

**THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AND  
RESILIENCE AUTHORITY ACT, 2026**

(Act of 2026)

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SCHEDULE.

# ABILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT to Make provision for the management and implementation of the post-disaster reconstruction and resilience efforts consequent on the passage of Hurricane Melissa and for resilience generally, to establish the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority; and for connected matters.

[ ]

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of Jamaica, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives of Jamaica, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## PART I.—*Preliminary*

**1.**—(1) This Act may be cited as the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority Act, 2026.

Short title and commencement.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), this Act shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette*.

Part IV. (3) Part IV (*Dissolution and Transitional Arrangements*) shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette*.

Interpretation. 2.—(1) In this Act—

“approving entity” means a Local Authority or public body that exercises any statutory, regulatory, administrative or operational function, where the exercise of that function is required for the implementation, execution or delivery of an approved reconstruction and resilience project or a designated strategic investment project, including functions relating to—

- (a) physical planning and development control;
  - (b) building control, including the issuance of building permits and the conduct of inspections;
  - (c) land subdivision, land use and zoning;
  - (d) environmental management, natural resource conservation and environmental permits;
  - (e) approvals relating to water supply, sewerage and drainage;
  - (f) roads, highways and transportation infrastructure;
  - (g) electricity, telecommunications and other utility services;
- and
- (h) disaster risk management and hazard mitigation;

“Authority” means the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority established under section 3;

Part IV. “day of dissolution” means the day appointed for the coming into operation of Part IV;

“designated strategic investment project” means a project designated by the Cabinet under section 25(1);

“development” includes re-development;

“document” means, in addition to a document in writing, anything in which information of any description is recorded;

“electronic” means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities, and references to carrying out any act “electronically” shall be similarly construed;

“functions” includes powers and duties;

“goods” means—

(a) things of every kind and description, whether tangible or intangible, including—

(i) commodities, agricultural crops, raw materials, products and equipment;

(ii) matter in solid, liquid or gaseous form; and

(b) services incidental to the supply of such things;

“Local Authority” means a body categorised as such under section 6 of the Local Governance Act;

“procure” means the acquisition of goods, works or services by any means, including, where applicable, purchase, rental, lease or hire-purchase, and the acquisition of works, and consulting or other services;

“procurement contract” means the contract pursuant to which goods, works or services are procured;

“public body” means a statutory body or authority or any government company, but does not include an executive agency designated under the Executive Agencies Act;

“register” means the register to be kept under section 20;

“services” means any object of procurement other than goods or works, and includes intellectual and consulting services;

“statutory body or authority” means a body corporate established by an Act of Parliament over which the Government exercises control;

“step-in order” means an order made by the Minister under section 24;

“works” includes—

- (a) the carrying out of any of the following activities, namely, construction, reconstruction, assembly, altering, manufacturing, processing, fabrication, erection, instrumentation, installation, fitting out, improvement, commissioning, decommissioning, demolition, clearance, land remediation, maintenance, repair and renovation involved with building, civil engineering, structural engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and other engineering and technology projects; and
- (b) goods and services incidental to the carrying out of the activities referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The Minister may, by order, alter paragraph (a) of the definition of works.

#### PART II.—*Administration*

Establishment  
of the  
Authority.

**3.**—(1) For the purposes of this Act, there is established a body to be known as the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority, which shall be a body corporate to which section 28(1)(a), (b), (c) and (2)(a) of the Interpretation Act shall apply.

Schedule.

(2) The provisions of the Schedule shall have effect as to the constitution and procedure of the Authority and otherwise in relation thereto.

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Authority shall be responsible for the administration of this Act, including the preparation, implementation and oversight of national reconstruction and resilience projects, plans, programmes, activities and works, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall—

Functions of  
the  
Authority.

- (a) consolidate and prioritise projects;
- (b) establish performance indicators and reporting standards for projects programmes and plans;
- (c) procure goods, works and services for the implementation of projects, programmes and plans;
- (d) establish project tracking systems to enable the proper monitoring and reporting on all activities;
- (e) issue directives and operational guidelines;
- (f) cause projects, programmes and plans to include standards, specifications and requirements for the achievement of climate and disaster resilience by works to eliminate or mitigate the adverse effects of catastrophic climate and geophysical events;
- (g) establish project management, compliance, monitoring, reporting, and risk management systems necessary for timely, efficient and effective performance of procurement contracts for the implementation of approved projects, programmes and plans;
- (h) establish and maintain a register of approved projects in accordance with section 20; and
- (i) carry out such other duties as may be necessary for the proper carrying into effect of the provisions of this Act.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, and without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1), the Authority shall have power to—

