



Design & Technical Services Contract Signed for Upgrades to Clarendon Facilities



Lead architect at Form Architects Limited, Damian Edmond (second left, seated) and Minister of Health and Wellness Dr. Christopher Tufton (second right) sign copies of the contract for the designs to be developed for expansions of four additional facilities under the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP). Looking on (seated) are Robert Morgan, Member of Parliament for North Central Clarendon (left) and Matthew Samuda, Member of Parliament for North East St Ann. Standing are (from left) Michael Bent, Regional Director of the Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA); Nadine Preddie, acting Parish Manager for the Clarendon Health Services; and Orett Clarke, Programme Manager for the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP).

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In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Design & Technical Services Contract Signed for upgrades at Clarendon Facilities



The team shares a moment following the signing.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has signed a contract valued at JM \$72.6 million with Form Architects Limited for the provision of design and technical services for the upgrade of four key health facilities across Clarendon and St. Ann.

The facilities to benefit under this engagement are May Pen West (Denbigh) Health Centre and Mocho Health Centre in Clarendon, along with the St. Ann’s Bay Health Centre and St. Ann’s Bay Regional Hospital.

Signed on May 15, 2025, at the ministry’s offices in New Kingston, the contract forms part of the developments under the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP). The contracts were signed by Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Christopher Tufton, and Lead Architect at Form Architects Limited, Damian

Edmond. The signing was witnessed by several other key ministry and local representatives.

Speaking at the signing, Tufton said: “These facilities serve thousands of Jamaicans every year, and they are essential to our delivery of both preventive and curative services. As such, the design phase is crucial – it will ensure that we create modern, efficient, and climate-resilient health spaces that support quality care, improve staff workflow, and enhance patient outcomes.”

Under the terms of the agreement, Form Architects Limited will be responsible for preparing comprehensive architectural and engineering designs, supporting the development of Bills of Quantities, technical specifications, and cost estimates, and assisting with the processes for obtaining building permits and tendering for construction works. The contractor will also provide technical assistance during the implementation phase to ensure alignment with approved plans and standards.

“This contract represents a critical investment by the Ministry, through the HSSP, in the future of healthcare delivery for these communities,” said Orett Clarke, Programme Manager for the HSSP. “It moves us one step closer to making these four healthcare facilities more modern, functional and accessible to the citizens they serve.”

Clarke also noted that the expansion works will allow for a wider range of services to be provided at these facilities, and for better integration of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) system, *e-Care*. *E-Care* is now fully implemented in all 13 HSSP facilities.

HSSP was launched in 2018 and is designed to support the management and delivery of healthcare services across Jamaica, with a focus on preventing and managing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The programme operates with USD \$87 million in funding from the Government of Jamaica, a US \$50 million loan agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and a USD \$10 million grant from the European Union.

A total of 13 facilities – three hospitals and ten health centres – in St Catherine, Clarendon and St Ann are benefiting from enhanced infrastructure, information systems and improved processes under this programme.

Credit: The Ministry of Health & Wellness

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

More Persons Visiting Health Centres



Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton (3rd right) and Parish Manager for the Clarendon Health Services, Mr. Joseph Grant (left), staff members and other stakeholders unveil the sign to the newly renovated Aenon Town Health Centre.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, says that more persons are going to health centres for services.

“Our policy is geared towards shifting focus to one where more people will use the community health centres to get service, whether for prevention or basic curative services, rather than always running to the hospital. We are looking at the numbers and they are suggesting that the policy is working,” the Minister said.

Dr. Tufton was delivering the main address at the reopening of the renovated Aenon Town Health Centre in Clarendon, on May 8.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, addresses the reopening ceremony for the renovated Aenon Town Health Centre, in Clarendon, on May 8.

The Minister noted that close to \$10 million was spent to refurbish the health centre and is the largest sum spent on the facility in 20 years. He said

staff and citizens should be proud of it, as it would enhance their working and waiting environment.

Dr. Tufton said that the exact statistics of persons going to health centres would be made public soon, adding that was the intention of the policy, because it is easier for residents to go to health centres.

