

# Imagine: One Laptop Per (Jamaican) Child!



Presentation to PSOJ June 27, 2007

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## Our Choice: This ...



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Or this:



What will make the  
difference?

**EDUCATION!**

# Why is education important to Jamaica?

Education is an economic issue:

- The threshold level of education for escaping poverty appears to be completion of secondary school – NPEP
- Poverty incidence of those with only primary level education was more than 3 times that of those with some secondary level education



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## Imagine: the Educated Jamaican will:

- **Love to learn and will therefore be a lifelong learner, continuously developing wisdom and knowledge**
- **Be well-rounded, agile of mind, able to adjust to different situations, responsible and able to make decisions**
- **Speak an additional language and have at least the minimum requirements for tertiary education**
- **Be a productive citizen-worker in charge of his or her personal economic advancement**
- **Contribute to national development by being:**
  - **socially-aware and responsible**
  - **conscious of what is good for society**
  - **committed to a sustainable lifestyle**
  - **spiritually-conscious and mature**
  - **tolerant of diversity**
  - **rooted in his/her Jamaican “s’ maddiness”**

## Task Force 2010 Targets

Objective	Measure	2010 Target
High Levels of Educational Achievement	Percent students achieving mastery in all 4 areas of Grade 1 Readiness	90%
	Percent students achieving mastery at Grade 4 Literacy	85%
	National mean score at GSAT for each subject	85%
	Percent cohort attaining Grade 1-3 in 5 CXC subjects including English and Math	60%
Citizens Committed to Lifelong Learning	Percent citizens enrolled in tertiary and post-secondary, by age group	50%



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## What is the Status Quo?

### % Passes of Eligible Cohort in English and Math - 2003 Grade 11 – CSEC Examinations

	Traditional High	Upgraded High	Technical High
English Language	55%	9.2%	20.7%
Mathematics	38%	4.7%	1.5%

### % age cohort attaining Grade 1-3 in 4 CSEC subjects including Mathematics and English

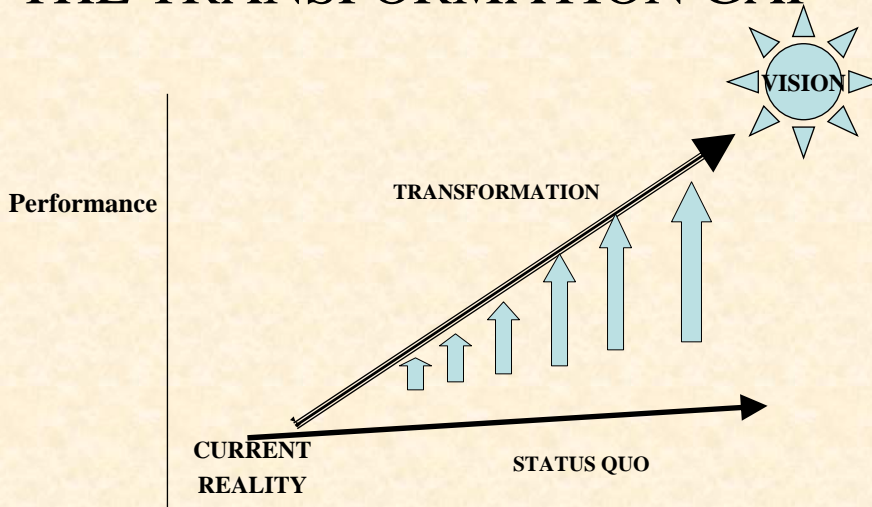
Baseline	2010 Target
11.5%	60%



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# THE TRANSFORMATION GAP



## QUESTIONS!

**How do we close this gap?**

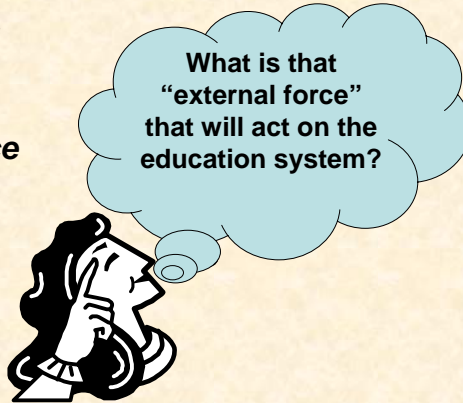
**If your production line were producing 88½ % “rejects” each year:**

- What would you do?
- Would you do more of the same?
- Would you do something **RADICALLY** different?

# THE EXTERNAL FORCE:

Newton's First Law of  
Motion:

***A body remains at rest  
or in motion with a  
constant velocity  
unless an external force  
acts on the body***



## Imagine ... suppose:

- Students did not have to totally depend on schools and teachers to learn?
- Technology could put the power of learning in each student's hands?
- Each child could have instant access to libraries, encyclopedias, dictionaries, music, current news, opinions as and when they wish?
- Each child could participate in the largest community in the world – the online community, by posting their own news and opinions?
- Teachers were facilitators of learning?
- Education became a family activity rather than one confined to school?





## The Solution:

### Assumptions:

- Children have innate capacity to learn
- Children WANT to learn

### Solution – laptop for every child:

- Window into the world
- Tool with which to think
- Offers independent interaction and exploration



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## What is this XO laptop?

- Linux based
- Open source software
- 500 mhz processor
- 128 mb ram
- 500 mb flash memory
- 3 USB ports
- Rugged case
- Wireless broadband
- Ability to create LAN
- Cost = US\$150

**Total cost for Jamaica = US\$75m**



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## Model for getting the laptops to the children:

1. Ministries of Education
2. Is there another model?

**We think so!**

## Can we afford it?

### CONSIDER:

- MOEY budget = J\$40b
- E-learning project budget = US\$50m – targeted to high schools only
- We spent J\$8b on CWC = US\$117m!

## Another model for OLPC?

- A private-sector led initiative
- Mobilise funds from:
  - Private sector foundations
  - Diaspora
  - Parents
  - Children – “brown money”?
- Distribution in cooperation with MOEY?

## Advantages of a Private-Sector led Initiative:

1. Action - make it happen!
2. In alignment with PSOJ goals:
  - To promote the achievement of a lawful and just society
  - To promote the achievement of a business friendly and prosperous economy
3. Good for the PSOJ image
4. What is the alternative?

## Why should every Jamaican child have a laptop?

1. Their innate desire and ability to learn
2. To give them a fighting chance in the global village
3. The current system of “educating” them is not working for them
4. Close the digital divide
5. Why should they NOT have their own laptop?

## PSOJ Vision for Jamaica

In 2027, Jamaica is a lawful, ordered, just and values-driven society exhibiting positive Jamaican Culture and Heritage while achieving the right balance between the built and natural environment.

Good governance enabling a business-friendly environment has resulted in a first world economy with modern services and infrastructure



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