



PRESS RELEASE

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Morant Bay Urban Centre Welcomes First Tenant as KFC Jamaica Opens New Branch

The Morant Bay Urban Centre (MBUC) has reached a major milestone with the official opening of its first business.

On Saturday, January 17, KFC Jamaica officially opened its 43rd restaurant, representing an investment of approximately JMD \$350 million. The opening signals growing private sector confidence in St. Thomas and underscores the Centre’s role as a catalyst for economic activity in the parish.



Sen. Aubyn Hill

*Minister of Industry,
 Investment and Commerce*

“Symbol of economic decentralisation”

Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Senator the Honourable Aubyn Hill, said the investment reflects the Government of Jamaica’s deliberate strategy to decentralise economic growth beyond Kingston and ensure that rural parishes benefit from modern infrastructure, job creation and expanded commercial opportunities.

“This is the kind of economic decentralisation that helps communities that are positioned to benefit from increased business activity and employment,” Minister Hill said.

“Growth, commerce and community”

Managing Director of Restaurants of Jamaica (ROJ) (operators of KFC Jamaica), Mark Myers, added that “the Morant Bay Urban Centre represents what can be a space for growth, commerce and community and we are proud that KFC Morant Bay forms part of that vision.”



The Morant Bay Urban Centre Limited, which will ultimately accommodate more than 70 businesses, is owned by a Public-Private partnership involving Factories Corporation of Jamaica Limited (FCJ), an agency of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development.

Over 30 private sector tenants are currently in various stages of buildout. These include Juici Patties, Scoops Unlimited (operators of Devon House Ice Cream), Cantonese Splendor Feast Chinese Restaurant, E-Urban Multimedia Solutions and courier service operators like Knutsford Express, Flash Ship Courier Service and SSMC Xpress International.

The Centre will also house several key government service agencies, including Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ), HEART/NSTA Trust, Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) and the Ministry of Justice.

The opening of KFC Jamaica marks the beginning of commercial operations at the Morant Bay Urban Centre and reinforces its role as the new hub for business, employment and service delivery in St. Thomas.