- (a) carry out or secure the laying out and development of areas;

- (b) lay out, construct and rehabilitate roads and buildings and carry out such other building and engineering operations as may appear to it to be necessary or desirable in, on, over or under land within any area;
- (c) lay out, construct, rehabilitate, restore and provide car parks, piers, public parks, public gardens and other public amenities within any area;
- (d) carry on any business or undertaking for the reconstruction and development of any area;
- (e) contribute sums in respect of expenditure incurred in connection with the delivery of any projects programmes and plans for the development of any area;
- (f) engage in any other activity designed to promote the development of any area.

(3) For the purpose of performing its functions under this Act, the Authority may, subject to any regulations made hereunder—

- (a) do anything and enter into any transaction which, in the opinion of the Authority, is necessary to ensure the performance of its functions;
- (b) take such action as may be necessary and practicable to ensure the preservation of sites and objects of architectural or historic interest.

(4) The Authority shall, if lawful and practicable, utilize existing capacity, resources, facilities and systems in Government, which may be appropriately co-opted for the purposes of this Act.

Appointment  
of Chief  
Executive  
Officer and  
other  
employees.

**5.—**(1) For the due administration of the Authority, there shall be a Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Prime Minister by instrument in writing.

(2) Subject to subsection (5), the Chief Executive Officer shall be employed at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as the Minister thinks fit.

(3) The Chief Executive Officer shall—

- (a) act on behalf of the Authority; and
- (b) be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Authority.

(4) Subject to subsection (5), the Authority may appoint and employ, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such other employees and agents as it thinks necessary for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

(5) Except with the prior approval of the Minister responsible for the public service—

- (a) no salary in excess of the prescribed rate shall be assigned to any post; and
- (b) no appointment shall be made to any post to which a salary in excess of the prescribed rate is assigned.

(6) For the purposes of subsection (5), “the prescribed rate” shall be such rate as the Minister responsible for the public service may prescribe, by order, subject to affirmative resolution.

6.—(1) The Authority and the Chief Executive Officer, respectively, may, with the approval of the Minister, by instrument in writing, subject to the provisions of this Act, delegate to any person the performance of such of their functions, other than the power of delegation, as they may, from time to time, consider to be necessary. Delegation of functions.

(2) A delegation of any function under subsection (1) is revocable by the Authority or the Chief Executive Officer, as the case may be, and the delegation shall not preclude the performance of that function by the Authority or the Chief Executive Officer.

7.—(1) The Minister may appoint a committee to examine and report to the Minister on any matter arising out of or connected with any of the Authority’s powers and duties under this Act. Power to appoint committees.

(2) There shall be paid to the members of a committee appointed under subsection (1), such remuneration, whether by way of honorarium, salary or fees, and such allowances, as the Minister responsible for the public service may determine, and such sums shall be payable out of the funds and resources of the Authority.

Funds of the Authority.

**8.** The funds of the Authority shall consist of—

- (a) such moneys as may from time to time be placed at its disposition for the purposes of this Act by Parliament;
- (b) all other moneys and other property which may in any manner become payable to, or vested in, the Authority in respect of any matter incidental to its functions.

Accounts and audit.

**9.—(1)** The Authority shall keep proper accounts and other records in relation to its functions and shall prepare annually a statement of accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles promulgated from time to time, by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica, and such accounts shall be audited annually by an auditor appointed in each year by the Chief Executive Officer with the approval of the Cabinet Secretary and a statement of the accounts so audited shall form part of the annual report submitted pursuant to section 11.

(2) An auditor appointed under subsection (1) shall be a registered public accountant within the meaning of section 2 of the Public Accountancy Act.

(3) The auditor shall be entitled at all reasonable times to examine the accounts of the Authority.

(4) The Auditor-General shall be entitled at all times to examine the accounts and other records in relation to the Authority.

Reports, returns, etc.

**10.** The Authority shall furnish the Minister with such reports, returns, accounts and other information as the Minister may require with respect to the activities of the Authority, and shall afford the Minister with facilities for verifying such information in such manner and at such times as the Minister may reasonably require.

**11.—(1)** Annual and other reports shall be prepared by the Authority. Annual and other reports.

(2) A copy of the annual report and audited financial statements of the Authority, shall be submitted, no later than four months after the end of each financial year, to the Minister.

