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SERHA TIMES

South East Regional Health Authority

Ground Breaking for Construction of Old Harbour Comprehensive Health Centre



Residents of Old Harbour in St. Catherine are set to benefit from significantly improved and expanded healthcare services with the construction of a new Comprehensive Health Centre. Ground was officially broken for this new facility on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, through the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP). The Old Harbour Comprehensive Health Centre, a state-of-the-art facility, will serve approximately 10,000 people per month in St. Catherine, Jamaica. The new facility, located on East Street, will replace the current type 3 facility, which serves over 17,000 residents annually but faces space constraints.

The centre will offer a wide range of primary healthcare services, including specialist clinics and critical services such as pharmacy, laboratory, ECG, phlebotomy, X-ray, physiotherapy, and screenings for ophthalmology and audiology. It will also house dedicated sections for dentistry, mental health, and maternal and child health. The centre is expected to significantly enhance Old Harbour's ability to manage chronic illnesses and improve overall public health outcomes as the fastest-growing town in the country. It will also enhance operations at the Spanish Town and May Pen Hospitals, providing residents with more non-emergency services closer to

home. The construction, expected to be completed by early 2026, is expected to provide employment for up to 200 persons during the development phase and an expanded team of medical and support staff once the facility becomes operational.

First Two Health Centres in St. Thomas Reopened Under Operation Refresh

The Ministry of Health and Wellness in partnership with the National Health Fund (NHF) and SERHA, has reopened the first two benefitting health centres under Operation Refresh, a new programme.

The Port Morant and Arcadia Health Centres in St. Thomas were reopened on Thursday, September 19, 2024.

The programme was announced by the Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, during his Sectoral presentation on May 7, 2024, is designed to give renewed attention to primary care reform. One billion Jamaican dollars has been earmarked

for the programme, which is to spruce up select health centres while also enabling more home visits from community health aides.

“Our attempts for community mindset transformation must include restoring our community health centres to a look, feel and utility that attracts community participation and support. We want our health centres to be a source of pride and our citizens to expect and experience improved customer experience,” said Minister Tufton, during his keynote address at the reopening ceremony.

HEALTH CENTRES

The Port Morant Health Centre, a Type II facility provides 34, 000 residents in the communities of Land Top, Pear Tree River, Leith Hall and Pamphret. The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The services offered are child health clinic, medical clinic, nutrition counseling, environmental health services, pharmacy, postnatal, family planning, pap smear, and antenatal. The Centre was upgraded at a cost of JA\$28 million, from the National Health Fund.

Arcadia Health Centre, a type I health care facility which serves some 200 persons, benefited from a J\$6-million renovation, also funded by the NHF. It was done a cost of JA\$6,100,000 million, by the National Health Fund. The renovation included repainting, retiling, and changing interior fixtures and fittings. Termite treatment, fence repairs, and debushing were also done to enhance care for 200 residents. The health centre operates Mondays to Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The services offered are child and maternal health services, PapSmear, Immunization, and Family Planning.

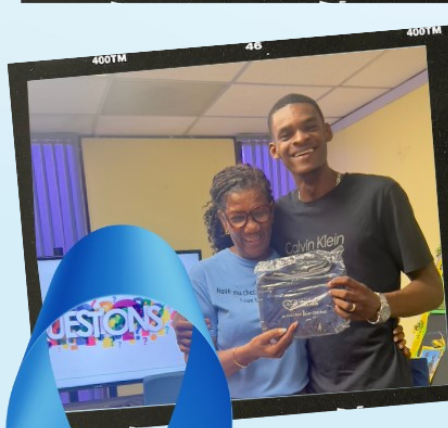
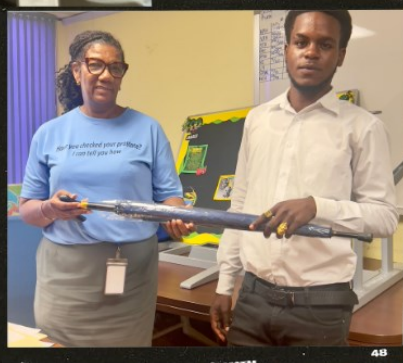


Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health & Wellness, cuts the ribbon to officially reopen the Port Morant Health Centre on September 19, 2024. Captured from left are: Mr. Lascelles Brown, Acting Regional Director, SERHA; Dr. Michelle Charles, Member of Parliament, St. Thomas Eastern; Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman, SERHA; and Mrs. Colleen Wright, Parish Manager, St. Thomas Health Services.

Regional Non-Communicable Disease Department Raises Awareness on Prostate Cancer



Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is observed every September with campaigns and activities designed to raise awareness, encourage early detection, and provide information on prevention and treatment options. The Regional Non-Communicable Disease Department hosted an education session to the staff about the prostate cancer awareness month.



SERHA Expands Fleet with New Toyota Hilux Pick-Up Vans

SERHA has enhanced its fleet with the addition of three new Toyota Hilux pick-up vans, valued at over JA\$22 million. This investment is designed to improve operations and services within the region.

One vehicle will be designated for zonal duties within the Kingston & St. Andrew Health Department. Another will assist with errands at the Bustamante Hospital for Children and the third vehicle will serve the Corporate Office.

The handover of the vehicles took place on Monday, September 30, 2024 at the Transport Department of the Bustamante Hospital for Children.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Our Regional Office team wore pink in October to show solidarity and spread awareness about Breast Cancer Awareness. Symptoms of breast cancer can include; new lump, nipple discharge other than milk including blood, pulling in the nipple or pain in the nipple, and thickening or swelling part of the breast.

Ms. Charmin McKoy, Health Education Officer at SERHA, delivered an insightful presentation on breast cancer, its impacts, and treatment options to the staff. She also guided the staff through self-breast examination techniques. Mammograms can detect cancer before symptoms show.

Additionally, Ms. Kadeen Edwards, Financial Advisor from Sagicor Life Jamaica Limited, Senators Branch, shared valuable information about the benefits of critical illness plans.





Inaugural Electrophysiology Mission at BHC's Cardiac Centre



The Cardiac Centre at the Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) hosted an important Electrophysiology Mission from October 7 to 11, 2024, led by Dr. Kevin Shannon, a Consultant Electrophysiologist from UCLA Medical Centre, Los Angeles. This mission focused on performing corrective procedures for abnormal heart rhythms in children.

Dr. Shannon's team has a proven track record, having performed an average of 130 electrophysiological procedures annually over the past five years, with 128 invasive procedures completed. Dr. Tamra Tomlinson Morris, Consultant Cardiologist, BHC, lead the local team throughout the mission.

Understanding Electrophysiology the heart comprises both structural and electrical components. While congenital heart disease is commonly associated with physical anomalies such as "holes in the heart" or narrowed blood vessels, some children also face electrical issues. These electrical problems can lead to abnormal heartbeats (arrhythmias), which may cause excessively rapid heart rates, poor heart function, and, in rare cases, sudden death.

Clinical Activities during the Electrophysiology Mission, children underwent electrophysiology studies to identify and ablate (destroy) abnormal electrical pathways. This critical procedure aims to prevent dangerous heart rhythms and improve long-term health outcomes. Each child will be monitored overnight after treatment and discharged the following day, with a goal of treating at least three patients per day throughout the five-day mission.

This mission represents a significant step forward in providing specialized cardiac care to children in Jamaica. The collaboration between the visiting team and local cardiologists is vital for enhancing pediatric cardiac health in the region.

Ageing Health Fair Highlights



The Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department (KSAHD) and the National Council for Senior Citizens hosted Caribbean Wellness Day on Thursday, September 12, 2024, with an ageing fair at Emancipation Park, New Kingston.

