

## **GUSTAV ROAD REPAIR CONTRACTS SIGNED**

Some 12 contracts amounting to \$583.7M were signed at the Ministry of Transport and Works on Tuesday, November 25 representing payment for work to be done on several roads which were damaged following the passage of Tropical Storm Gustav.

Roads to be repaired include:

- Olympic Way – Waltham Pk. Rd. - \$95.4M
- Upper Benson/Shortwood Dr/ Cassava Piece - \$71.6M
- McGregor Gully/Langston Rd - \$74.8M
- Shoemaker Gully/Eastwood Pk./Waltham Pk. Rd - \$82M
- Liguanea Prep/Washington Close/Waterloo Ford - \$87.1M
- Red Hills Blvd. - \$22.7M
- Graham Close/Cherry Gardens - \$16.2M
- Nine Turns, Clarendon - \$25.5M
- Tivoli Gully (Spanish Twn. Rd. – Marcus Garvey Drv.) - \$28M
- Skyline Drv - \$24M
- Mispah-Allison, Manchester - \$27.5M
- Bombie-Alliston-Cobbla, Manchester - \$28.9M

Speaking at the Signing Ceremony, Works Minister Mike Henry noted that quite a number of the contracts involved had already been signed and that mobilisation was at various stages in terms of the rehabilitation process. “Today, we are intensifying the overall effort with the signing of a number of the remaining contracts, again mostly for the Corporate Area, which was more significantly affected by Tropical Storm Gustav”, he continued. Also speaking at the Contract Signing were MP for NE St. Andrew Delroy Chuck and Contractor Rodney Chin, both of whom expressed pleasure that work was being done on the badly damaged roads. In the case of MP Chuck, he said he was relieved that his constituents could look forward to good roads while Contractor Chin gave the undertaking to carry out efficient and satisfactory work.

## **AVIATION TRAINING SCHOOL COMING**

Jamaica is in the process of entering into an agreement with Air Transport Training College of Singapore to set up a similar Institution here in Jamaica.

Under this agreement, prospective students will be trained to become certified aircraft technicians. Upon completion of their training, these technicians would become available for employment in the local industry where such skills are short. There will also be the possibility of this institution being used as a ‘feeder’ for the global industry.

Associated with the creation of this Institution, Dr. Aloysius Tay Ban Hok, from the Association of Aerospace Industries in Singapore and Trade Consul between Jamaica and Singapore, was in the island recently. During discussions with representatives from the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority, the Ministry of Transport and Works and other stakeholders, it was decided that prospective instructors from Jamaica would be identified to receive training in a ‘train the trainers’ programme at the Air Transport College in Singapore.

The Training for the prospective instructors in Singapore is expected to start in January, 2009 and should last for approximately 8 weeks. 5 persons to receive this training have already been identified.

The local training aspect in Jamaica is slated to commence in March, 2009.

## **MINISTER HENRY PARTICIPATES IN ATLANTA FORUM**

Minister Mike Henry participated in leadership forum at the Carter Centre, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA recently.

Minister Henry took part in two panel discussions relating to ‘Building the Talent for a Changing America’ and ‘Leadership for Social Justice in a Changing America’. Among the central focuses of the exercise were leadership creation, celebrating change agents, accountability in leadership, diversity as a strength and equity initiatives at work. Minister Henry also used the opportunity to cement Jamaica’s strong ties with the city of Atlanta.