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NEWS

National Energy Policy timely, says Broderick

JIS
Friday, June 25, 2010

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MINISTER of State in the Ministry of Energy and Mining Laurence Broderick has described Jamaica's National Energy Policy (NEP) as "very timely", in light of the increasingly important role of energy in Jamaica's socio-economic development.

He said that NEP, approved by Cabinet in October 2009 and tabled in Parliament as a White Paper in December of that year, aims to facilitate a comprehensive programme of efficiency improvement and energy diversification, to provide high quality, affordable, environmentally friendly energy, and to reduce the country's dependence on high-cost imported oil.

"Jamaica's future is inextricably linked to finding cost-effective, environmentally sustainable energy solutions. The formulation and, more importantly, the implementation of the policy are critical in helping Jamaica to achieve national development," he said.

He was giving the keynote address at one of the plenary sessions of the Fifth Biennial Caribbean Environmental Forum and Exhibition on Tuesday at the Rose Hall Resort and Spa, in Montego Bay.

He pointed out that, like many of the island states in the Caribbean region, Jamaica is over 90 per cent dependent on imported fossil fuel to meet its energy needs, but the volatility of oil prices has brought into sharp focus the need for diversification of the energy base.

He said that NEP is Jamaica's first long term energy policy, and is designed to ensure that, by 2030, it can achieve developed country status.

"For the first time in recent history we, here in Jamaica, are embarking on a number of game changing initiatives, that will radically transform the energy sector, and by extension the economy," he stated.

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- A rookie mistake by an inexperienced politician
- An honest wake up call for Caricom
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