Caribbean Wellness Day, was celebrated under the theme “Power through Collective Action” with a sub-theme “Good Health is Our Right,” is an annual event geared towards increasing awareness and promotion measures among CARICOM member states and their populations to fight against non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Members of the public benefited from FREE health services, including checks for blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, prostate cancer, vaccination and other checks and surprises.

\$JA10 Million Investment in Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals Laundry Services for Emergency Cases



Photo of two dryers and one washer installed at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital

A significant investment of JA\$10 million JMD has been made in the Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals (KPH/VJH) laundry services for emergency cases; marked by the installation and commissioning of two state-of-the-art washers and two dryers inside the linen room at Victoria Jubilee Hospital. This upgrade is part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and service quality.

To ensure that laundry personnel are fully equipped to operate the new machines, the first in a series of training sessions has been conducted. This training provides staff with the necessary skills and knowledge in order for them to maximize the efficiency and use of the new equipment.

The KPH/VJH laundry services play a crucial role in supporting healthcare operations, and this investment underscores our dedication to maintaining high standards in all aspects of service delivery.

SERHA Inks Contract of Over \$63 Million for Mortuary Services at Spanish Town Hospital



Mr. Wentworth Charles (second from right), Board Chairman, SERHA, hands over the officially signed three-year contract to Mr. Carl Morgan (second from left), Managing Director, Gateway Mortuary Services and Funeral Supplies Limited, for providing mortuary services at the Spanish Town Hospital during the contract signing ceremony on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, inside the conference room at the corporate office. Others captured in the photo from left are Ms. Jacqueline Morgan, wife of Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Lascelles Brown, Acting Regional Director, SERHA.

SERHA has officially signed a contract valued at over \$63 million JMD with Gateway Mortuary Services and Funeral Supplies Limited to provide essential mortuary services at the Spanish Town Hospital (STH). This contract, effective for three years ends October 16, 2027; marks a significant step in enhancing healthcare services in the region.

As a vital healthcare provider serving a diverse population, residents of St. Catherine will significantly benefit from post-mortem services, thus reflecting SERHA's commitment to holistic healthcare.

Reopening of Breastfeeding Room at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital



Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton (centre), Minister of Health and Wellness, smiles with baby Rashawn and his mother, Natalia Marage. Looking on is Dr. Natalie Whyllie (left), Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals. The occasion was the official reopening of the Breastfeeding room at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Other captioned in the photo are Ms. Sophia Bernard-Fairman (right), President of the Kiwanis Club of New Kingston and a mother and her child.

The breastfeeding room at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital was officially reopened on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. The work, which was undertaken by the Kiwanis Club of New Kingston at a cost of \$JA 500,000, provides a more comfortable environment for mothers while they breastfeed. The space has been equipped with television, recliner chairs, reading room, onesies for premature babies, and a colorful wall mural.

During the opening, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness, highlighted the importance of maternal health as Jamaica faces declining birth rates. With 52,000 births in 2023 and a fertility rate of just 1.9, it's crucial we ensure every mother and newborn receives top-notch care throughout their journey.

He noted that already through the Maternal Health Programme, the Ministry is ensuring that all mothers receive high-quality care during pregnancy, childbirth and in the postpartum period.

Close to 4,000 Eye Surgeries Completed Under Eyecare Programme



Since the resumption of the Jamaica/Cuba Eye Care Programme in August 2023, close to 4,000 eye surgeries have been completed up to October 18 of this year. Thousands of Jamaicans have benefited from Cataract (1,192) and Pterygium surgeries (655); as well as Diabetic Retinopathy laser (1,246) and Anterior Segment laser treatments (383).