(3) The Minister shall, within a reasonable time, cause a copy of the report together with the annual statement of accounts and the auditor's report thereon to be laid in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**12.** By or before the 30th day of September in each year, the Authority shall submit to the Minister for approval a corporate plan, an operating plan and its estimates of revenue and expenditure for each financial year. Corporate plan, etc.

**13.—(1)** The Minister may give directions to the Authority. Directions to Authority.

(2) Directions under subsection (1)—

(a) shall be such as appear to the Minister to be desirable—

(i) in the interest of the effective performance by the Authority of its functions;

(ii) to ensure that approved reconstruction and resilience projects and designated strategic investment projects are implemented in accordance with the terms of the Cabinet's approval and in the public interest;

(b) in relation to the implementation of an approved reconstruction and resilience project or a designated strategic investment project, may require the Authority to take or refrain from taking certain actions or to refrain from adopting or pursuing a particular course of action.

(3) The Authority shall act in compliance with any directions given under subsection (1).

(4) A contravention of any direction under this section shall not invalidate any transaction.

Obligation to  
secrecy.

**14.—**(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every person having an official duty or being employed in the administration of this Act or who at any time has had such duty or has been so employed under this Act shall regard and deal with as secret and confidential all documents obtained in the course of their duties.

(2) Nothing in this section prevents disclosure to any person which is permitted or required under this Act or any other law.

(3) A person who makes a disclosure in contravention of subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction before a Judge of a Parish Court to a fine not exceeding one million dollars or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year.

Indemnifica-  
tion of Chief  
Executive  
Officer, *etc.*

**15.—**(1) Except in respect of an action by or on behalf of the Authority to obtain a judgment in its favour, the Authority may indemnify the Chief Executive Officer or an employee of the Authority, or a person who was formerly the Chief Executive Officer or an employee of the Authority against all costs, charges and expenses (including an amount paid to settle an action or satisfy a judgment) reasonably incurred by that person in respect of any civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding, to which that person is made a party by reason of being, or having been, the Chief Executive Officer or an employee of the Authority.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply unless the Chief Executive Officer or employee of the Authority to be so indemnified—

- (a) acted honestly and in good faith, with a view to the best interests of the Authority; and
- (b) in the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that was enforced by a monetary penalty had reasonable grounds for believing that his conduct was lawful.

Right to  
indemnity.

**16.** Notwithstanding anything in section 15, a person described in section 15 is entitled to indemnity from the Authority in respect of all costs, charges and expenses reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defence of any civil, criminal or administrative action or

proceeding to which he is made a party by reason of being, or having been, the Chief Executive Officer or an employee of the Authority, if the person seeking indemnity—

- (a) was substantially successful on the merits in his defence of the action or proceeding;
- (b) qualified in accordance with standards set out in section 15; and
- (c) is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity.

PART III.—*Reconstruction and Resilience Projects,  
Programmes and Plans*

**17.**—(1) The Cabinet shall cause to be issued to the Authority an official list of approved reconstruction and resilience projects and designated strategic investment projects. Approved projects.

(2) The Authority shall—

- (a) develop programmes and detailed plans, including project scope, delivery arrangements and time-lines, for the implementation of the approved reconstruction and resilience projects appearing on the official list; and
- (b) subject to subsection (3), implement those projects, programmes and plans.

(3) Programmes and plans for approved reconstruction and resilience projects shall not be implemented without the prior approval of the Cabinet.

**18.**—(1) Programmes for reconstruction and resilience shall— Programmes.

- (a) be developed by the Authority, in consultation with relevant persons, and implemented in accordance with best practice and any prescribed requirements;
- (b) state the goods, works and services necessary for delivery of the programme and the estimated value of the procurement contracts to be awarded; and

- (c) identify all relevant persons involved and their respective roles in the delivery of the programme.

(2) The submission to the Cabinet of a programme for approval shall be accompanied by the applicable plans for the activities necessary for the implementation of the approved projects for which the programme was developed.

Plans.

**19.**—(1) The Authority shall—

- (a) prepare plans for the implementation of approved reconstruction and resilience projects in consultation with relevant persons;
- (b) monitor the implementation of such plans; and
- (c) review and update the plans periodically and after any material change of which the Authority has notice that is likely to adversely affect or delay the implementation of the plan, in whole or in part, or otherwise as circumstances require.

(2) The Authority shall cause to be established administrative arrangements to enable the Authority to have continuous and reliable reports and information on the execution of plans for the implementation of approved projects.

