Government Connecting Jamaicans

The Government continued to provide communities with free, public WiFi access to enable citizens to do business, work, learn, earn and develop to their fullest potential.

Community WiFi
- Twenty-three communities across the island were connected under phase one of the initiative. A total of 189 locations across the 63 electoral constituencies will have Wi-Fi access.

Facilitating Online and Remote Learning
- Seven new sites were established and equipped with desktop computers, scanners, network infrastructure for residents to access the internet.

- Funding of more than $20 million was provided to the Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica (PBCJ) to procure state-of-the-art equipment to establish a dedicated 24-hour educational television channel.

- 28 laptops were handed over to top Primary Exit Profile (PEP) students.

- 40,000 tablets to benefit students on PATH were procured and distributed at a cost of $982 million.

- 26,000 tablets were procured and distributed to public sector teachers at a cost of $805 million.

- 15,000 laptops provided to high school students on the PATH programme at a cost of $1.3 billion.

Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz (2nd left), launches the Hope Bay internet WiFi hotspot in Portland. Others (from left) are Miss Portland Festival Queen 2021, Olecia Robinson; Director, Enterprise, Government, Enterprise and IT Solutions, Cable and Wireless Business, Carol Robertson; and Universal Service Fund (USF) Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Dawes.

National Broadband Initiative
- Work commenced on the roll out of a national broadband network, with the establishment of an emergency network to improve connectivity to schools; municipal corporations; and parish courts.

Boosting Capacity of Courts
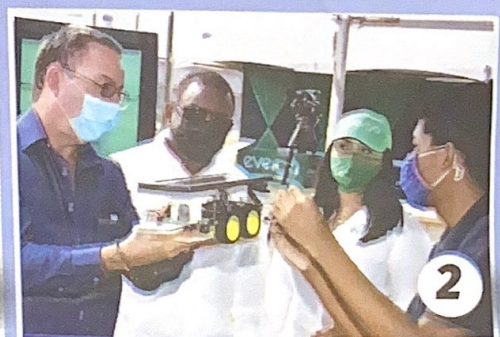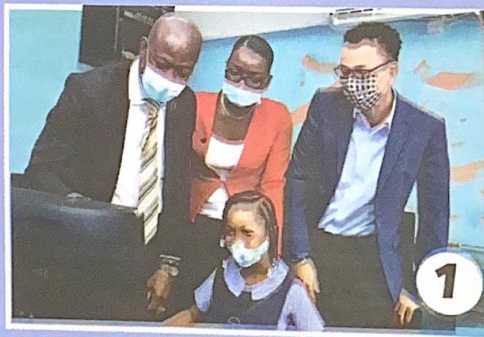- $20 million was donated to the Court Administration Division (CAD) for the procurement of equipment to improve the information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure of the island's courts.

ICT Research and Training
- USF provided $23 million in grants for post graduate ICT research.

- A New Information Commissioner assumed duties in December.

Energy
- Renewable energy solutions were installed at six public health facilities.

- The Government Electrical Regulator (GER) was established with primary responsibility for regulating the work that is carried out by licensed inspectors and registered electricians in relation to electrical installations, wiring or work.

- Establishment of the Electric Vehicle Council.

- Establishment of a Joint Petroleum Working Group (JPWG).

1. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Universal Service Fund (USF), Daniel Dawes (left); Principal of Goodwill Primary and Infant School in St. James, Camille Hoarde; and Councillor for the Somerton Division, Mark McGann, observe as grade five student, Miekayla Harris, utilises a desktop computer in the new computer lab donated to the school by USF, under its Community Access Point initiative.

2. Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Daryl Vaz (left), observes keenly as student of Calabar High School, Ajeni Gregg (right), demonstrates how the robot he and his team built, works. Calabar High was one of nine schools which participated in Evergo Jamaica's Secondary Schools Electric Mobility (E-Mobility) Robotics Competition held at the company's Marcus Garvey Dive location in Kingston. Also looking on (from 2nd left) are: President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Wayne McKenzie and Marketing Manager, Melissa Newman.