Speaking at a media briefing and tour of the Programme located on the St. Joseph's Hospital grounds, Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, lauded the team and thanked Cuba for its support. *"I am pleased to report that since the resumption of the programme, we have conducted some 21,822 case consultations which includes preoperative, retina consultation, general consultations and post-operation case reviews. I commend the local team and the people and Government of Cuba for their support of Jamaica's public health."*

The Programme is supported by 22 qualified professionals from Cuba and Jamaica, including six ophthalmologists, two optometrists, six nurses, one bio-medical engineer one medical technologist, one pharmacologist, along with a local coordinator and administrative officers. Procedures are currently done from two locations – the St. Joseph's Hospital and the Kingston Public Hospital.

Dr. Tufton also noted that for persons to benefit from the programme, they must obtain a referral from a healthcare provider and visit the St. Joseph's Hospital location with a national identification for a consultation. The conditions that are currently treated under the programme are Cataract, Pterygium and Diabetic Retinopathy.

More than 54,000 Patients Treated at Cancer Care Centre



Clinica- Varian Linear Accelerator, which provides treatment by utilizing external beam radiation.

More than 54,000 patients with cancer at the St. Joseph's Hospital (SJH) have been treated since 2018 using its state-of-the-art Clinica Varian Linear Accelerator (Linac). This advanced external beam radiation therapy system, purchased by the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) at a cost of USD 4.8 million, employs innovative techniques such as 3D Conformal and Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT).

This ensures delivery of precise cancer treatment while protecting surrounding healthy tissue. The technology is designed to effectively treat a variety of cancers, including those of the prostate, breast, cervical, rectal, and brain, as well as tumors in the limbs and skin.

To ensure continuous, high-quality care SJH has taken proactive steps to minimize downtime for the Linac machine, ensuring patients receive timely treatment. Dr. Dutris Bourne, Regional Consultant Clinical Coordinator at the National Cancer Treatment Centre, SJH, outlined several key measures implemented to maintain the machine's optimal performance:

Quarterly Preventative Maintenance: quarterly checks by service contractor, Varian via agent Global Medica who has local engineers in Jamaica.

Local Engineer Training: Biomedical engineers from MOHW are trained to troubleshoot and resolve general issues with the Linac machine. **Spare Parts Availability:** Local availability of commonly needed spare parts.

Supportive Infrastructure: The hospital is equipped with a dedicated generator and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) batteries to safeguard against power outages and surges. **Expanded Spare Parts Storage:** Planned introduction of more extensive spare parts storage on site to completed in next six months. As part of the Jamaican government's continued investment in healthcare, SJH is being redeveloped into a Centre of Excellence for Oncology and Nephrology.

This transformation will allow the hospital to expand its services and provide specialized, enhanced compassionate care in both oncology and nephrology, functioning as an extension of the Kingston Public Hospital. SJH is one of the specialist hospitals under the management of the SERHA.

SERHA Awards Contract for Supply, Delivery, Installation, and Commissioning of Anaesthetic Machines

SERHA has awarded a significant contract to IRAD Medical Supplies Limited for the supply, delivery, installation, and commissioning of ten (10) state-of-the-art anaesthetic machines across healthcare facilities within its jurisdiction. This contract also includes a comprehensive preventative maintenance service agreement for five (5) years.

The total value of the contract stands at JMD\$100,247,991.36 million for the anaesthetic machines, with an additional JMD\$32,850,321.00 million allocated for the five-year preventative maintenance services.

These state-of-the-art machines will be deployed to key hospitals within the SERHA network, directly benefiting patients and healthcare providers with advanced anaesthetic technology.

The hospitals that will benefit from this contract are:

- Princess Margaret Hospital – 1 machine
- Spanish Town Hospital – 2 machines
- Kingston Public Hospital – 3 machines
- Victoria Jubilee Hospital – 2 machines
- Bustamante Hospital for Children – 2 machines

The machines will be delivered, installed, and fully commissioned within 8 to 12 weeks from the signing of the contract, ensuring availability of anaesthetic machines within SERHA's Hospitals.