(3) The development of projects, programmes and plans shall prioritise—

- (a) the needs of any specially vulnerable areas;
- (b) the achievement of climate and disaster resilience; and
- (c) solutions that—
  - (i) are informed by historical and current natural and climactic environmental processes, including wind, rain water percolation, ground water flow and surface water flow; and
  - (ii) eliminate, mitigate or minimize adverse natural hazard and environmental impact.

**20.**—(1) The Authority shall keep a register of approved reconstruction and resilience projects and shall cause to be entered in that register, from time to time, in respect of each approved project appearing on the official list issued by the Cabinet, the following particulars—

- (a) the name and a description of the approved project;
- (b) in relation to the project referred to in paragraph (a), the applicable approved programmes and plans; and
- (c) any other particulars as may be prescribed.

(2) The register shall be made available electronically for public inspection.

**21.**—(1) To expedite the necessary approval processes for the timely completion of an approved reconstruction and resilience project or a designated strategic investment project, the Authority—

- (a) may convene relevant approving entities from which an approval or other input is required to coordinate and prioritise their respective activities by establishing—
  - (i) timelines for any inspections, evaluations or assessments required by the relevant approving entities; and
  - (ii) deadlines for decisions on applications for approvals or other inputs made or submitted by the Authority to those approving entities;
- (b) after convening the relevant approving entities to which an application is made, may, in accordance with section 22, issue directives to that approving entity as to the manner in which applications for approval or other inputs in respect of an approved project or a designated strategic investment project is to be dealt with by that approving entity.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment to the contrary, the Authority may make or submit, in respect of a procurement contract awarded by the Authority, any application

necessary or required for the execution of the works to implement an approved reconstruction and resilience project.

Directives.

**22.**—(1) An approving entity shall cause an application for approval or other input to be dealt with in compliance with the terms of any directive issued by the Authority.

(2) A directive by the Authority shall be issued, in writing, and include such requirements as appear to the Authority to be necessary to expedite the processes for the timely implementation of an approved reconstruction and resilience project or a designated strategic investment project.

(3) A directive may require an approving entity to do any of the following—

- (a) process applications for approvals or other inputs, where more than one such approval or input is required, concurrently or sequentially;
- (b) take such actions, in such sequence, as stated in the directive to coordinate application approval processes among any number of approving entities;
- (c) proceed with its consideration of an application for approval where that approving entity may otherwise delay or decline to process the application solely on the basis that the approval of or input from another approving entity is yet to be granted or given;
- (d) rely on approvals previously granted by that approving entity for standardised designs and pre-approved plans;
- (e) make decisions on an application for an approval or other input within a specified period;
- (f) modify or make exceptions for zoning requirements.

Actions to address non-compliance with directives.

**23.**—(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment to the contrary and subject to the provisions of this section, where an approving entity fails to comply with a directive issued under section 22, the Authority may—

- (a) make an application to the Minister for a step-in order; or

- (b) take any other steps necessary to secure compliance with a directive.

(2) The Authority shall not make an application for a step-in order—

- (a) without first obtaining independent expert advice on the matter; and
- (b) unless the Authority is satisfied that, on its consideration of the approval requirements and the advice referred to in paragraph (a)—
  - (i) the requirements for the specific approval have been met or exceeded; and
  - (ii) in the case of an approval granted subject to terms, conditions or qualifications, the matters which informed the terms, conditions or qualifications have been addressed, mitigated or remediated or are unlikely to adversely affect the approval granted by that approving entity and the approval should not be made subject to that term, condition or qualification.

(3) Where the Authority intends to apply for a step-in order under subsection (1)(a), the Authority shall notify, in writing, the approving entity concerned, and the notification shall state—

- (a) the reasons for so proceeding, including the independent expert advice obtained;
- (b) any steps taken to address any concern communicated by the approving entity to the Authority in relation to the application made.

**24.**—(1) Upon the application of the Authority, the Minister may, Step-in order. by order, if the Minister is satisfied of the matters specified in subsection (3)—

- (a) approve, subject to any terms and conditions, an application made or submitted by the Authority to an approving entity on which that approving entity has not made a decision;

- (b) vary, modify or remove a term, condition or qualification to which an approval was made subject.

(2) A step-in order shall have effect in all respects in law as if that step-in order—

- (a) was an approval granted by the approving entity to which the Authority first made application; and
- (b) in the case of a term, condition or qualification to which an approval was made subject, was a variation, modification or removal done by the approving entity that had imposed such term, condition or qualification.