“Once people are going to a health centre, it means they are engaged in more prevention measures rather than curing illnesses. At a health centre, you will get a doctor or nurse who will say, ‘let me check your blood pressure, blood sugar level and if you’re diabetic let me see what you are eating, because we want to keep it stable’. We don’t want to wait until you have a heart attack and end up in A&E at May Pen Hospital,” he told the residents.

He said that Operation Refresh, under which the centre was rehabilitated, even with limited expenditure, was restoring credibility to the island’s health centres, some 100 of which would be fixed. The Minister urged critics of the programme to stop and think about the benefits to the Jamaican people. Meanwhile, Director, Institutional Benefits, Projects and Maintenance for the National Health Fund (NHF), Richard Allen, said the organisation is proud to have supported the work done at Aenon Town.

“This is not just paint on walls or tiles on floors; it’s about restoring dignity to spaces where people receive care, where mothers bring children and the elderly come for check-ups. We understand that the healthcare starts at the community level, and when a community has access to clean, safe and a welcoming health centre, it sends a message that you matter, your health and future matter,” Mr. Allen said.

The Type One health centre operates three days weekly and offers the following services – child health, antenatal, family planning, pap smear tests and home visits.

Credit: The Jamaica Information Service



The Aenon Town Health Centre in its final phase of completion.

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Toll Gate Health Centre Revitalised under ‘Operation Refresh’



The Toll Gate Health Centre before the finishing touches.

The Toll Gate Health Centre in Clarendon has been revitalised under the Ministry of Health and Wellness’ ‘Operation REFRESH’ initiative, marking a significant milestone in the Government’s ongoing effort to strengthen primary healthcare delivery islandwide.

The renovation included the installation of new windows and bathroom facilities, along with full air-conditioning and a reinforced tiled floor. Additional upgrades will include an improved water catchment system and a standby generator.

The facility serves more than 20,000 residents of Toll Gate and neighbouring communities, including Osbourne Store, Bell Plain, Rock Road, Comfort District, McGill Crest, Newland, Clarendon Park, Ebony, Berryville, St. Toolis, and Victoria Town. It provides a wide range of essential services, inclusive of antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, Pap smears, child health services, and immunisation.

Speaking during a recent Operation REFRESH ceremony at the health centre, Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, highlighted the facility’s importance in delivering quality healthcare at the community level.

He noted that the services provided form the foundation of early-stage health intervention, urging users “[not to] underestimate the importance of [the facility].”

The improvements were guided by the SMART health facility model, adopted by the Ministry in collaboration with British Aid Support. This model emphasises climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and energy efficiency, making it a crucial framework for modern healthcare infrastructure.

“We reinforce the buildings just in case a hurricane should come and you have wind damage... and sustainable toilets so you don’t waste the water,” Dr. Tufton outlined, underscoring the importance of building future-ready health infrastructure.

The Toll Gate Health Centre is one of several community facilities being upgraded under Operation REFRESH, a \$1-billion national initiative aimed at improving healthcare infrastructure, enhancing patient experience, and strengthening Jamaica’s primary healthcare network. The programme also focuses on providing safer, more comfortable environments for healthcare workers and patients.

“One of the standard features of our health centres under Operation REFRESH is to make sure that the working environment is comfortable... [with] clean, new bathrooms... [and] air conditioning throughout. We must put [workers] in an environment where they are comfortable so they can work,” Minister Tufton said.

He added: “I believe, based on what has been done, that you are already far better off than you were before... not just for you to work, but for you, the community people.”

Credit: The Jamaica Information Service

In the News: Southern Regional Health Authority

Major Infrastructure Works in Progress at May Pen Hospital



Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (left), and Chief Executive Officer at the May Pen Hospital, Mrs. Eugena Clarke-James tour some of the development works being undertaken at the facility. Partly hidden (centre) is SRHA board member, Winston Maragh.

Major infrastructure works are under way at May Pen Hospital to ease congestion, improve safety, and enhance service delivery, in response to increasing demand from Clarendon and neighbouring parishes.

Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, outlined the improvements during a tour of the facility in Clarendon, on Friday (May 30), noting that the hospital is operating beyond its designed capacity.

