

# MP's Report

to Constituents of Central Manchester



Peter Bunting, MP

Sept 2014



Built by slave labour in 1817, the Mandeville Court House is the oldest building in the Mandeville town square. The Georgian themed architecture gracefully reminds us of our special place in Jamaica's rich history. Discussions are happening in earnest at the Parish Council to have the 197-year-old building converted into a museum. "What are your thoughts?"

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# MP's Message

Dear Constituents,

I am pleased to bring you the September 2014 issue of my Report to Constituents of Central Manchester.

After six years as General Secretary of the People's National Party, I have resigned and will now be dedicating my professional time to the constituency and the National Security portfolio. There are a number of new developments across Central Manchester, and I plan to spend more time working with you to see the constituency transformed into a Centre of Excellence for the knowledge-based industries.

One such development is the opening of a 70,000 square feet ICT facility in Mandeville, which has the capacity to seat hundreds of employees. The purpose-built facility is expected to attract large multi-national business process outsourcing companies, and according to Minister Phillip Paulwell, "the US headquartered Sutherland Global Services which already operates at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and elsewhere in Jamaica was a front runner for the start-up of ICT business at Ward Avenue." This well-established company could bring hundreds of well-needed jobs and millions of dollars in capital investment. We anticipate that such an investment

will encourage other investors to consider Manchester, and will have a spillover effect, providing opportunities to small businesses and service providers including our vendors, canteen operators, and even our taxi-drivers.

In spite of our challenges, we must remain thankful that we have not felt the brunt of the Chikungunya outbreak. Perhaps our cool climate has kept the mosquitoes subdued. As with any other outbreak however, we are also vulnerable and must therefore remain alert and take the necessary precautions to keep our families safe. Mayor Ramsay and the Parish Council are stepping up bushing and drain-cleaning activities in our communities in a bid to mitigate the risks of an outbreak. I encourage you to also do your part, by properly storing and treating water, ensuring proper disposal of household waste, and removing unwanted items from your surroundings that have the potential to collect water and become mosquito breeding sites.

Until next quarter,

*Peter*

institutions and in acquiring documents to travel abroad. A young man who commits a minor offence at age 18 for example, could have been excluded from certain social and economic opportunities, until age 38 under the original Act.

This inordinate burden was cause for concern amongst citizens, and prompted the Government to make amendments to the law, to guide the expungement of criminal records. Under this amendment, persons who were convicted of minor offences will now have their records expunged. This provision will apply to existing as well as future convictions.

Furthermore, Minister Mark Golding will shortly introduce a Bill in the Senate to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act to decriminalise the possession and/ smoking of two ounces or less of ganja, as well as the possession of pipes or other smoking utensils.

While this is not encouragement for our youth to recklessly indulge, it is a victory for all citizens, as the new law will mitigate the harsh realities which have been faced by many minor offenders, by reducing the damage that convictions have on their employment prospects.

**Jamaica is moving in the right direction.**

## What's Happening in Central Manchester

#FridaysInCentralManchester

### Constituency Development Projects:

All four divisions benefitted from a special agricultural programme which assisted approximately 100 constituents with chicken, feed and fertiliser.

Back to School - Approximately 800 grants valuing \$2,959,500 were awarded to students from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

Summer Employment: The MP's Office facilitated summer employment for 20 persons through the National Youth Service (NYS) and 3 persons through the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo).

Sports Development: 4-A-Side football competitions were held in the Bellefield Division - Saturday, June 1 and in the Knockpatrick Division on Sunday, July 20, 2014.

Constituency Development Fund (CDF) consultation was held on August 21, 2014 at the office of the Social Development Commission (SDC) and facilitated by MP Bunting. Ms. Moveta Monroe from the Office of the Prime Minister represented the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and constituents and other stakeholders also participated.

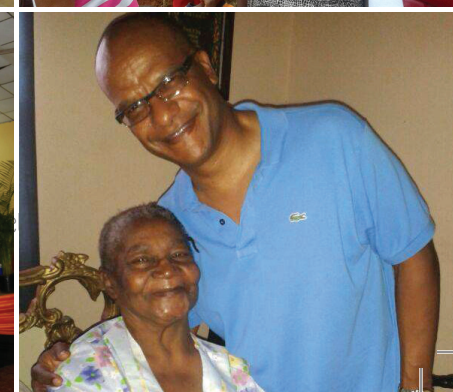
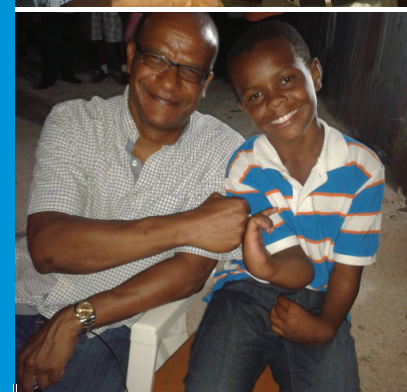


## Clean Police Records



On September 30, 2014, Minister Peter Bunting successfully piloted a Bill through the House entitled The Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Amendment) Act, 2014. This Bill was introduced to the Senate by Minister Mark Golding in July of this year.