(3) The matters referred to in subsection (1), of which the Minister is to be satisfied are as follows—

- (a) the Authority made an application to the relevant approving entity in accordance with the requirements for such application;
- (b) the Authority gave a directive in respect of that application and the approving entity has not complied with that directive;
- (c) in response to the non-compliance by the approving entity, the Authority notified the approving entity of the non-compliance in accordance with section 23(3);
- (d) the Authority has obtained independent expert advice that supports the grant of the approval for which application was made on the grounds stated in section 23(2)(b); and
- (e) that notwithstanding any representation made by the approving entity, it is appropriate in the circumstances to make the step-in order.

(4) Where the Minister receives an application from the Authority for a step-in order, the Minister shall, in writing, notify the approving entity and give the approving entity the opportunity to make representation to the Minister, within such period as specified in the notification.

**25.—(1)** The Cabinet may designate a project to be a strategic investment project, if the Cabinet is satisfied that—

Designation  
of strategic  
investment  
projects.

- (a) the proposed investment value of the project (referred to as the investment threshold) is not less than Fifteen Million United States Dollars or its equivalent in any other foreign currency at the prevailing rate of exchange;
- (b) the project—
  - (i) is capable of being integrated with the approved reconstruction and resilience projects to be implemented by the Authority; or
  - (ii) otherwise contributes to the achievement of the purposes of this Act; and
- (c) the project falls within any of the sectors specified in subsection (2).

(2) The sectors referred to in subsection (1)(c) within any of which a project should fall, are as follows—

- (a) energy infrastructure (including renewable energy generation, transmission and storage);
- (b) digital infrastructure and telecommunications;
- (c) logistics, air and sea ports;
- (d) water, sewage and desalination;
- (e) low-income housing and urban development;
- (f) high-value tourism, including wellness, medical and sports tourism;
- (g) entertainment and the creative industries;
- (h) education and research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- (i) specialised healthcare;
- (j) high-value agriculture and agro-industrial processing;
- (k) advanced manufacturing;

- (l) critical minerals, including rare earth elements; and
- (m) any other sector as the Cabinet may determine where strategic opportunities arise that serve the reconstruction and economic resilience objectives of the Act.

(3) The investment threshold specified in subsection (1)(a) may be amended by the Minister, by order, subject to affirmative resolution.

Regulations.

**26.**—(1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Authority, make regulations generally for giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Regulations made under subsection (1) are subject to affirmative resolution.

Amendment of Schedule.

**27.** The Minister may by order, subject to affirmative resolution, amend the Schedule.

#### PART IV.—*Dissolution and Transitional Arrangements*

Dissolution of the Authority.

**28.** The Authority is dissolved.

Savings of agreements, arrangements, etc.

**29.**—(1) If in any agreement, arrangement, contract, instrument or subject to section 31, any other document, there is a reference to the Authority, that reference is, unless the context otherwise requires, to be read and have effect on and after the day of dissolution, as if it were a reference to the Government.

(2) Any agreement, arrangement, contract or instrument subsisting immediately before the day of dissolution, to which the Authority was a party, has effect on and after the day of dissolution as if—

- (a) the Government were substituted for the Authority as a party to the agreement, arrangement, contract or instrument; and
- (b) any reference in the agreement, arrangement, contract or instrument to the Authority, unless the context otherwise requires, is amended to be or to include a reference to the Government.

(3) The operation of this Part is not to be regarded as—

- (a) a breach of contract or confidence or otherwise as a civil wrong;
- (b) a breach of any contractual provision prohibiting, restricting or regulating the assignment or transfer of assets, rights or liabilities, or the disclosure of information;
- (c) giving rise to any remedy by a party to an instrument or causing or permitting the termination of any instrument, because of a change in the beneficial or legal ownership of any asset, right or liability;
- (d) causing any contract or instrument to be void or otherwise unenforceable; or
- (e) releasing or allowing the release of any surety.

**30.**—(1) On the day of dissolution, any moneys held in any bank account in the name of, or standing to the credit of the Authority shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund. Transitional arrangements for money.

(2) On the day of dissolution, all moneys which became payable to the Authority shall be paid to the Consolidated Fund.

**31.** On and after the day of dissolution—

- (a) the assets and rights of the Authority that were immediately before that date vested in the Authority shall vest—
  - (i) in relation to real property, in the Commissioner of Lands by force of this section; and
  - (ii) in relation to any other property, in the Accountant-General, by force of this section;
- (b) the liabilities of the Authority (including a share of a liability) immediately before that date, become by force of this section, the liabilities of the Government;
- (c) any proceeding or remedy that immediately before that date might have been brought or continued by, or available against, or to the Authority, may be brought or continued by and is available against, or to the Attorney-General.