“This hospital is originally 170 beds but I am told that sometimes the demand goes up to 250 beds or even more in some instances when you have the rush,” the Minister said. “The population expansion in Clarendon, as well as in St. Catherine and maybe as far as St. Ann along the borders, places a lot more pressure on this facility,” he continued.

Among the key works in progress are upgrades to the emergency driveway and staff parking, which are part of a broader car park relocation effort. Two new car parks have been constructed at a cost of approximately \$180 million. “This will create a more orderly environment... more orderly parking and the emergency driveway for those who require emergency,” the Minister said. The original car park, he noted, will become the site of a proposed outpatient specialist clinic,

which is awaiting Cabinet approval.

“I’m hoping that over the next week or so, subject to Cabinet’s approval, is a \$600-million-plus award of a contract to build a new outpatient specialist clinic,” the Minister said. “This will mean adding some additional services – specialist services in a new facility – that will provide for both patients and doctors and their support teams to provide services to the expanding demand,” he added.

Work is also progressing on the hospital’s perimeter wall, which is being carried out in phases, to enhance the security of the facility. “If you look behind you, you will see the perimeter wall, which is complete in the first phase with another section to be done. All told, it will be about \$100 million because we need to secure the premises. And that is going to be continued in the months to come,” Dr. Tufton said.

The Minister also mentioned plans to expand bed capacity through a proposed \$25-million investment, as well as efforts to strengthen staffing. “What we need to do is to fill the staff complement we have, so I’m going to be working with the SMO (Senior Medical Officer) for that,” he said.

Looking beyond the May Pen Hospital, Dr. Tufton emphasised the need to operationalise the Chapelton Community Hospital and further support Lionel Town Hospital to ease pressure on the main facility.

He also cited plans to establish three new health centres under the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP) – Mocho Health Centre, May Pen North, and May Pen East.

“We have improved the services; we are expanding the infrastructure. It’s always a work in progress... but I believe the people of the parish will be better off for the work that is being done,” the Minister said.

Credit: The Jamaica Information Service

Facilities on the Move

Dental Auxiliaries Creating Brighter Smiles and Healthier Communities

This year marks the 27th celebration of Dental Auxiliaries Week, and the Southern Regional Health Authority Dental Team made a colourful impact.

The team chose the Mile Gully Health Centre as their outreach location, embracing the 2025 theme: “Dental Auxiliaries Promoting a Healthy Environment for Healthy Teeth.” From Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, and Manchester, the dedicated team came together to repaint and refresh the dental clinic-inside and out. It was more than a facelift- it was a step toward brighter smiles and healthier communities.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Know Your Numbers Campaign Well Received in Christiana

The team from the Manchester Health Department took over a section of Christiana for the Know Your Numbers campaign. They offered free blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, BMI, HIV, and other tests to residents from the Central Point Plaza in Christiana, Manchester.

The rain couldn't stop the community from taking charge of their health. Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Inaugural Regional Talent Explosion Concert was a Blast

When you have countless talented team members, it is only right to have a concert.

Instructed by SRHA Regional Director, Michael Bent, the staff welfare team executed a successful inaugural Talent Explosion concert which displayed the talents of many team members. It was an enjoyable one. Tune up those voices for the next staging.

Please see below highlights.



Facilities on the Move

Move for Health Day Encourages Faith-based Organizations to get Moving

In recognition of Move for Health Day on May 10, the health promotion teams encouraged faith-based organizations to get their congregation moving for better health. The team also gathered at the Holiness Born Again Apostolic Church in Manchester to share in their church service.

The congregants of Ebenezer Chapel United Pentecostal Church in Manchester also got moving, sharing that they have been embracing this holistic approach for better health.

Please see below highlights.



Staff Highlight

Recognizing our Nurses and Midwives

International Day of the Midwives was celebrated on May 5, under the theme, “Midwives: Critical in Every Crisis”, while International Nurses Day was celebrated on May 12, under the theme, “Our Nurses, Our Future. Caring for Nurses Strengthens Economies”.

The Southern Regional Health Authority used the occasion to thank the groups for their hard work, dedication and selfless sacrifice. Please see below photos of some of our nurses.





