

MBUC UPDATE



PROJECT UPDATE: MORANT BAY URBAN CENTRE (MBUC)

The Morant Bay Urban Centre is approximately 91% complete. The project, which is an expansion of the Morant Bay town, is located in Springfield, St. Thomas. It spans 28 acres and boasts over 500,000 square feet of rentable space.

The MBUC features several key amenities, including the most modern courthouse in the Caribbean, capable of hosting five court houses simultaneously. It will also house the St. Thomas Municipal Corporation, paired with a town hall. There will also be a government building accommodating various public entities, and the parish's first university, the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC). There will be additional buildings for the Tax Administration of Jamaica, the HEART/NSTA Trust, warehouses, supermarkets, and the Global Services Sector. The urban centre will offer various dining options and accommodate over 60 private sector entities, making it a one-stop shop for essential public and private sector services.





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The opening of the MBUC is expected to alleviate severe traffic congestion in the historic town of Morant Bay and significantly improve the quality of services offered by public sector entities in a modern and accessible environment. Additionally, the MBUC will create thousands of jobs for St. Thomas residents, reducing the need for them to migrate to other parishes for employment opportunities.



A medical complex offering a range of services, including urgent care, will also be established, as well as a building dedicated to the National Insurance Fund(NIF) to complement the existing facilities.

As part of the vision for the urban centre, Factories Corporation of Jamaica Limited will include a micro-business park adjacent to the MBUC, allowing small businesses to flourish with much-needed support. Additionally, efforts are underway for the design and development of a multi-purpose sports complex to replace the Goodyear Oval which was incorporated in the development of the MBUC.

The MBUC serves as a model for other urban centres across the island. Construction began in October 2022 and 84% of the 5.9 billion Jamaican dollar construction budget has been disbursed. A grand opening is anticipated in a few months after approved clients complete the retrofitting of their assigned space.

In August 2024, the Factories Corporation of Jamaica, in partnership with NCB and Barita, broke ground for the Boundbrook Urban Centre in Portland. While smaller in scale, Boundbrook will replicate the MBUC's concept, aiming to improve government service efficiency, boost job creation, and enhance the tourism sector.





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