the MoEYI team in April 2017 as a Secretary in the Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Unit; and assumed her current role in 2018. According to Mrs. Viviene Johnson, Senior Director in the Division, “Ms. Palmer is always flexible and willing to help the various units in the Division whenever there is a need. She is quite efficient as an administrator and does it without much fanfare. She ensures that all documents are collected and submitted to the relevant sections making it easy for team members to focus on their core work.”

Ms. Palmer has expressed delight that her job requires her to interact with internal and external customers as



she enjoys working with people.

When asked about her proudest moment on the job, Ms. Palmer stated that there are many rewarding experiences, but her proudest moment has been her lauded solo effort in coordinating a series of high-level meetings on the behalf of the Office of the Chief Technical Director.

She encourages other MoEYI employees to pursue excellence in executing their responsibilities, as she believes that hard work will always lead to great rewards. Working from home according to Ms.

Palmer has attendant challenges; however, she has been able to adjust successfully by establishing a dedicated work space in her home and adhering to a pre-set work routine. No wonder Mrs. Johnson expressed that “Ms. Palmer is reliable to the point that she carries out duties outside of her job description without complaints.”

When not at work, Ms. Palmer can be found at the beach with her family or “buried in a book.” She loves chocolate and dream about meeting Michelle Obama. A “big kid at heart,” Miss Palmer is adaptive, adventurous, and bubbly.

Announcements

1 Our teachers are our heroes! The Jamaica Teaching Council (JTC) hosted the Forum for Innovation in Teaching (FIT), which was aimed at examining the developments that have been impacting the teaching and learning environment in recent months and how adaptive teachers were to the changes. Despite the disruption in the education sector,

The Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission (J-TEC) in the Ministry of Education, Youth & Information launched the Internal Quality Assurance Standards for Teacher Training Institutions during which 100 tablets, valued at \$3.8m were issued to the institutions through the support of the Government of Japan and the Inter-American Development Bank. Participating in the event are Honourable Fayval Williams-Minister of Education, Youth & Information (third left), His Excellency, Mr. Masaya Fujiwara-Japan Ambassador to Jamaica (third right), Dr. Garth Anderson (right), Dean-Teachers Colleges of Jamaica, Ms Karen Foster (second right), Dean-Faculty of Education, MICO University College, Mrs. Trudi-Ann Barrett (second left), Acting Principal, Edna Manley College for the Visual and Performing Arts, Ms. Elicia Yorke (fourth left), student, MICO University College and Mrs. Daynea Facey (back row), Programme Manager, ESTP.



teachers have adapted fairly well and have become creative, innovative, resilient and determined to overcome the digital challenges in order to fully satisfy the needs of their students. The forum was held over a four-day period, October 15-18, 2020, under the theme, 'Inspiration & Aspiration for the Digital Age...Our Teachers, Our Heroes'. (The Forum can be view at the Jamaica Teaching Council's Youtube channel)

2 No child is left behind! The National Education Trust (NET) in the Ministry of Education Youth & Information launched the 'One Laptop / Tablet Per Child Initiative' on Thursday, October 29, 2020. The initiative, which will specifically target non-PATH students, is designed to promote inclusivity in the education sector by ensuring that needy students receive the requisite tools to function in the online teaching and learning environment. To achieve this objective, NET has engaged a number of stakeholders in partnership to either donate the devices or to make a monetary contribution toward same. See link below for more information <http://www.net.org.jm/resource>