Andrea Thomas-Bruce

**Public Health Nurse
Kellits Health District, Clarendon**

**“From Childhood Dreams to Community Impact: The Journey of
Andrea Thomas-Bruce”**



Andrea Thomas-Bruce’s interest in healthcare was sparked by a simple act—a Public Health Nurse vaccinating children at school when she was a child. For her, this was the moment which cemented her desire to become a Public Health Nurse.

Years later, her childhood dream materialized and in January 2000, her journey began in healthcare, working at the Bustamante Hospital for Children. She later transferred to the Southern Regional Health Authority in 2006 where she has been giving exceptional service since.

Presently, Nurse Thomas-Bruce works in the Kellits Health District, where some of her duties include: supervision of the nursing, midwifery and support staff; delegating duties at the health facilities in the Kellits Health District; conducting and supervising service delivery in the area of maternal and child health; ensuring the appropriate diagnoses, interventions and referrals; planning and conducting special immunization programmes to include school immunization; conducting disease investigations and carrying out surveillance activities; conducting school, home and industrial visits; collecting, collating and analyzing data for monthly and special reports, among other responsibilities.

Andrea shares that her journey with the southern region has been vibrant, with challenging and motivating experiences, which has shaped her into the professional she is today. She adds that one of her proudest achievements is earning her Bachelor's Degree in Public Health Nursing, which represents not only academic growth but also the realization of a lifelong passion.

The Southern Pulse asked Andrea what keeps her going and she proudly shared, “my family”, adding that she also believes only our best is good enough, as that is what the Lord requires.

Beyond the uniform, this Public Health Nurse is a jovial, family-oriented, hardworking, determined, and resilient woman. She loves singing, writing poems and songs, and playing the bass guitar, even though she hasn’t done much of that lately.

On weekends, you’ll likely find her at church on a Saturday and on Sundays, she will be doing household chores and spending time with her family. If you were to surprise her with a visit, you might catch her singing along to the Gaither Vocal Band or watching a Jackie Chan movie, as action and comedy are her go-to genres.

Andrea is encouraging her colleagues to “know who you are and what you want to achieve. Stay focused and do your tasks to the best of your ability. Never give up on your dreams, just keep working towards them. Keep a positive attitude and make the best of every opportunity that presents themselves. Above all remember that with God all things are possible so don’t leave him out of anything”.

She shares that her wish for her beloved country is simple yet profound—“that we learn to truly see each other as brothers and sisters, and that our leaders seek divine guidance to lead with wisdom and compassion.”

Wellness Bytes

Take Care of you!



Ministry Of Health

Take Care Of YOU

- ✓ Take your medicine as prescribed
- ✓ Exercise regularly
- ✓ Eat healthy
- ✓ Think Right

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Live LONG!**



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HR And You:

“Special Sick Leave”

Knowledge Bytes

7.13.9

- i) Should the illness of an employee necessitate a continuous absence such that all accumulated sick leave and departmental leave plus fifty percent (50%) of vacation leave have been exhausted, the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department may grant the employee special sick leave on the advice of the appropriate medical authority.
- ii) The Permanent Secretary or Head of Department may require an employee to forward to the Chief Medical Officer, under confidential cover, a further medical certificate stating the nature of his/her illness.
- iii) The Chief Medical Officer will examine the certificate and make a recommendation to the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department without disclosing the nature of the illness.

A Resumption Form MUST be completed and submitted to your HR Department on the day you return to work.



**Credit: Ms. Juline Singh
Manager, Human
Resource Development**

Embracing Enterprise Risk Management Within the Southern Region

THE ERM CORNER:

Cybersecurity Risks:

An effect of uncertainty on or within information and technology. **Cybersecurity risks** relate to the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of information, data, or information (or control) systems and reflect the potential adverse impacts to organizational operations (i.e., mission, functions, image, or reputation) and assets, individuals, other organizations, and the Nation.

**Credit: Ms. Kimberley Trought
Enterprise Risk Management Analyst**

(Source:
<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ir/2020/NIST.IR.8286.pdf>)

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The Lighter Side

