



**For Immediate Release**

**April 24, 2020**

## **Minister Williams hails signing of USD 11M tablet contracts as big win for ICT in schools**

Minister of Science, Energy and Technology Hon. Fayval Williams is applauding the latest move to advance ICT in schools with the signing of contracts to provide 65,000 tablets to teachers and students.

Four contracts, valued at approximately US\$11.1 million were signed with three local vendors to supply 25,000 tablets for teachers and 40,000 shared tablets for students.

In hailing the move as a big win for ICT in schools, Minister Williams said “these initiatives are timely given the impact on the education sector caused by the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase reliance on online lessons for all teaching and learning. These initiatives now put more connected devices in the hands of our teachers and students.”

The companies contracted to provide tablets are:

- Royale Computers & Accessories Limited for the supply of 10,000 Samsung TAB A teacher tablets and 24,000 Logic 10B student tablets at a total value of US\$5.32M.

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- Productive Business Solutions for the supply of 15,000 Samsung TAB A teacher tablets at a total value of US\$2.44M
- Smart Mobile Services Limited for the supply of 16,000 Samsung TAB A student tablets at a total value of US\$3.38M.

It is anticipated that distribution of the devices will commence by May 2020.

In providing further details on the project, Minister Williams stated that “during the financial year 2020-2021 all public sector teachers will receive a personal tablet in fulfilling the terms of the Heads of Agreement signed between the Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA) and the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) in 2018. The tablet for students will be rolled out in shared class sets to approximately 800 infant and primary schools island wide as approved by Cabinet.”

Chief Executive Officer for e-Learning Jamaica, Mr. Keith Smith stated that “approximately 6,000 devices have landed in Jamaica and the remainder of devices is expected to be imported over the next three to four months. What we have completed so far is just the first step of the project and we now move onto the distribution and roll out phases. e-Learning Jamaica will continue to work with our partners and give all the support we can to our new vendors to ensure the successful execution of the projects.”

A further 37,000 tablets will be provided to students in the financial year 2021-2022 to ensure that all infant and primary schools are equipped with one shared tablet for every

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three students. The project will also provide charging carts and offline content servers, laptops, and audio-visual projectors.

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