

MP's REPORT

to Constituents of Central Manchester

Issue # 10 | Dec. 2011

*Peter
Bunting*



Greetings!

Comrades, friends, and readers--

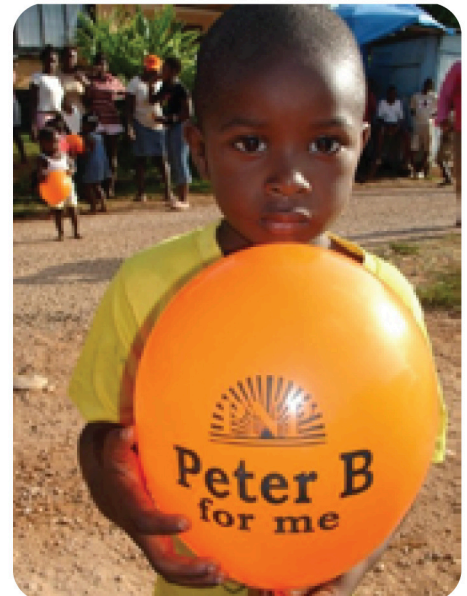


In September of 2007 I was elected Member of Parliament in Central Manchester. Again, I thank you. Everyone should be proud of what we've accomplished since then, but there's so much more to do. What happens in the upcoming elections is up to us. To return to office, we've implemented a grassroots campaign that's even stronger than the last, and we are determined to continue the work in Central Manchester.

I am pleased to bring you my 12th report, No other Member of Parliament has a track record of accounting to his constituents, the way I do regarding both constituency and parliamentary work. My vision for Central Manchester is the same now as it was then; for Central Manchester to become a centre of excellence for knowledge based services. We are on our way. Since being Member of Parliament, I have pursued discussions with business operators in the IT and health care sectors, as well as with Jamaica Trade and Invest, and encouraged investment in Central Manchester. I have written the NHT and Minister of Housing, Horace Chang to suggest that the design of the Perth Rd. development, which will ultimately have 1200 housing solutions, be adjusted to include at least 25000 square feet of ICT office space.

My aim is to put people at the centre of all development strategies. The people must be true partners in a constructive dialogue to improve the quality of life in their communities. So even though I'm focused on the job you elected me to do, the work of laying the foundation for the PNP's re-election, the cause of making a lasting difference for our families and our communities, remember the constraints I have as an opposition Member of Parliament. The People's National Party is based on comradery and our country has never been about one person, but about one people. We will succeed only if we continue to work together.

Peter Bunting



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Constituency Achievements

- Construction of an 840 student primary school in Bellefield to the tune of J\$209M
- Construction of the Royal Flat Basic Sch.
- Construction of the Anna Miller Basic Sch.
- Re-roofing of the classroom block at Manchester High School.
- Fencing and provision of water tanks at May Day basic.
- Assisted all schools with funding for sports programmes.
- Provided over 1500 scholarships and bursaries from primary to tertiary levels.
- Conversion of MP's Office to a constituency resource centre that features internet access, literacy and job readiness training and a skills databank. Our Resource centre's resulted in employment for 19 persons in the hospitality sector.
- Established the Comfort Computer Centre
- Assisted over 1200 farmers with farm supplies.
- More constituents selected for farm work programmes in the US and Canada
- Resurfacing & repairs to roads including Sweden Street in Georges Valley, Belritiro, Rocky Park, Land Settlement, Cow Pen, Coke Drive, Albion, Pear Tree, Three Chains.
- Revived the Central Manchester Principals Association to address the factors affecting our children.
- Addressed the issue of illegal vending in the Mandeville area known as 'The Bronx'. With the help of Mayor Ramsay we cleaned the area and relocation the vendors to within the Mandeville market and arcade.
- Participated in the commemoration of the birth of National Hero Norman Washington Manley and co-hosted the Mandeville Cultural Explosion concert.

- Staged several Christmas children treats in addition to providing care packages for the elderly.
- \$600,000 was given in support of efforts of service clubs, schools and churches including the construction of a multi-purpose complex for citizens.
- Disbursed \$2M in educational grants to 325 students to assist with school fees, uniforms and books.
- Undertook a community enhancement project via the Manchester Parish Council to the tune of \$3M.

State of the Constituency

Consultation

A number of consultative workshops have been held as well as ongoing dialogue with Central Manchester's constituents, thus enabling us to propose a 5-year constituency development plan.

Approximately 100 persons, consisting of representatives from the Citizen's Asso., sector groups and other agencies have given their input which was vital to the plan and design of the CDF programme.

Since July 2008 several planned projects were implemented with CDF disbursements



CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)

During the quarter, several of our planned development projects were implemented with funding received from the CDF.

Agricultural Assistance, benefiting 62 small farmers, costing \$430,000.

