

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM UPDATE— **MAY 2015**

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Recognition of Local Government in the Constitution –

Passed in the Lower House of Parliament on May 12, 2015; the Bill now moves to the Upper House for Debate at the appropriate time.

Promulgation of Strategic Laws:

- ◆ Local Government (Unified Services) & Employment Act having passed through the draft Bill review stages (CPC/ MLGCD) and having been sent to the Attorney General has been received with comments, which are now being reviewed.
- ◆ Local Government Financing & Financial Management Act having passed through the draft Bill review stages (CPC/ MLGCD) is now with Attorney General – the AG's office has promised to forward their comments within a week.
- ◆ Local Governance Act – all 9 Parts have now been received from CPC and are being reviewed.

Promulgation of National Building Bill -

Legislative Committee process complete.

Awaiting revised Bill from CPC.

Establishment of Municipal Court –

follow-up process with individual Councils as to implementation of Day-in-Court continues. To date, 4 Councils are using the facilities for Day-in-Court arrangements.

Municipal Enforcement Workshops being organized by the LGRU.

GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Strengthening of Parish Development Committees –

- ◆ Tripartite discussions initiated (SDC, NAPDEC, LGRU). Report and recommendations to be forwarded to Hon. Minister. Report being reviewed before transmission to Minister.

Review of the Portmore Municipality –

- ◆ Implementation actions from Final Report underway as follows:
CPC has forwarded draft amended Charter with recommendations for advice from the Attorney General on treatment of PCAC in Charter. Attorney General's advice received.

CONGRATULATIONS SENATOR COUNCILLOR DR. ANGELA BROWN BURKE J.P!!!



The ALGAJ, Management and staff of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC), wish to express heartfelt congratulations to Her Worship the Mayor of Kingston, Senator Councillor Dr. Angela Brown Burke, J.P. for having recently earned her PhD. in adult educational literacy at the National-Louis University in Chicago.

Senator Dr. Brown Burke, like former Tanzanian

president Julius Nyerere, does not believe that a certificate, a degree in education is about a paper on the wall. As such, she intends to use it for the advancement of Jamaicans.

She believes it is that sword that you use to slay the demons and dragons that face those who are opposed and marginalized.

Nyerere, a friend of the Michael Manley-led People's National Party Government of the 1970s, said that intellectuals have a special contribution to make to the development of their nation.

ATTENTION ALL COUNCILLORS

The Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ) will be having its Half Yearly Meeting.

The meeting will be held on July 22 , 2015 at the Golf View Hotel, Mandeville commencing at 9:00 a.m.

MANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Residents of Love Lane, Mike Town in Northwest Manchester celebrated the paving of their roadway on May 28, 2015. The just under one kilometre stretch of road was paved at a cost of approximately \$8M with funding provided by the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development. The Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Noel Arcsott and other local political representatives turned up for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Hon. Mikael Phillips, Member of Parliament, Northwest Manchester commended the Love Lane residents for their spirit of volunteerism towards the project and implored them to do their part in maintaining the roadway.

Above photo on the right—Five year-old Erica green has plenty of help as she cuts the ribbon to officially open the newly paved Love Lane road in Mike Town, Northwest Manchester on Thursday, May 28, 2015. At foreground (from left) are Mayor of Mandeville and Chairman of the Manchester Parish Council, Councillor Brenda Ramsay, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Noel Arcsott, Member of Parliament for Northwest Manchester, Hon. Mikael Phillips and Councillor for the Spur Tree Division, Ervin Facey.



3D PROJECTS, SPANISH TOWN GETS LABOUR DAY FACELIFT

3D Projects Spanish Town was selected for this year's Labour Day parish project and as usual scores of volunteers came out to offer support in giving the facility the well-needed facelift.

The scope of work included painting, refurbishing of plumbing, changing some fixtures and beautifying the building and grounds of the premises.

Before 8:00 a.m., Custos Rotulorum, Reverend Jeffery McKenzie and Mrs. McKenzie were on spot gearing to go and did a tremendous job of painting when the work started.

Upon his arrival, Chairman of the St. Catherine Parish Council and Mayor of Spanish Town Councillor Norman Scott was also early on the scene. He pointed out that the project was particularly chosen in keeping with the theme relating to children and so when the Labour Day Secretariat met the decision as to where the project would be held was not a hard one to make.

He pointed out further that the Member of Parliament, Miss Denese Daley and Councillor for the area Councillor Enos Lawrence have lent some support in making the project the success it has been.

Later on in the afternoon Prime Minister the Honourable Portia Simpson Miller who was project-hopping in the parish and particularly at the Fire Department, King Street, Spanish Town popped in on the parish project at 3D and not only viewed the work that was still being carried out but got to work with a roller brush and made her mark.

Over (150) persons attended the project which was supported by sponsors including:

Singer, BH Paints, Sherwin Williams, Faboso Traders, KFC, St. Catherine Cooperative Credit Union, FLOW and volunteers from St. Catherine Scouts Association, Jamaica Constabulary Force – St. Catherine North Division, Jamaica Fire Brigade, Spanish Town, National Youth Service, St. Catherine District Prison, Social Development Commission, Phillipa Baptist Church, Jamaica Cultural Development Commission, The Lions Club of St. Catherine, Gentle Care Ambulance, Junior Council and St. Catherine Parish Council staff members to name a few.

