



ALGAJ'S UPDATE / NEWSLETTER

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MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM UPDATE

GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- a. Strengthening of Parish Development Committees - Tri-partite discussions initiated (SDC, NAPDEC, LGRU). Report and recommendations to be forwarded to Hon. Minister.
- b. 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 opinion requested; follow-up requests have yielded no response.
- c. New Organizational arrangements for Local Authorities, ref. PriceWaterHouseCoopers Review - Frustratingly slow process in respect of CMD's response, subsequent to stakeholders' consensus and functional profile. Meeting requested by CMD for December 16, 2014. CMD meeting postponed and no action to date.

ALGAJ along with other stakeholders need to be more assertive in respect of this outcome.
- d. Councillors Handbook updated. All technical material submitted to MLGCD's Communications Unit (NO CHANGE).

Secretariat Support to Governance Thematic Working Group (Vision 2030) - Ongoing.

FINANCING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- a. Strengthening Local Public Accounts Committees (LPACs) – revised TOR arising from Workshop with 5 LAs with operating LPACs forwarded to participating institutions. To be extended to all LAs upon review (NO CHANGE)
- b. Financial Management Accounting Systems in the LAs – ongoing (9 of 11 LAs with infrastructural capacity implemented to date) – NO CHANGE

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- a) Executing Secretariat responsibilities for Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers (CFLGM), Chair of CFLGM (Hon. Minister), ongoing, 8th Meeting convened in Nassau, Bahamas on August 30, 2014. Minutes circulated and Action Plan being monitored.
- b) Ongoing - co-chair of Project Steering Committee, CARILED (Hon. Minister), member of Programme Management Committee. Meeting scheduled for May 2015.
- c) Second meeting of CARILED Technical Working Group scheduled for Jamaica in April 2015.

Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation

Members of the KSAC's Youth Advisory Task Force (YATF) recently distributed stationery to the Grade Six (6) cohorts of four primary schools within the Municipality as the students prepared to sit the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) on March 26 and 27 of this examination year (2015/2016).

The donation formed part of the Task Force's *GSAT Smart Pack Initiative*. We propose that a "Smart Pack" be issued to each student which comprised: two (2) pencils, one sharpener and an eraser as well as a small note from the YATF wishing them well and good luck in their examinations.

Participating schools included:

- Rennock Lodge All-Age School
- Clan Carthy Primary School
- Dunrobin Primary School
- St. Aloysius Primary School

The abovementioned schools were strategically selected from a group in which the Task Force believes would benefit the most from its small but necessary donations.

The KSAC's Youth Advisory Task Force recognizes the importance of literacy among our youth population; as such, the Smart Pack Initiative was geared towards adequately preparing and equipping those students as they sat this important examination.

About the Youth Advisory Task Force - The KSAC's Youth Advisory Task Force is the brain child of Her Worship the Mayor of Kingston, Senator Councillor Angela Brown Burke, who had announced her intention of inviting the establishment of a Youth Advisory Task Force to include youth representatives all under age twenty five (25) years old.

Having been established, its primary role is to advise the Council on issues affecting our youth population and how the KSAC can assist; whether through initiatives that are youth focused or adding its voice on an important issue that needs addressing.

The Task Force also assists the KSAC in effectively engaging youth both as a Local Authority as well as in the various Divisions.



Portmore Municipal Council

Democratic Deputy Whip for the Florida House of Representatives District 95 Hazelle P. Rogers has pledged to do everything to strengthen the economic and cultural partnership existing between the city of Lauderhill and the Portmore Municipal Council.

Representative Rogers made this commitment while paying a courtesy call on Acting Mayor of Portmore Leon Thomas Thursday, February 26, 2015.

"We are committed to the strengthening of both the economic and cultural components of this friendship," the State Representative declared, adding that a visible sign of the cultural cooperation was the inclusion of the Boyd H. Anderson High School Marching Band from Lauderhill in the trip to Portmore. She said based on the discussions with the Acting Mayor, there are areas of economic cooperation that can be pursued between businesses in Florida and Portmore.

Acting Mayor Leon Thomas said the discussions between himself and Representative Rogers were fruitful.

According to him the investment potentials were ventilated and he is in full support of any initiative to bring investments to Portmore and Jamaica as a whole. He is making plans to have the Pace Setters Marching visit Lauderhill to participate on their upcoming festival as a part of the cultural exchange

In furtherance of the bilateral agreement the Acting Mayor will visit Lauderhill in May 2015, where he will be guest of the City of Lauderhill. He is also expected to have discussions with potential investors before returning home.

Women's Day

On Monday, March 30, 2015, the women of the Portmore Municipal Council were treated to an appreciation luncheon by the Acting Mayor, Councillor Leon Thomas and the men of the Council. This luncheon was in celebration of International Women's Month.

The Acting Mayor, Cllr. Leon Thomas and the men of the Council who were all decked out in their black and white attire, catered to the women of the Council by serving them with a sumptuous lunch which included cherry cheese cake and chocolate from Chocolate Dreams. The ladies dined while being serenaded by the internationally renowned Al from the One Third Band. Performances also included Saxophonist Dwayne Foster and a wonderful group performance of "strength of a woman" by the men of the Council.



