

Updated: Chancellor Carney Welcomes Minister of Tourism for Tour of SHTM Hotel and Partnership Talks

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Chancellor, Mr. Lloyd Carney (centre) welcomes the Hon. Edmund Bartlett, Minister of Tourism, on his arrival for a visit and tour of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) training hotel on the University of Technology, Jamaica Papine Campus on Friday, June 16, 2023. At right is Ms. Mikisha Silvera, Destination Manger, Kingston.

Chancellor, University of Technology, Jamaica, Mr. Lloyd Carney during his week of engagements at the Papine Campus, between June 13 – 16, 2023, presided over a meeting of the Council, toured and met with clients of the Technology Innovation Centre (TIC) and welcomed Minister of Tourism Hon. Edmund Bartlett CD, MP on a tour of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) training hotel.

The Chancellor, joined by members of the University's Executive Management team, welcomed the Hon. Edmund Bartlett and a delegation from the Ministry of Tourism and associated agencies – the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) and the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCO) on Friday, June 16, 2023. The Minister's visit followed from an invitation by the Chancellor and was slated by the Ministry as a fact-finding mission under its Destination Assurance Programme, which seeks to enhance tourism related assets in Jamaica.

Introduction of the SHTM Hotel



Dr. Andrea Sutherland (standing right), Dean, College of Business and Management makes a presentation on the SHTM hotel's facilities and the opportunities for local and international partnerships.

Prior to his tour of the SHTM Hotel, the Minister and his delegation participated in a brief introductory session on the facilities. An informative presentation on the capacity of the training site was led by Dean, College of Business and Management, Dr. Andrea Sutherland. The Dean noted that the facility which was constructed under the UTech, Jamaica Enhancement Project in 2015 features, among other amenities, state-of-the-art culinary labs, lecture theaters, several suites, a restaurant, dining area and a baking lab. Dr. Sutherland informed that the opportunity exists for branding a number of these areas.

In his remarks, Chancellor Carney indicated to the Minister and his visiting party that the existence of the state-of-the-art hotel training facility places UTech, Jamaica at the forefront and on a high competency list to offer all of the services required in some of Jamaica's best-rated hotels.

“Not only do we provide direct hotel capabilities training, but everything that a Riu or a Sandals need – from management of their sewer system...management of their cooler system...we at UTech provide every skill necessary to run a large-scale hotel” asserted Chancellor Carney.

The Chancellor also explained that currently, the training hotel serves as a practical learning facility for scores of students undertaking degree and certificate courses in tourism and hospitality at UTech, Jamaica to gain hands-on training. However, the institution's management team is lobbying the government for its assistance to have the training hotel evolve to becoming a functioning local hotel whilst maintaining its current operations as a practical training ground for students.

Chancellor Carney stated further that with the convenience of both the training hotel and the Technology Innovation Centre on the campus, UTech, Jamaica can be seen as the “real training ground” for not only future tourism and hospitality professionals of the new digital era, but also for those in business and IT fields.

Referencing Virtual Reality Jamaica Limited, Chancellor Carney stated “one of our start-up companies currently being hosted at our TIC is working on a 3D modeling simulation.” The nature of the technology product as described by Chancellor Carney includes the digitization of tourist sites and other attractions to create a virtual vacation experience for prospective visitors as far as in Dubai. He added that this provides a great opportunity for collaboration between UTech, Jamaica and the Ministry of Tourism in the interest of boosting development which is inclusive of training individuals to meet the demands of the industry.

In response, Minister Bartlett noted that his Ministry is invested in “human capital development as a key strategy for growth,” citing that even as the nation approaches the post-COVID-19 era in which approximately “\$72 million” was lost due to the global supply chain disruption, only about “18 per cent is back.”



The Hon. Edmund Bartlett (centre), Minister of Tourism, makes a point during the briefing meeting with members of UTech, Jamaica's Executive Management team and Ministry officials and partners who accompanied him. Mr. Lloyd Carney (left), Chancellor and Prof. Colin Gyles, CD, Acting President look on.

Against this backdrop, Minister Edmund Bartlett applauded the present efforts of UTech, Jamaica and encouraged his hosting officials to further incorporate the use of technology in its methods and practices. This he noted as “tourism of the future, driven by experiences, is going to be significantly influenced by the Internet of Things.” Minister Bartlett emphasized that “we have to look at a future of educational development which is different from what we are used to so I would be very interested to see what your curriculum is going to look like in the context of this new tourism that is emerging.” Concluding his remarks, the Minister told the UTech, Jamaica team that “two key elements of the future are resilience and sustainability and you could become that institute here that drives resilience and sustainability for the entire region.”

Intrigued by the information shared regarding the capacity building innovation being undertaken at the Technology Innovation Centre (TIC), the Minister extended his visit to meet with some clients at the technology-based start-up business incubator. Prior to his departure, Minister Bartlett signaled his interest in holding further talks with UTech, Jamaica stakeholders in pursuit of partnerships with the institution in the areas of tourism and hospitality development.

Photo Highlights



The Hon. Edmund Bartlett (left), Minister of Tourism meets members of the UTech, Jamaica Executive Management Team on his arrival at the UTech, Jamaica School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM) Training Hotel on Friday, June 16, 2023. Pictured (l-r) are Miss Marion Brown, Vice President and University Registrar, Dr. Haldane Johnson, Deputy President, Dr. Andrea Sutherland, Dean, College of Business and Management. (2nd row, from left) are Dr. Antonio Anderson, Vice President and Chief Information and Technology Officer and Mrs. Simone Jackson - McGregor, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.



Chef Khalil Campbell, (right) Programme Director, Culinary Arts, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management shows off state-of-the art food preparation equipment inside the training hotel's Culinary Demonstration Lab, much to the delight of Minister Bartlett (2nd left), Chancellor Carney (1st right) and Prof. Colin Gyles (left), Acting President. In the background are Dr. Carey Wallace (left), Executive Director, Tourism Enhancement Fund and Mr. Michael Edwards, Programme Director, Baking Technology, SHTM.



The Hon. Edmund Bartlett (2nd left) seen in discussion with (from left) Mr. Gregory Moore, Director, Virtual Reality Jamaica – a virtual reality and augmented reality start-up company incubated at UTech, Jamaica’s Technology Innovation Centre, Prof. Colin Gyles, CD, Acting President, Dr. Carey Wallace, Executive Director, Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), and Mr. Lloyd Carney, Chancellor, UTech, Jamaica.



Minister Bartlett raps with (l-r) Mr. Torne Dixon and Mr. Devauny Brown, Internet of Things (IoT) Product Developers at PreeLabs Limited, a start-up technology-based company incubated at UTech, Jamaica's Technology Innovation Lab (TIC). PreeLabs team members are specialists in IoT embedded systems design, robotics, programming, and product development, providing customized solutions to their clients' needs.

**By Corporate Communications Unit
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