



Peter Bunting
Member of Parliament
for Central Manchester

Central Manchester Member of Parliament's REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS

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DEAR CONSTITUENTS,

I am pleased to bring you my report for the first half of 2009, my sixth since being elected. You will note that I am changing the frequency from quarterly to semi-annually. This will cut the costs of production in half while maintaining the principle of accountability.

2009 - 2010 BUDGET

The Opposition made the case that i) the government's tax package was disproportionately burdensome to lower income earners, ii) the Budget Presentation left no clear strategy for advancing our economy and iii) the government failed to properly prepare for the impact of the global recession. Within the first two months of the fiscal year, the outturn confirms that the Budget is already substantially off track.

NATIONAL SECURITY

As Opposition Spokesman on National Security, I have held frequent meetings with high-level officials in the Police Force and related organizations. Recently, I have given addresses at conferences held by the Police Officers Association, the Police Federation and the Special Constabulary Force Association. I commended the officers for maintaining professionalism during on-going compensation negotiations, and encouraged them in tackling Jamaica's foremost social concern.



Opposition Spokesman Bunting addresses Special Constabulary Force Association at its 25th Conference. Seated are Sociologist, Dr. Orville Taylor (centre) and SCFA Chairman, Sp. Sgt. St. George Jackson.

In my Sectoral Debate contribution, I articulated a position for the modernisation of the Police Force into a 21st Century Police Service. It has three core components:

a) A New Policing Philosophy - a radical shift in the approach to policing away from a primarily paramilitary and suppressive force, which dates back to the 19th Century, towards one which forges genuine partnerships with communities across the country.

b) A New Police Governance Structure - a single Police Service needs to be formed, removing the separations among the JCF, the ISCF and District Constables. A single Police Service Authority (PSA) would be responsible for all supervision arrangements for the Police, replacing the disparate laws and bodies now in place. This paves the way for a bipartisan board for the PSA, and a more empowered Commissioner.

c) Targeting Organized Crime - the most effective short-term strategy for reducing major crimes is a strategic focus on fighting organised crime from all angles. This includes separating "dons" from their ill-gotten wealth, destroying the link between criminal networks and political parties, and improving the use of technology in crime fighting. (See my website for the full text of the presentation)

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In March I convened a very successful community consultation at the Ridgemount United Church in Mandeville on priorities for our Constituency Development Fund Programme. A team of project consultants and a wide-cross section of community organisations and citizens participated. Together we identified "improving roads" and "water supply" as the top priorities for the constituency, followed by "crime reduction" and "employment creation". This consultation and others will help to inform how I can design the CDF projects for the current year.

The construction of the Anna Miller Basic School in Knockpatrick is almost complete. The estimated project cost is \$10 Million and it is on course to be opened this September. I wish to thank the Jamaica Bauxite Institute for partnering with me on this project. Similarly, the addition of a Computer Lab at McIntosh Memorial Primary School is expected to be completed in September.



An April 2009 photo of The Anna Miller Basic School on Sunset Drive, Knockpatrick.

LABOUR DAY 2009

We had successful Labour Day activities throughout the constituency. With your assistance and community spirit, and a \$250,000 CDF allocation, we supported the following:

- **Building repairs and beautification** - Top Coffee Grove Community Centre, Hanbury Basic School, Comfort Basic School and, Belretiro Basic School
- **Donations to Labour Day projects** - Old England Primary and Hope Preparatory Schools, and Melrose Citizens Associations
- **Old England Primary School** - resurfacing of nearby roadway
- **Brokenhurst Community Centre** - gateway construction
- **Three D's Basic School for Children With Disabilities** - casting of building foundation



MP Bunting and constituents heartily at work near the Old England Primary School.

ON-GOING PROGRAMMES

- **Small Farmers Support** - Since January, 91 farmers received Chicken & Feed kits and over 50 farmers received Fertilizer & Seed kits via the Rural Agricultural Development Agency (RADA).
- **Emergency Assistance** - 30 needy constituents were assisted with covering costs for medical care and more than 40 constituents were assisted with funeral grants.
- **Water Supply** - 35 Water Tanks (650-gallon) were distributed.
- **Drain Cleaning** - over \$5 million was spent on cleaning and repairing drains in critical areas across the constituency, via the National Works Agency.



MP Bunting poses with Captain Horace Burrell (centre) and customers, at the Grand Opening of a Captain's Bakery outlet in Mandeville in May. "Captain's" opening is especially welcome in our constituency, following the recent closure of Bauxite/Alumina plants.

CONSTITUENCY SECURITY INITIATIVES

Major crimes in Manchester for the first of this year has more than doubled compared to the same period last year. I must commend the Manchester Chamber of Commerce for leading the way in the installation of CCTV cameras in various locations, with assistance from the CDF. Also important is the Ministers Fraternal's initiative to establish the Mandeville Safety and Security Committee, and the efforts of the Community Policing Unit in Comfort. Real partnerships have been formed, and we anticipate that these efforts will contribute to the reduction of crime in the coming months.

BAUXITE/ALUMINA PLANT CLOSING

Central Manchester and neighbouring constituencies are all confronting the harsh economic realities resulting from the closure of the Kirkvine and Alpart plants. The Bauxite/Alumina Industry has been an integral part of our way of life. We now have to use this as an opportunity to shift gears into other productive activities that are competitive and sustainable, so that we can secure future employment and growth.

My congratulations go out to Manchester High, Holmwood, Bellefield and other high schools for making the parish proud at Boys & Girls Champs and the National Junior Championships. Congratulations also to students who have successfully completed the academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Bunting".

