



PRESS RELEASE

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British High Commissioner Says Morant Bay Urban Centre is Significant to UK-Jamaica Trade Relations

British High Commissioner to Jamaica, Judith Slater believes that the Morant Bay Urban Centre will provide limitless opportunities for the people of St. Thomas and by extension, Jamaica.

She was speaking while on a recent tour of the Morant Bay Urban Centre on Thursday, January 30, 2025.

According to High Commissioner Slater, “I am pleased to see how much progress has been made in the development”.

The Morant Bay Urban Centre is a transformational project poised to reshape the economic and commercial landscape of St. Thomas.

Expressing enthusiasm about the centre’s potential and the future of the parish, High Commissioner Slater highlighted its significance for UK-Jamaica trade relations, “It means more business, more opportunity for exporters. I’m very keen to look and see what involvement the UK might be able to have”.

The High Commissioner was guided through the state-of-the-art facility by the Chairman of Factories Corporation of Jamaica (FCJ) Limited, Hon. Lyttleton ‘Tanny’ Shirley. Also in attendance were Deputy British High Commissioner to Jamaica, Jonathan Cook; Custos Rotulorum of St. Thomas, Marcia Bennett; Member of Parliament for St. Thomas Western, James Robertson; Mayor of Morant Bay, Louis Chin; and Managing Director of FCJ, Dr. Donald Farquharson.

Chairman Shirley emphasized the significance of the visit, noting that the High Commissioner’s visit solidifies what FCJ intends to do for the parish of St. Thomas.

As a modern hub for commerce, government services, and light manufacturing, the Morant Bay Urban Centre is set to position St. Thomas as a key driver of Jamaica’s economic growth.

“If that transformation can take place in St. Thomas, it means it can take place anywhere else”, emphasised Mr. Shirley on the broader impact of the initiative.

Mayor of Morant Bay, Louis Chin echoed similar sentiments, adding that, “St. Thomas is going to be the best parish in Jamaica”.

The Morant Bay Urban Centre will begin the phased handover of spaces in March 2025, marking a major milestone in the development.

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