



PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PM Tours Chapelton Community Hospital

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has lauded the tremendous philanthropic contribution of New York based Clarendon native, Beverly Nichols, who donated US\$1 Million to construct a new wing at the Chapelton Community Hospital (CCH). He was speaking to journalists on Wednesday July 20, following a tour of the facility which is close to completion.

Mr. Holness said Nichols is a wonderful Jamaican who migrated and worked in the nursing and medical fields – who gave back so that now there is a new wing added to this facility in her honour. The overall amount spent on the CCH is not yet known because government had pledged funds to refurbish the rest of the building to complement the new wing.

There was a halt in construction during the Pandemic and the price of building materials has significantly increased, but based on what he had seen, the Prime Minister said he was sure it was value for money and the final figures would be released in due course.

"The hospital will be in service to all the people in this parish who will now benefit from what I have seen of this world class health facility in terms of the infrastructure and the doctors and nurses will complement that. I am very happy to see it now, I toured it about a year and a half ago when it looked shaky and uncertain and help was sought but my intervention with the CHASE Fund and it seems to be coming together. It's not finished but it's almost there and the Ministry of Health is making efforts to finish the other sections of the building," Holness said.

The Prime Minister said we need to start building purpose built facilities, because it's even more costly to repurpose old ones because you don't get the efficiency out of them. He noted that while being happy for what was done at Chapelton, in the future the MOHW would be putting out

(more)

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an overall plan for the upgrading of health facilities and building of new ones.

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“That is being done in conjunction with the International Development Bank (IDB), to whom Health Minister Tufton gave a very good overview of the island’s hospitals and clinics that they would be building in the next five -10 years. The government is spending significantly on health care, both to improve infrastructure and the quality of care and service,” the Prime Minister said.

He noted that where health is concerned especially service with empathy, government would also be seeking to make improvements. He commended workers who had undergone serious stress particularly throughout the Pandemic and had to postpone other surgeries and treatments which are now being rescheduled. Government would be increasing capacity and trying to improve service so that Jamaicans would quickly see the benefits of those efforts.

Meanwhile Member of Parliament Hon. Robert Nesta Morgan said this facility would expand the health services and relieve some of the pressure on May Pen Hospital, while giving people in surrounding communities a quicker opportunity to get the help that they need.

“The people of Kellits, Crofts Hill and Frankfield will appreciate the importance of this facility, it takes half hour to 45 minutes from Pennants to May Pen, so if you are really sick, think of what can happen. When you have a facility right here with doctors who can save your life, that trip is much shorter,” Morgan noted.

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