Speaking at the contract signing ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2024, Mr. Wentworth Charles, Board Chairman of SERHA, emphasized the importance of this investment: *"This investment in modern anaesthetic equipment underscores our commitment to improving the quality of healthcare services provided to the people of the southeast region."*

Mr. Lascelles Brown, Acting Regional Director of SERHA, explained that the Board of Directors' has instructed that contracts for all medical equipment include a service level agreement for effective maintenance. He explained that: *"As part of this contract the anaesthetic machines will be supported by a five-year preventative maintenance plan. The objective is to ensure that the anaesthetic machines remain in optimal working condition. Thereby, reducing the likelihood of downtime and supporting long-term sustainability for our healthcare facilities."*



Mr. Wentworth Charles (second right), Board Chairman, SERHA, hands over signed contract to Ms. Ashli O'Connor, Sales Manager, IRAD, during the contract signing on Friday, November 8, 2024 inside SERHA's Corporate Office conference room. Observing from left to right are: Mr. Marcell King, Purchasing Manager, IRAD Medical Supplies Limited and Mr. Lascelles Brown, Acting Regional Director, SERHA.

Ground Broken for the Expansion of the St. Jago Park Health Centre

The Ministry of Health and Wellness, through the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP), On November 29, 2024 broke ground for the expansion and renovation of the St. Jago Park Comprehensive Health Centre in St Catherine, which is expected to cost just over JM\$700 million.

This follows the groundbreaking for the construction of a brand new comprehensive Health Centre in Old Harbour a few weeks ago to the tune of just under one billion dollars, and the 5.5 billion dollars being invested in the new six-story building at Spanish Town Hospital.

The ministry also plans to break ground for the expansion of the Greater Portmore Comprehensive Health Centre, also in the parish, before the end of the year. Speaking at the contract signing and groundbreaking event yesterday, Minister Tufton emphasised that the new building and renovations at St Jago Park are part of a \$10 billion dollar investment in St Catherine's health services.

"We are now closing the loop with the expansion of the hospital, with the ground-breaking for expansions at the surrounding major health centres, and the electronic health records system, e-Care, that is now being used in the hospital and the health centres,"

Tufton said. *"We also have a police post here, and we're enhancing a vector control building at the back, which have both also been unveiled today. Essentially, we are realising the vision and the plan that we have."*

"St Catherine is benefitting from a US\$65 million investment in its health infrastructure, which is the largest government project in this parish in a very long time," the minister said. The infrastructure upgrades and electronic health records system implementation are being carried out through the Health Systems Strengthening Programme (HSSP).

Once completed, the upgraded St Jago Park Comprehensive Health Centre will offer expanded services, including dentistry, mental health care, diabetic retinopathy screening, and laboratory services. These improvements are expected to address chronic illnesses and emerging healthcare demands in the parish. An average of 6600 Jamaicans currently use the St Jago Park Comprehensive Health centre on a monthly basis. The HSSP was launched in 2018 to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and improve healthcare infrastructure across Jamaica. The programme is supported by a US \$50 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), USD \$87 million in funding from the Government of Jamaica, and the European Union's USD \$10 million grant.

A total of 13 facilities – three hospitals and ten health centres – across the island are benefitting from enhanced infrastructure, information systems and improved processes under the HSSP, which is expected to run until 2029.



12-Year-Old Donates to Healthcare Workers' Daycare

Jazmin Headley, a talented 12-year-old Canadian-Jamaican Philanthropist, actress and singer, has made a remarkable contribution by generously donating books, dolls, and toys valued at over \$15,000 CAD to the staff daycare serving employees at Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals. This initiative is part of her ongoing philanthropic efforts through the Jazz Me Foundation.



Ms. Jazmin Headley (second from right), Chief Executive Officer, Jazmin Foundation, presents one of the donated items to Dr. Natalie Whyllie (second from left), Chief Executive Officer, Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals during the handover ceremony for the Jazmin Headley Corner on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at VJH. Also pictured are Ms. Ann Marie Mattison Leachman (left), Daycare Supervisor, VJH, and Mrs. Elise Fairweather-Blackwood (right), Director of Nursing Services, VJH.

