

The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) has put aside US\$20 million for on-lending to investors to finance and support the construction of information and communications technology (ICT) facilities.

Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller made the announcement in a national broadcast on Sunday (January 6), that this has the potential to create between 7,000 and 10,000 new jobs.

Mrs. Simpson Miller also stated that the Factories Corporation of Jamaica (FCJ) will be building 300,000 square feet of space for ICT and logistics related activities over the next three years.

She also said that the Government will continue to pursue energy diversification and conservation strategies, noting that the Jamaica Public Service Company is slated to spend over US\$630 million in power plant and renewable energy projects.

On matters relating to agriculture, Mrs. Simpson Miller spoke of the creation of eight agro parks through public/private partnerships.

“This will occupy over 8,000 acres of land and the project will be completed over the next three years. The agro-parks will go a significant way to deepening linkages in the economy, increasing domestic food production and help to reduce our US\$1 billion food import bill,” said the Prime Minister.