

MINISTRY PAPER NO: -

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF THE PLANNING INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

OBJECTIVES

During FY 2008/09, the PIOJ's priorities (and the strategic priorities of the GOJ) were to:

- a. Address the economic crisis;
- b. Mobilize external resources through greater engagement of the multilateral financial institutions (MFIs);
- c. Recover from weather-related shocks;
- d. Attain better debt management for fiscal sustainability;
- e. Enhance the social safety net; and
- f. Improve governance.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009

a. **Global Financial Crisis**

The PIOJ monitored the economy; provided timely information and credible advice on an ongoing basis on the challenges posed by the global financial and economic crises.

b. **Greater engagement of the MFIs and more concessional terms on loans**

The PIOJ co-ordinated and helped to negotiate approximately US\$1.6 billion (J\$116.7 billion) in official development assistance (external loans and grants) in furtherance of the GOJ's commitment to securing more concessional resources.

c. **Response to Tropical Storm Gustav**

- i. The PIOJ coordinated the Macro-Socioeconomic and Environmental Impact Assessment of Tropical Storm Gustav on Jamaica which caused damage, estimated at US\$213.99 million (J\$15.51 billion) to Jamaica which resulted in the preparation of projects for rehabilitation and funding by MFIs.
- ii. Loans were secured in the amounts of US\$50 million from the IDB; US\$30 million from the CDB; and US\$500,000 through the Emergency Facility Loan (EFL). Grants amounting to US\$2.8 million were received from the European Union for budget support to mitigate the impact of the disaster on the budget. The indicative total financial assistance was US\$83.3 million.
- iii. This funding allowed the GOJ to effect the following: repairs to the transport infrastructure, including reconstruction of the Hope River Bridge (IDB); repairs to gullies, retaining walls and roads, as well as river training (CDB); and retroactive financing of emergency works which took place immediately after the storm.

d. **Better debt management for fiscal sustainability**

- i. PIOJ was integrally involved in the finalization of the policy based loans (PBLs) and development policy loans (DPLs) by the IDPs to assist the Government in improving its debt sustainability.

- ii. The Government's existing policies and priorities are consistent with the conditionalities and funds were released as a reward for criteria that were already met.
- e. Alleviate the Effect of the Global Food Crisis on Jamaica's Poor**
- i. The PIOJ coordinated the negotiation of a US\$15 million support loan, \$13.5 million of which is for grants under PATH, which assisted the GOJ in expanding PATH by 113,000 persons to a total of 360,000 persons, to address the threat to the poor caused by food price inflation. The Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) was vital in this exercise.
 - ii. The PIOJ also managed the Social Protection Programme (SPP), supported by a US\$40 million loan from the World Bank. The SPP funds a scheme of differentiated benefits to the education beneficiaries of PATH in order to promote school attendance and retention. As a result, GOJ paid out over J\$300 million to beneficiaries every two months.
 - iii. Under the pilot of the "Steps to Work Programme" initiated by the PIOJ, the Government launched a two year pilot project to provide working age persons in poor households that are currently on PATH with training and skills to improve their capacity to seek and retain employment.
 - iv. The PIOJ published JSLC 2007 in November 2008 which reported that the prevalence of poverty was 9.9%.
 - v. The PIOJ's consumption based and un-met basic needs national poverty maps were launched in July 2008. The GOJ will use these maps to monitor and evaluate the impact of the current crisis as well as policy initiatives.
- f. Progress of Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan & MTF 2009-2012**
- i. The PIOJ presented the Draft Plan and MTF 2009-2012 to Cabinet and Parliament on November 17, 2008. The Plan integrates all of Government's priorities for 2008/09 going forward.
 - ii. The MTF will ensure that the Plan is not a "shelf Plan" by breaking it down into specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) priorities that can be monitored and evaluated to feed back into the refinement of the Plan.
 - iii. The priority projects/programmes of the MTF 2009-2012 are aligned with the GOJ's imperatives with regard to security and safety of the Jamaican population, a stable macro-economy, governance and world class education and training.
 - iv. The current project proposal for the National Spatial Plan emanated from the Plan and seeks to provide the spatial framework for guiding the location and regulation of planned developments.

PROJECTIONS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/2010

The PIOJ has just completed Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan, Jamaica's first-ever long-term development plan and the Medium Term Socio-Economic Framework (MTF) 2009-2012 which outlines the indicative programme of projects and programmes for the three-year period. Implementation of the Plan will be the primary focus of the PIOJ.

CONCLUSION

The PIOJ will continue to align its Work Programme with the strategic objectives of the Government of Jamaica, in addition to its core functions, to further the goal of long-term sustainable development.