

## **CONTRACT SIGNED FOR PALISADOES STUDY**

A Contract worth \$US223,352.63 for a study of the Palisadoes Peninsula was signed on Thursday, December 7 at the Offices of the Ministry of Housing, Transport, Water and Works.

The study is in the wake of various disasters which have damaged the peninsula, most notable Hurricane 'Ivan' of 2004.

The Contractual Agreement is between the National Works Agency and a Cuban Sate Company, 'Inversiones Gamma S.A' to conduct the study and develop the design for the shoreline protection. Both the Ministries of Housing, Transport, Water and Works as well as Local Government and Environment are collaborating on the Project.

Among the provisions of the contract are :

- (a) a study of the coastal regime of the Palisadoes Peninsula
- (b) preparation of engineering designs and the
- (c) preparation of Bills of Quantities for the rehabilitation of a prioritised 5km section, with special emphasis on the most critical 1.5km.

The resultant report from the Agreement will detail the following:

1. The collection & review of relevant data on past natural disasters such as hurricanes.
2. Geology, bathymetry and coastal processes of the study area with recommendations on the need for additional information
3. Assess & determine frequency, probability and impacts of natural hazards such as hurricanes over the past 100 years.
4. Identify and evaluate the elements at risk based on the respective hazards, population, marine coastal/features & sea defense structures, road infrastructure and airport facilities.
5. Examine the environmental impact of the shoreline protection work.
6. Maps, graphs, data and any other analytical results from previous work.

The contract period is for seventy-five days and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has agreed to provide financial support.

## **REPAIRS COMING FOR BRIDGES**

A contract for US\$44M was signed on December 8, 2006, for Phase 3 of the R.A Murray Bridge Development Programme. The signing took place at the Office of the Prime Minister.

Under this Phase of the programme, the intention is to construct 11 of the bridges that have been supplied as part of Phase 2. The agreement will also facilitate an additional nine bridges which are to be designed, fabricated and constructed, making a total of twenty bridges. These bridges will be constructed across the length of Jamaica.

Two Phases of the contract agreement with R.A Murray out of Canada valued at \$CD10M have been completed since 2004. These 2 phases have allowed for the supply of 17 bridges which are to be constructed by the GOJ. Of this number, 12 are in storage, four have been erected and one nearing completion. Completed structures are the Washington Blvd Bridge in St. Andrew, Styx River in Westmoreland and Fort George in St. Mary. Banbury Bridge in St. Catherine is 80% complete. Residents of Yallahs will soon see erection commence on the bridge for that area. Bridge parts are now in storage at the site in Poorman's Corner. A proposal for the construction of the bridge has been received and is being assessed by the NWA.

## **JUTC C'TTEE TO UNDERTAKE FAM BUS RIDE**

The JUTC Commuter Advisory Committee will undertake a familiarisation bus ride tour on Saturday, December 9, 2006.

The aim of this tour is to:

- Make commuters and the media more aware that the JUTC CAC is active.
- Promote the use of SMART Card among passengers
- Converse with passengers to make informed view of JUTC service.

The team will meet at the Chancery Street bus stop from where they will depart for downtown on route 46. They will then depart downtown on route 83 to arrive in North Odeon Avenue in Half Way Tree. They will then leave from there via route 47 to Chancery Street for debriefing.