



PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 5, 2026

Government Agencies Sign Leases to Occupy Morant Bay Urban Centre

Seven (7) government agencies on Thursday, March 5, 2026, signed lease agreements to occupy space at the Morant Bay Urban Centre (MBUC) in St. Thomas.

The agencies will occupy approximately 50 per cent of the Centre's rentable space, bringing a wide range of critical public services into a centralised location to improve accessibility for residents while modernising the delivery of government services in the eastern parish. These clients are:



- Child Protection & Family Services Agency
- Department of Correctional Services
- St. Thomas Municipal Corporation
- Tax Administration Jamaica
- Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Services
- Jamaica Information Services
- Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs- Justice Reform Centre

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development (MEGID), Robert Montague, emphasised the importance of government presence at the centre.

He said, "It sends a signal to the private sector that the public sector is fully on board and it will be populating the centre and therefore they will now have a market. It makes no sense the private sector comes in with restaurants and all that and there's no customers."

Chairman of Morant Bay Urban Centre Limited, Lyttleton Shirley, added that the MBUC will serve as a magnet for investment in the parish and is already driving increased housing development.

"We have signaled that St. Thomas is open for business. By bringing government services, commerce and opportunity together in one place, we are laying the foundation for sustainable growth and confidence in the parish, and by extension even Jamaica," Shirley shared.



MBUC is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership project in Jamaica, spearheaded by Factories Corporation of Jamaica (an agency of the MEGID) in partnership with NCB Capital Markets and China Harbour Engineering Company.

The Centre will also be home to more than 50 private sector businesses, many of which have already begun retrofitting their spaces in preparation for the start of their operation.

