



Peter Bunting
Member of Parliament
for Central Manchester

Central Manchester Member of Parliament's REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS

Issue #8
December 2010

Dear Constituents,

I am pleased to bring you my eighth MP's Report, covering developments for the period ending December 2010. This report is divided into sections covering my responsibilities in Parliament, particularly as the Opposition Spokesman on National Security, as well as developments within the constituency generally and my deployment of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) in particular.

PARLIAMENT



MP Bunting speaking in
Parliament in June

Since the Budget Debate, the 2010 Parliamentary year was overshadowed by issues related to the Christopher Coke extradition and its implications for national security. There were questions/debates related to:

- the efforts by the JLP Administration to frustrate the lawful extradition of Christopher Coke to the U.S.,
- the limited State of Emergency,

- the Censure Motion against the Prime Minister, and
- the six so-called "Anti-Crime bills".

These issues are fundamental to the quality of trust the public has in its leaders and the quality of life our citizens enjoy. The Opposition was very active in its representation on these issues, which required significant contributions from me as Opposition Spokesman on National Security.

GOJ-MANATT SCANDAL

By the Prime Minister's own admission, the JLP engaged Manatt, Phelps and Phillips, in addition to other manoeuvres, to frustrate the United States Government's lawful extradition request for the alleged international drug kingpin, and Tivoli Gardens-based Shower Posse Crimelord, Christopher 'Dudus' Coke. Only after nine months of pressure from the Opposition, umbrella church groups, the private sector, human rights activist groups and the media, did the government finally concede. Coke was eventually taken into custody and safely extradited to the U.S. to face drug and firearms charges.

The Opposition brought a Censure (or No Confidence)

Motion against the Prime Minister for his central role in this extradition debacle. Since the government members voted against the motion on straight party affiliation, an opportunity was lost to establish a new standard of accountability in political leadership in our country.

The Opposition withheld support for a second 30-day extension of the State of Emergency (SOE). We argued that the conditions which required such an SOE no longer obtained, and that a State of Emergency should not substitute for effective national security policy. The existing laws already grant the police extensive powers to fight crime. We do not believe that the withholding of citizens' constitutional rights should be the norm to ensure security in our democracy.

NATIONAL SECURITY

The Opposition commends the security forces for the reduction in crime generally last year, and in particular for the reduction in murders which were down by 15%. It was a difficult year, one in which the security forces had to repel a challenge to the very authority of the state. They successfully entered a barricaded Tivoli Gardens and routed the armed thugs associated with the Shower Posse, some recruited from across the island." The consequent reduction in crime across the island in the months following confirmed the central role which this international criminal organization played in Jamaica's organized crime networks. The Metro Toronto Police Commissioner confirmed that a salutary effect was felt as far as the Shower Posse's operations in Toronto as did the "Doggie" diaries confirm the Shower Posse's alliance with the Stone Crusher gang in St. James.

Police Commissioner Ellington in a radio interview spoke of the paradigm shift in the confidence of the police since they can

now pursue criminals into any part of Jamaica where these criminals may be hiding.

We should however consider these crime fighting gains in context. Although we commend the security forces for the job they did in 2010, we must also remember that 2009 was a record year for crime, and so even after this reduction our murder rate is still well above what should be considered a normal murder rate by international standards.

While major crimes have trended downward nationally, the Manchester Police Division has seen a significant increase. In our parish Major Crimes were about 14 per cent higher in 2010 than they were for 2009. This was mainly due to the 20 per cent increase we had in Murders and the 26 per cent increase we had in Shootings. Manchester has experienced an undesirable and unusual crime trend in recent years and I am calling on the Police High Command to commit more attention and resources to our parish, and cut our crime rate.

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CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT



Left: A student and MP Bunting using a new computer at the McIntosh Memorial Primary School in Royal Flat in April. Ten PC's were donated by the Spanish Court Hotel in partnership with the

Teens For Tech. Right: MP speaks at NCU's "Men Missing In Education" Conference.

CDF PROJECTS

With this year's CDF allocation, the focus is on employment creation through small business rather than on physical infrastructure development. Sports Development and Emergency Response allocations have also been expanded. The sum for Education Assistance has remained essentially the same as that for 2009-2010.

Description	Amount (\$)	Timeline	Description	Amount (\$)	Timeline
Small Farming Business Support	4,500,000	Jan 2011 start	Emergency and Welfare	1,450,000	On-going
Education Assistance	3,500,000	Completed Sep 2010	Social Housing	1,000,000	On-going
Community Beautification & Roadway Clearing	3,000,000	Completed Dec 2010	Labour Day Project	150,000	Completed May 2010
Community Initiatives Support - Manchester H.S., Heartease Comm. Ctr., NCU	1,542,106	Jan 2011 start	To be allocated	1,857,894	
Sports Development	1,500,000	Completed Dec 2010			
Administrative Assistance	1,500,000	On-going			
			TOTAL	20,000,000	

Central Manchester CDF Allocations as at December 31, 2010



Left: MP Bunting presenting high school track star Natoya Goule with a laptop computer. Right: Mandeville Fire Department personnel, MP Bunting and Councillor Donovan Mitchell watch a demonstration of a new Rescue Vehicle.

promised larger allocation from the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP), the Ministry of Works has not even given them the courtesy of consultation in the allocation of parish council roads to be repaired in Manchester. As I pointed out previously in a press release, the JDIP is being implemented in a high handed and vulgar partisan manner. The Council has also been vigilant in monitoring the safety of food (particularly fish) sold in the Mandeville Market during the period under review.

Let us continue to be cautious and caring for each other. Best wishes for the New Year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Manchester Parish Council was very disappointed that after it gave up half of the Road Maintenance Fund in exchange for a