Jazmin's philanthropic journey began four years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic, inspired by the abundance of birthday gifts she received that she felt could bring joy to others in

need. With the encouragement of her parents, she embraced the values of compassion and generosity, laying the foundation for her impactful charitable endeavors.

The Jazmin Corner, an inviting space for young patients to read and relax, was inaugurated October 23, at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH), marking the second such initiative after her first donation to May Pen Hospital in August 2023. During her speech, Jazmin expressed her hopes for the initiative to expand across hospitals in Jamaica, aiming to spread happiness and comfort to young patients in need.

Over the years, Jazmin has raised funds for wheelchairs, clothing, and other essential items, providing critical support to needy children in both Jamaica and Canada. Her parents have been instrumental in guiding her efforts, helping to nurture her passion for giving.

In addition to Jazmin's efforts, Cal's Manufacturing Limited has also played a vital role in enhancing the daycare environment, providing paint, lumber, and fans to support beautification efforts across the daycare, commissary, and physiotherapy block.

Dr. Natalie Whyllie, CEO of Kingston Public & Victoria Jubilee Hospitals, expressed gratitude to Jazmin and her family, Cal's Manufacturing Limited and Emirates Facial & Dental Implant Centre for their generous donations. "These donations will not only benefit the children of our staff but also support the healthcare workers who dedicate their lives to caring for others," Dr. Whyllie stated. She commended Jazmin for her extraordinary kindness and wished her continued success on her philanthropic journey.

BHC Pioneering Holistic Wellness

The Bustamante Hospital for Children is adding to its suite of services, with its Animal-Assisted Recovery and Care Programme (AARCP) and a combined spiritual and psychological support initiative while continuing to provide comprehensive medical care to children 12 years old and younger.

Now more than 12 months since the launch of the AARCP, 142 patients have benefited from animal therapy, which seeks to

complement healthcare delivery to patients undergoing procedures or who require long-term hospitalisation. Under the programme, there have been monthly interactions and educational sessions involving pre-selected patients and the animals. Staff and parents also benefit from the visits and interactions with animals.

Speaking at a visit to the health facility on Thursday (November 28, 2024), Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton, saluted the staff for their work in introducing the other dimensions of wellness. *“I commend the team on embracing the concept of wellness and the one-health approach, which is reflected in the adoption of the Animal-Assisted Recovery and Care programme. At the same time, we understand that our mental health and wellness is not divorced from our physical health, and we want to give our children the best chance at optimal recovery,”* he said.



Lifesaving Surgeries at BHC

The Bustamante Hospital for Children recently hosted a team of medical professionals from the Chain of Hope UK, who travelled to Jamaica from November 18 to 22 to perform life-saving cardiac surgeries on children in need. Over the course of the week-long mission, the visiting team, alongside local specialists, successfully operated on seven children suffering from various congenital heart conditions.



Dr. Sherard Little, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at the Bustamante Hospital for Children, led the surgical efforts, noting that the additional staff brought in by the visiting team enabled the hospital to treat more patients than usual. *"On a regular basis, we are able to perform one or two surgeries a week, but with the help of the Chain of Hope team, we were able to treat*

Dr. Sherard Little Cardiac Surgeon (first right) leads a dedicated team of medical professionals in performing life-saving surgeries at Bustamante Hospital for Children. Pictured alongside him are Dr. Jason Blackstock, Medical Officer and Cardiac Resident, (from first left) is Dr. Kamille Goulbourne Anderson (Medical Officer & Cardiac Resident.), and to (her left) - Dr. Juanita Baxter (Medical Officer & Cardiac Resident), all committed to improving the health and well-being of children in need of cardiac care. Together, they continue to make a profound impact in the fight against heart disease in children.

up to seven children in a single week," said Dr. Little. The surgeries performed during the mission included the repair of ventricular septal defects, a common congenital heart condition, as well as more complex cases such as tetralogy of Fallot. Dr. Little explained that while the goal of the surgeries is not always to quote the heart entirely, the procedures significantly improve the children's quality of life, allowing many of them to lead healthier, more active lives. The mission has been in operation for over 20 years, with this year marking its 21. Dr. Little highlighted that parents would often return to give their well wishes, despite initially being hesitant about the surgery.

