



ensures that business gets done. So, it's really sort of a hand-in-glove approach, taking the cue from the macro-policies and strategies and ensuring that this Ministry and its several agencies interpret that policy thrust correctly and put in place the strategies, programs, and plans to create the conditions for successful businesses."

A major initiative in your Ministry, and the country as a whole, has been its desire and intention to become the world's fourth logistics hub. Can you speak about the progress that's being made in that regard?

"Progress certainly has been made from the conceptual framework that recognizes Jamaica's geo-strategic location in the Caribbean vis-à-vis the expanded Panama Canal, and the larger markets in this hemisphere - the United States, Canada, and Central and South America - and the trade route back to Europe. Jamaica enjoys a very strategic position in global trade. But

we recognize that the geo-strategic location, by itself, is not sufficient. We have to put in place the critical infrastructure around the maritime and aviation opportunities. This, we are doing.

"We have gone into a concession arrangement with the third largest shipping entity in the world - CMA CGM - utilizing the port of Kingston, which is the seventh largest natural harbor in the world and the region's largest transshipment port, as a major hub for its operation. Through that, we will be expanding the port, modernizing its capabilities, and deepening its draft to accommodate the largest ships coming through the Panama Canal, and generally helping to create a better environment for maritime services and activities. Similarly, we are pursuing the divestment of the airport through concession management to look at how we are going to expand its offerings, particularly as it relates to cargo traffic, and to link those two special