Devolution of assets and liabilities.

Transfer of  
official  
records.

**32.—**(1) All official records of the Authority shall be transferred to the Ministry responsible for reconstruction and resilience.

(2) In this section, official records means all documents, including applications, correspondence, papers, records, registers, maps, plans, drawings, photographs, films, sound recordings of any kind whatsoever, officially received or produced by the Authority for the conduct of its affairs, or by any employee or agent of the Authority in the course of the employee's or agent's official duties.

Transitional  
arrange-  
ments.

**33.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, on and after the day of dissolution, the transfer of any real property of the Authority, or any interest or right, or subsisting interest or right in or over any such real property, shall not be treated as a transfer, in respect of which any of the following is chargeable under this Act—

- (a) transfer tax;
- (b) property tax; and
- (c) stamp duty.

Duration of  
Act.

**34.** This Act shall continue in force until the day after the day of dissolution.

## SCHEDULE (Section 3)

*Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the National  
Reconstruction and Resilience Authority*

1.—(1) The Chief Executive Officer shall hold office for a period not exceeding three years and may be re-appointed for periods not exceeding one year at a time. Tenure of CEO.

(2) No person shall be eligible to be appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority if the person is a member of either House of Parliament or a member of any Local Authority.

2. The name of the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority as first constituted and every change thereof shall be published in the *Gazette*. Publication of name of CEO.

3. The Chief Executive Officer may at any time resign his office by instrument in writing addressed to the Prime Minister and such resignation shall take effect from the effective date specified in the instrument. Resignation.

4. The Prime Minister may at any time revoke the appointment of a person as the Chief Executive Officer if such person— Revocation of appointment of CEO.

- (a) has at any time been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or dishonesty;
- (b) becomes permanently unable to perform his functions by reason of mental or physical infirmity;
- (c) becomes bankrupt or compounds with, or suspends payment to, his creditors;
- (d) is convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment or to death;
- (e) fails to carry out any of the functions conferred or imposed on him under this Act.

Authentica-  
tion of  
documents.

5.—(1) The seal of the Authority shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chief Executive Officer or an employee of the Authority authorised to act in that behalf by the Chief Executive Officer and shall be judicially and officially noticed.

(2) All documents, other than those required by law to be under seal made by, and all decisions of the Authority shall be signified under the hand of the Chief Executive Officer or an employee of the Authority authorised by the Chief Executive Officer to act in that behalf.

Records.

6. Proper records of the business of the Authority shall be kept by the Chief Executive Officer.

Office of  
CEO not  
public office.

7. The office of the Chief Executive Officer shall not be a public office for the purposes of Chapter V of the Constitution of Jamaica.

## MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

On Tuesday, October 28, 2025, Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane, the strongest hurricane landfalling in Jamaica's history, made landfall along Jamaica's southwestern coast near New Hope, Westmoreland. The hurricane traversed the Island, resulting in catastrophic loss and damage to lives, livelihoods, and economic, social, cultural, and environmental systems.

Hurricane Melissa provided several key lessons, among them is the need for enhanced resilience building across the country. The Planning Institute of Jamaica estimates that the total damage and losses associated with the passage of the hurricane is around \$1.952 trillion (US\$12.2 billion).

This figure is equivalent to 56.7 per cent of Jamaica's 2024 gross domestic product and is more than four times that of Hurricane Gilbert, previously the costliest hurricane in Jamaica's history.

This Bill seeks to establish the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority and a statutory framework—

- (a) for the efficient, coordinated and transparent management of extraordinary time-bound reconstruction and resilience efforts to focus on building back better to withstand future climatic and geophysical events;
- (b) to create a more robust, climate-resilient infrastructure, encouraging better land-use planning;
- (c) to expedite private and public-private investment in priority sectors that address the structural economic vulnerabilities exposed by Hurricane Melissa; and
- (d) to enable growth and diversification of Jamaica's economic base.

ANDREW HOLNESS  
Prime Minister.

# ABILL

## ENTITLED

AN ACT to Make provision for the management and implementation of the post-disaster recon-struction and resilience efforts consequent on the passage of Hurricane Melissa and for resilience generally, to establish the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority; and for connected matters.

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As introduced by the Honourable Prime Minister.

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