



## PRESS RELEASE

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# 101 Health Centres for SMART Upgrade

- ***Health Hurricane Response Programme Enters Phase 2***

**Kingston, Jamaica: Tuesday, May 12, 2026:** Minister of Health & Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton CD, MP has announced that the Health Hurricane Response Programme (HHRP) has now entered its second phase and is focused on integrated components designed to restore infrastructure, strengthen resilience, and advance health system reform.

The Minister gave the update during his sectoral presentation in Parliament on Tuesday (May 12). *“In this phase, component one deals with technical and environmental foundation for rehabilitation through comprehensive assessments, engineering and architectural designs, environmental safeguards, and integration of PAHO SMART health facility standards to ensure climate-resilient, compliant, and future-ready infrastructure. This will be done at 101 health centres,”* the Minister said.

These 101 health centres include 41 under the Primary Health Care Reform agenda, which are to offer expanded service capacity, improved patient flow, enhanced infrastructure, and strengthened community-based care delivery. Additionally, a Project Implementation Unit to manage procurement, quality control, risk mitigation, and stakeholder coordination to ensure timely and accountable delivery of the components under phase two will be established.

*“Madam Speaker, as for the affected hospitals, a Site Suitability Analysis consultancy through a Technical Cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has been initiated for Black River, Falmouth, and Noel Holmes Hospitals to determine whether these facilities can continue operating at their current locations, particularly in light of proposed expansions under the Secondary Care Reform framework, and their vulnerability to climate shocks and how these shocks ultimately impact service delivery,”* Dr. Tufton added.

The Health Hurricane Response Programme (HHRP) was established by the Ministry of Health & Wellness to manage the repair and rebuilding programme following the passage of Hurricane Melissa, a category five storm that badly affected health facilities in St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James and Trelawny.



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