St. Catherine Parish Council

Ascot Primary School visits the Old Capital

Ascot Primary School located at 1 North West, Ascot; Portmore visited Spanish Town on Wednesday, April 01, 2015. The visit had to do with the usual Social Studies excursion focusing on important buildings found in a parish capital. Including the Spanish Town Post Office and The People's Museum, the St. Catherine Parish Council was a major focus.

The group of over 70 grade four students with seven teachers, met in the Council's Chamber where they got a general overview of the St. Catherine Parish Council's departments and functions. It was easy to tell that the students welcomed the information imparted as they hastened to make note of what was being said.

The visit got even more interesting when they got to meet with His worship the Mayor of Spanish Town and Chairman of the St. Catherine Parish Council, Councillor Norman Scott who took the time out from his busy schedule to address and engage them in a meaningful discussion.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Ralston Wilson who was also in office was a part of the enlightening moment.

Little Shemar Allen did an impressive rendition in song and was lauded by the Mayor for his notable talent.



St. Catherine - International Women's Month 2015 Celebratory Luncheon

March is observed and is celebrated as International Women's Month and in recognition of the Month, the St. Catherine Parish Council under the auspices of His Worship the Mayor of Spanish Town and Chairman of the St. Catherine Parish Council, Councillor Norman Scott and the Secretary/Manager, St. Catherine Parish Council, Mr. Michael Morris, JP, hosted the first of its kind Celebratory Luncheon at Emancipation Square, Spanish Town on Thursday, April 02, 2015, under the theme '**Saluting our Women**'. Over one hundred (100) women were in attendance.

The Council's Chamber was transformed into what was thought to be a picture perfect setting for the afternoon's event and indeed it was an eventful and memorable one.

Mr. Oneil Thomas, Chief Executive Training Manager at the Agency for International Development and Empowerment gave a stimulating motivational talk.

Christopher 'Little Chris' Howell, special guest artiste, graced the proceedings with a number of renditions that had the ladies begging for more, whilst little Shemar Allen, grade four student of Ascot primary school in Portmore overwhelmed the audience with an inspirational number.

Seven (7) female members of staff from within the Council were recognized and awarded plaques for Professional Development within the St. Catherine Parish Council, courtesy of Ms. Denise Daley, Member of Parliament, St. Catherine Eastern.

All female members of staff were given tokens of recognition close to the end of the luncheon.

The event which was to have lasted for approximately four hours ended a little over 5:00 p.m.



CLARENDON PARISH COUNCIL

New Shops Handed over to May Pen Market Fire Victims

May Pen, Clarendon – On Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 16 new shops were officially handed over to vendors in the May Pen Municipal Market, replacing those that were destroyed when fire gutted the market just over a year ago.

Mayor Barnswell, in his address, informed that the 16 shops would be occupied by mainly service providers such as tailors, dressmakers and cosmetologists who were compliant and up-to-date with their market fees and had applied for a shop to restart their businesses.

The wooden structures were replaced by metal containers and retrofitted at a cost of approximately \$5 million which was funded by the Ministry of Local Government. The Clarendon Parish Council also reached out to the affected vendors by inviting representatives from the Jamaica Association for Micro Financing who awarded soft grants to three of the compliant shop owners who had been affected.

This project has initiated the new direction of the council as it moves to redevelop the market, making it a better place for doing business in a clean, safe and comfortable environment by placing all service providers together in one designated area and separate from all food handlers so that the facility will better meet public health standards.



Manchester Parish Council

MANDEVILLE- JPS comes face to Face with the MPC

THE Jamaica Public Service (JPS) says electricity consumers are now paying US 25 cents (J\$14.47) per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which the light and power company said is the lowest electricity rate since 2010.



Mr. Keith Garvey, Vice President, Community Renewal and Energy Solutions, JPS advised members of the Council that the company was in dialogue with the World Bank and the USAID as a means of forging partnerships along with community members for the implementation of Community Renewal initiatives as there was a lot of opportunities out there.

The institution of the Pay as you Go (PAYG) metering is a prepaid system which allows customers to control their daily energy usage and keep cost affordable. According to Gravy, top up locations would be easily accessed using small denomination of Jamaican dollars. This facility would be limited to Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Catherine in the first phase, but plans are in place to offer PAYG island wide.

Main concerns echoed by Councillors are:

- The extension of electricity supply
- Electricity theft especially that of street lamps
- High electricity cost

Food For the Poor donates vehicle to Manchester Infirmary



Food for the Poor (FFP) Jamaica, our nation's largest charitable organization handed over the keys for a 2007 Mitsubishi Grandis to the Manchester Parish Council on behalf of the Manchester Infirmary at their office in White Marl on Friday, April 17, 2015.

This was a well needed donation which will assist in the transportation of residents to and from the Manchester Infirmary on clinic and hospital appointments. The institution, which is operated by the Manchester Parish Council, is home to approximately 87 residents, 41 females and 46 males who are under the supervision of the Matron, Mrs. Vivinne Grant alongside Assistant Matron, Ms. Keshia Williams, with 25 other members of staff.

The mandate of the Manchester Parish Council's Infirmary is to provide a caring environment for the destitute within the parish. The Infirmary has been set up to cater to the needs of those who are unable to adequately care for themselves. Services are predominantly administered to and for the elderly. However, persons with no liable caregiver(s) are also given institutional care at the facility. The Infirmary's programme is geared toward the provision of nutrition, transportation and works closely with the Poor Relief Department, which upon identifying cases, refer them to the Infirmary.