

Greetings

Minister of Commerce Science & Technology - Philip Paulwell, Hon. Deika Morrison, Dr Clive Nicholas, Director of Tax Administration, Commissioner of Customs - Miss Allison Moore, Mr. Lorenzo Grant - CEO Fiscal Services, Mr Kermit Moh - USAID, valued customers, ladies and gentlemen - good morning.

Scotiabank Jamaica is very pleased to be a part of this launch in the capacity as facilitator of this new ePayment system which makes it convenient for importers and brokers to pay their customs duties on-line using a credit card.

Presently, cash, Manager's cheque or credit card is used to

pay duties and other taxes to the cashier at Customs House.

I am sure that the users of the system will welcome the benefits of less time spent in the lines at Customs House and the convenience of being able to check the status of their entry on-line.

At Scotiabank, we believe in being pioneers in providing convenience and particularly in using the latest technology to drive the service we provide to our customers in this case, Jamaica Customs and the brokers who will use the epayment system.

We also have a record of forging arrangements with

organizations and individuals who share our proactive approach in providing services that enhance efficiency in operations and generally make life easier for everyone. In this case, our arrangement with the First Atlantic Commerce of Bermuda enables us to be the first bank in Jamaica to facilitate credit card payments on line.

This on-line service allows brokers to pay their customs duties using their Visa Gold Credit Card from Scotiabank or any Visa, MasterCard credit card issued by other banks.

We will also be extending this service so that payments will be possible through bank transfers, allowing the use of debit cards to make payments.

At Scotiabank Jamaica we are constantly seeking ways to

use technology to improve our service. For example commencing in September of this year we will be offering high schools across the island the option of receiving school fees electronically - through TeleScotia and Debit Point of Sale.

This means that we will be going into the schools, providing them with the necessary equipment, at no cost to them and this will allow them to collect their fees in a more convenient manner.

It will also be much more convenient for the parents. It will be one less line that they will have to spend time in, as they get prepared for the new school year.

The point is we are always seeking new ways to satisfy our

customers and ensure that we remain the institution of choice in the financial sector.

Finally, I want to assure Madam Commissioner and Minister Morrison that the Scotiabank team is very excited about this service and we stand ready to assist you in whatever way we can in the modernization of your collection process.

Thank you.