The visiting team's contribution was invaluable, complementing the efforts of the local staff, which includes cardiologists, surgeons, nurses, and intensive care specialists. The team composition was tailored to the needs of the mission, which included anaesthetists, perfusionists (who operate the heart-lung bypass machine), and ICU nurses, who helped manage the children's post-operative care. All surgeries and procedures are offered at no cost to the families, ensuring that no child is turned away due to financial constraints. Whether it's a life-saving open-heart surgery or a less invasive cardiac catheterization, the centre offers the full spectrum of heart care needed to improve the health and quality of life of these children.

Referrals to the centre come from hospitals throughout the region, where paediatricians identify children with congenital or acquired heart conditions. Once diagnosed, children are placed on a treatment list and are evaluated by a medical committee, which prioritizes cases based on the severity of each child's condition.

HR Matters



SPANISH TOWN HOSPITAL NEW STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES (2026)

Spanish Town Hospital

ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY

EXPANDED HEALTHCARE SERVICES & FACILITIES



NEW SPECIALIZED SERVICES:

- Neurosurgery
- Haemato-oncology
- Cardiology
- Gastroenterology
- Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)
- Ophthalmology
- Psychiatry
- Expanded Urology



NEW INFRASTRUCTURE:

- 7 Operating Theatres
- Accident & Emergency (A&E) department
- Laboratory facilities
- Pharmacy
- Radiology department (including MRI and mammography)
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
- High Dependency Unit (HDU)



INCREASED CAPACITY:

- Additional Technical & Non-Technical Staff
- 133 hospital beds
- 12 outpatient clinic rooms
- Improved vehicular & pedestrian access
- Increased security coverage
- Upgraded support services

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STUDY LEAVE

Excerpts from the Staff Order for Public Service

7.8.3 Bonding

Officers who are granted study leave and receive support from public funds may be required to execute a loan agreement as outlined in sections 5.7 (iii-v), of these Staff Order

7.8.4 Day Release

Officers may be granted a combination of day release during the academic year and full time study leave during the summer period to attend any approved tertiary institution. This will only be considered where evening classes are not available for the particular course. The following conditions will apply:

(i) The officer will cease to earn vacation leave at the commencement of the course until its completion.

(ii) The officer is expected to attend classes 1 or 2 days a week and where necessary on full time for 2 to 4 weeks during the summer period if required by the institution.

(iii) The days and full time period utilized for the course will be charged to his/her vacation. After the vacation leave has been exhausted, the officer will enter into a period of study leave which may be granted on full salary for a total period of up to 180 days, to be utilized as at (ii).

(iv) On completion of the course the officer will be credited with vacation leave for the number of days on which he was not in attendance at classes, subject to the provision that vacation leave will not exceed the maximum prescribed.

(v) Officers granted study leave as above are not entitled to recreational leave.

(vi) Officers who are granted full time study leave Categories 2 or 3 to run consecutively with the day release should be credited with the vacation leave earned at (iv) prior to the commencement of the full time study leave.

Continuation in the next publication.

We want to hear from you!

Tell us what is happening in your facility. Call Shuwana Johnson, Public Relations Manager, SERHA, at (876) 816-8058 or send an email to: shuwana.j@serha.gov.jm. You may also call Mr. Raemone Collier, Public Relations Officer, SERHA, at (876) 540-0603 or send an email to: raemone.c@serha.gov.jm