The management and staff of 3D Projects are overjoyed and thankful for the work done at the facility on this Labour Day.

3D Projects is located at 14 Monk Street Spanish Town. It is a fully established community based rehabilitation programme committed to the development of persons with disabilities. It focuses on rehabilitation as it relates to the social, educational and economic well-being of persons from child, adolescent and adulthood.



CLARENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Raymonds, Clarendon – Children in the Raymonds community, Savannah District and Monymusk Housing Scheme have benefitted from Labour Day activities spearheaded by the Clarendon Parish Council, alongside volunteers from the Raymonds Community, Social Development Commission, Jamalco and Leo Club of Clarendon.

In keeping with this year’s Labour Day theme “Labour of Love, Nurturing our Children”, a new perimeter fence was erected around the property as a security measure for both children and citizens who use the facilities on a daily basis.

Mayor and Councillor for the area Scean Barnswell pointed out that the Raymonds Community Centre was chosen as the Parish Project because of the quadruple murder that took place in the neighbouring Monymusk Housing Scheme and it was aligned to the national focus of creating safe spaces for children as he had recently observed a safety concern having witnessed some boys chasing a ball across the busy thoroughfare due of a lack of fencing around the area.

In addition to installing a new perimeter fence, volunteers cleaned up inside the community centre, painted interior and exterior walls as well as repaired and installed the main pedestrian access gate.

“The outcome of the project will foster better relationship between the citizens and children in the community and phase two will see the establishment of a resource room fitted with Wifi access upon completion” said Barnswell.



Mayor Scean Barnswell does his bit on Labour day, painting the interior wall of the Raymonds Community Centre



Community volunteers do their part to prepare for the installation of the new fence.

Photos (L-R):

The completed renovation of the community centre and chain link fence at the Raymonds Community Centre



ST. ELIZABETH PARISH COUNCIL

Manning’s Boy’s Home and a Ninety-Six year old resident were the two main beneficiaries from the recent Labour Day projects last month.

Members of the St. Elizabeth Parish Council, led by Mayor Everton Fisher painted the administration block, the farm house and concrete tank. The Council spent over \$ 230,000.00 on the project.

Manager at the Boys Home at Southfield in St. Elizabeth, Mr. Delroy Brown said he is very pleased of what the Manchester Parish Council has done and thanked the Mayor and his team.

Fifty four (54) boys are now housed at the home.



**Councillor for the Junction Division
Cetany Holness - Junction Fire station**



Supt. of Roads and Works Mr. Kenneth

KSAC—MARCH WITH OUR CHILDREN & CHILDREN’S FORUM

In May, the KSAC arranged a march with the children, parents and well wishers from the Municipality and surrounding environs. The march started at the Secret Gardens and Monument located across from its Main Offices to St. William Grant Park.

The KSAC has recognized that there is a dire need to increase our role and our voice in defense of our children. Approximately 1000 children, agency representatives and community members joined the KSAC in successfully demonstrating our condemnation and appeal for the discontinuation of violence against our children

As the Council continued staging various activities in observance of Child Month, a Children’s Forum was held in collaboration with the Scotia Foundation under the theme, “Child Safety and Protection- Our Priority.”

The forum provided an opportunity to educate our children on child abuse and other issues as well as received recommendations from the children on issues affecting them.



KSAC- At the Forefront of Change, Development and Innovation!



The KSAC recently held its fourth annual African Liberation Day concert.

The concert showcased performances by various cultural artistes and community acts.

Amidst the crowd are Town Clerk Robert Hill, Kingston's Mayor Dr. Angela Brown Burke and South African Ambassador to Jamaica Mathu Joyini



The KSAC embarked on the beautification of the Jamaica Christian Boys' Home. The scope of work included refurbishing of picket fence, painting of living room and other areas as well as donation of over 20 mattresses for the wards.



Her Worship volunteers her time and energy on Labour Day 2015 in keeping with the national focus to create safe spaces in our communities for our children.

ST. CATHERINE PARISH COUNCIL MUNICIPAL POLICE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



Eight Municipal Police were sworn in as Special District Constables at an Official Ceremony held in the Council's Meeting room at the St. Catherine Parish Council, Emancipation Square, Spanish Town on Friday, May 29, 2015.

The St. Catherine Parish Council's foremost batch of Municipal Police came on stream in 2001; this batch marks the fifth since that time.

Chairman of the St. Catherine Parish Council and Mayor of Spanish Town, Councillor Norman Scott in his address to the group, challenged them to maintain their loyalty, give of their best

2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The Local Authorities are reminded that the hurricane season began on June 1st and ends November 30th, 2015.

Remember the activities that are usually given priority attention:

- ◆ Mitigation measures—drain / gully cleaning
- ◆ Inspection of emergency shelters
- ◆ Training of Shelter Managers
- ◆ Meeting with stakeholders and Partners
- ◆ Public sensitization