Constituency-wide Drain Cleaning, employing 85 constituents, costing \$1.4 M

Road patching in Congo Town and Comfort Road areas of Royal Flat, costing \$1.5 M.

Secondary and Tertiary school grants, benefiting 260 students, costing \$1.5 M

Housing Material Assistance, benefiting 352 constituents affected by Hurricane Dean, costing \$5M

All of these initiatives proved timely in respect of the demands of the hurricane season and the new school year. Projects and their associated beneficiary evaluation are implemented by government agencies such as the Ministry of Housing, the SDC and the Parish Council and not by the MP.



The table below outlines the CDF allocations by category for 2008 - 2009:

PROJECT CATEGORY	TOTAL ALLOCATION	PROJECT CATEGORY	TOTAL ALLOCATION
1. EMERGENCIES & WELFARE RESPONSE	\$2.0 M	6. DRAIN CLEANING & ROAD REPAIR	\$10 M
2. SOCIAL (INDIGENT) HOUSING	\$2.0 M	7. EDUCATION	\$10.3 M
3. HOUSING MATERIAL ASSISTANCE	\$2.0 M	8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$1.45 M
4. AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT	\$3.75 M	9. PROJECT MANAGEMENT/ CONSULTANCY	\$1.5 M
5. SPORTS	\$2.7 M	TOTAL	\$40 M

Community Relations

I've been maintaining an active schedule of divisional visits; Bellefield, Banana Ground, Top Coffee Grove and recently Mandeville with Comrade KD 'Star Boy' Knight! I have been in your communities of Hope Village, Melrose Mews, Georges Valley and Knockpatrick., with John Junor, and her worship the mayor Brenda Ramsey. I may be in your community today.

Recently I supported the Peter Bunting/Georges Valley Corner League and was at the finals at the deCarteret College. I continue to host meetings which give a platform for residents to air their concerns regarding the operations of the respective organizations.

Parliamentary

National Security

As Member of Parliament and the PNP's spokesman on National Security, in March of this year I gave the Police High Command and their personnel in St Catherine, the full support of the PNP in carrying out the operations to dismantle gangs generally and, in particular, their efforts targeted at the Klansman Gang in St Catherine.

The Crime Rate

An increase in some major crimes over the last quarter may be an indication that anti-gang measures implemented during

Campaign

I am condemning the damage done to a billboard in Mandeville, which was erected by the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) recently. I am urging the supporters of both parties to conduct a clean campaign for the upcoming election... The country and the constituency must never again allow the political temperature to be elevated to an insane level.



West Kingston operations last year have reached their limit. In addition to increases in robberies and larcenies, murders increased by 15 per cent during the quarter ending September, when compared to the same period last year. However, the police are to be commended for the successes gained since the Tivoli operation, but new strategies are needed to curb the developing increases.

I am proposing that a local investigation could prevent Coke from rebuilding his criminal enterprise if he is released from

End Violence in Central Manchester

I have condemned publicly two separate shooting incidents which took place in central Manchester in early November.

This kind of predatory gang activity is something that the Mandeville community has been working with the leadership of the police to stamp out. The police intelligence suggests that both attacks were carried out by the same gang, who are also responsible for a number of other crimes committed in the parish.

My prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Dr. Lord. I also offer my condolences to the grieving family, friends and neighbours of the valiant Mr. Haughton.

prison early. The Jamaican police ought to begin gathering information and evidence, much of which is available to United States prosecutors, to bring a case locally against confessed criminal kingpin, Christopher Coke. Criminals, dangerous as they are, can eventually serve short sentences and return to the streets of Jamaica and to their constituency havens with the usual political protection to rebuild their criminal organizations. We should campaign to have them locked up for a long, long time.



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The State of the Economy

As the end of the current administration's term in office draws closer, the economy remains in a state of insecurity relating to the status of the IMF programme and the awaited tabling of the supplementary estimates. Unfortunately, it has been announced that these estimates will include substantial cuts across a range of ministries. The Opposition will continue to advocate for the protection of the social safety net, the elimination of waste, and a proper prioritization of the capital programmes.

Ministers Peter Phillips and I question the government's ability to meet its financial obligations. The continued underperformance of the country's revenues and the Government's secrecy about what it is doing to revive the collapsed Standby Agreement with the IMF so as to restart the disbursement of funds from the IMF, and other multi-lateral agencies and financial institutions is cause for concern.



Seasons Greetings

As we enter the Christmas and holiday season, accompanied by the various challenges and preparations; my spirit is lifted by your efforts and desires to celebrate with your children and family despite financial constraints. During this Blessed Season, let us share the gift of God's love by giving of ourselves and by sharing generously with those in need.

Commit to volunteer: send email to peter@bunting.org.jm or message me on Facebook.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and thank you for your continued support.

Peter Bunting, MP

