

PM Completes Naming of New Cabinet

Prime Minister, the Hon. Andrew Holness, in unveiling his Cabinet, during a swearing-in ceremony at King's House Tuesday (October 25), emphasized that the executive team reflects the capacity of the representatives in Parliament to direct the country in the new direction that he would like to steer the country.

The Prime Minister observed that public opinion has indicated that the people of Jamaica want decisive, meaningful and quick action and, therefore, there was a "limited learning curve", thus changes without chaos was the desired option. The reshuffle and new appointments, he said, reflected those who were hard-working and innovative. The changes include former Information Minister, Hon Daryl Vaz being sworn in as Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Telecommunications and Public Sector Efficiency, while Senator Arthur Williams, former Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister for the Public Service being appointed Minister without Portfolio for the Information Ministry. State Minister, Hon Shahine Robinson has been promoted to the cabinet as a Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Housing, Environment, Water and Local Government, with responsibility for Local Government. Prime Minister Holness has retained the Education portfolio in addition to being Minister of Defence, while Delroy Chuck has been retained as Minister of Justice, but with the additional responsibility of leader of the House of Representatives, succeeding Mr. Holness. The Prime Minister, while alluding to his promotion to the become Head of Government, stated that the "transition has set the stage for succession planning", and that there were planned changes to come which would include mentoring the young, while setting the stage for "the continuum for the future."