

Opening Statement- Minister Williams

E-Mobility: A Significant National Priority

We are having this event to raise awareness about e-mobility and to signal to the people of Jamaica that this is a significant priority of the Government of Jamaica. Why?

1. Jamaica is re-defining the energy landscape to allow us to scale up actions to achieve energy security, energy efficiency, energy resilience and greater energy investments in the country;
2. There is an aggressive push for renewable energy solutions because the Government understands the correlation between access to clean, safe and affordable energy and poverty reduction;
3. This Government is committed to improving the quality of lives of the people of Jamaica through a reduction of Co2 emissions and pollution;
4. Global investments are being leveraged to advance climate /energy resilience and supporting the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SGDs), especially those related to affordable and clean energy, climate action and sustainable cities and communities.
5. There is an exponential increase in electric vehicles (EVs) worldwide moving from 3 million in 2017 to 5.3 million 2018. It is expected that EV sales will reach 23 million by 2030.
6. In Jamaica, as is the case worldwide, the transport sector is one of the most significant and growing contributors to particulate air pollution and other gas emissions.

Ladies and gentlemen, the case for shifting to e-mobility is compelling and aligns with VISION 2030, the goal of 100% access to electricity and the country's renewable energy plan.

This morning's dialogue is an important first step for Jamaica and presents a good opportunity to listen to stakeholders. Your input will help us map the framework for action in a whole of country approach to achieve a cleaner, energy efficient transportation sector, build up resilience, improve air quality and help the country curtail its exposure to the volatility of oil prices.

Let me place all of this into perspective:

- Between 2014 and October 2019 Jamaica spent approximately US\$8.26B to import 125 million barrels of oil. That's more than on average US\$1.3B per year
- The transport sector, over the same period, used more than 30.7 million barrels of oil.

Help me imagine what significant difference would a year over year 10% reduction in the oil import bill would mean for Jamaica to bolster the fight against crime, supporting infrastructural development or investing in the social sectors of health and education.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to make a strategic investment in advancing e-mobility in Jamaica as a path to prosperity.

I want you to arrive at an understanding of how these big national goals can be advanced by local actions and how important the commitment of state and non-state actors is in the development of a national strategy and plan.

The scope and magnitude of the work that is required nationally to implement e-mobility is wide ranging including policy and legislative frameworks for sectors including financial, transport, energy and environment. Matters such as fuel economy standards and economic instruments that support the deployment of e-mobility infrastructure also bear consideration.

Roundtable and the ECPA Ministerial

What we are doing here today is a precursor to more involved and extensive dialogues that will take place February 27-28 at the IVth. Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Ministerial around:

1. Gender and energy
2. Energy and poverty
3. Renewable energy
4. Energy efficiency
5. Energy resilience
6. Regional energy integration

7. Efficient use of cleaner fossil fuels
8. Energy research and innovation/electric mobility.

Jamaica will host energy ministers from some 30 countries, development partners, and private sector stakeholders in the regional energy space.

Format of the Roundtable

For this morning's proceedings we will take the presentations based on the agenda after which we will invite interventions from the floor.