Under the 1988 Criminal Records Act, ex-offenders convicted of relatively minor offences had to wait up to a maximum of twenty years (20) to have their criminal records expunged. This protracted wait contributed to the inability of these rehabilitated offenders to attract gainful employment, which according to Minister Bunting, "consigns them to the backwaters of the economy." Without a "clean" Police Record, many Jamaican youth are unable to access employment opportunities such as the overseas farm work programme or teaching, and they also face severe challenges in obtaining credit from financial





# Education or Extensions?

The Constituency Conference held on Sunday, August 31, at the Manchester High School took a rather humorous tone when guest speaker, the Honourable Rev. Ronald Thwaites, in an effort to emphasize the importance of education and child welfare, stated that the children “must come before bleaching cream, donkey hair and phone card.”

This utterance, while memorable, is not to be misconstrued, nor should we only seek to highlight his creative way of making the point, as his message is powerful and important. Minister Thwaites made mention of the fact that we have long been a country celebrated for athletics and entertainment, but quickly noted that it is time that our progress and prosperity be given greater consideration. He said, “we must realize that the only way to excel in all facets of life is to sufficiently educate our children and by extension, our nation.” Constituents were charged to fulfill their parental duties by prioritising the needs of their children, especially above hair extensions.

There are a few persons, however, who will seek to argue solely on the point of the quality of their hair and there are others who will try to explain the importance of bleaching cream and the necessity of phonecards. Those persons would have missed the point of the statement and of Rev.

Thwaites’ speech all together. The perceived importance of these items is not the issue, but how we dispense our family budget. A budget that should always prioritise the education and welfare of our children.

The government is doing its part, Thwaites told the approximately 600 constituents in attendance. He mentioned that 30% of early childhood students went to school hungry and that as of September 1 into 2015, a breakfast and lunch programme will be implemented for that cohort. He stated that students should be allowed to attend school even if their fees are not paid, and encouraged parents to arrange a payment plan with the schools to settle outstanding fees.

We thank Rev. Thwaites for his candid and insightful discussion and we hope this will spur more prudent spending of our limited resources.



A section of the audience at the Central Manchester Constituency Conference Aug 31, 2014

# “Liqy Liqy” Jamaica

Despite being a highly experienced and well-respected traveling officer for the Ministry of Education, Sasha Palmer, has always been an entrepreneur at heart. Her interests have blossomed into a gourmet ice-pop and sorbet establishment aptly called ‘Liqy Liqy Jamaica’, the first of its kind in the country.

Sasha got the idea for Liqy Liqy after searching without success for healthy snack options for her daughter. The products which include popsicles and sorbets are uniquely flavoured and tastefully packaged, reflecting the ingenuity and pride of a strong Jamaican mother. For now, small batches of this exotic product are prepared by Sasha herself, using top ingredients from 15 select Manchester farmers. Each day, she prepares the yummy treats from a delicious array of authentic and classic flavours, each flavour being more distinct and tastier than the last. Those who are concerned about their waistlines and their hearts can indulge without the guilt, as each savoury treat is low in sugar with 100 calories or less.

MP Bunting, who has a weakness for coconut ice-cream, has confessed that he is looking forward to his first taste of the coconut popsicle from Liqy Liqy’s exciting menu, which features a wide range of flavours including fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Imagine a sorrel, a pineapple or even a lemon grass popsicle!

Sasha has big plans for Liqy Liqy, as she hopes to expand the business, to employ single mothers from Manchester. She believes that by empowering these women, she can contribute to building Jamaica... If you feed a mother, you feed a nation.

Liqy Liqy currently does personal deliveries and may be contacted via their website at [www.liqyliqy.com](http://www.liqyliqy.com). Let’s Buy Jamaica to Build Jamaica.

- If you would like your business to be featured in the next newsletter, please contact us and we will be happy to visit you on one of our #FridaysInCentralManchester



# Education Matters

Editorial - Mr. Byron Farquharson,  
Retired Educator

As a society, we are concerned about the quality of life of all our citizens. It follows that some areas remain critical in the quest for a better life and as such they are constantly under the microscope. One such area is Education. There is virtually no space in an ever increasingly complex society for the uneducated person. We are repeatedly reminded that there is no wealthy nation with a poor education system. We, of necessity, must keep our education system under constant scrutiny because of the critical role it plays in national development.

We note with cautious optimism, the improved performance in the area of Mathematics nationally in this year’s Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) results. We heartily congratulate all the players involved and hope that this positive trajectory can be sustained. From all indications, the high schools in Central Manchester have experienced improved overall performance for which we are glad. We especially want to commend Porus High for its 30% improvement in Mathematics.

If the vision of Mandeville becoming a University Town is to be realized, then the schools within this area must see themselves as pivotal to this transformation. I wish to be identified with those who embrace education as a catalyst for the turn-around of our economic fortune thereby facilitating and improving our ability to compete meaningfully in the global arena. This will not happen unless we have an educated population. Our people therefore need to place greater value on obtaining a solid foundation through education. One ought not to be influenced by negative opinions that question the value of pursuing education to the highest level if in the end one cannot gain employment.

Yes, education is expensive,  
but ignorance costs even more.

We welcome the addition of a new school - Mt. St. Joseph Catholic High to Mandeville. It is anticipated that this will add quality to the educational landscape of Mandeville and its environs. It is our hope that we will value the possibilities that an educated population offers to our country and as such, commit ourselves to play our part in ensuring that all our students attend school regularly. Let us protect our children by creating a safe and educationally stimulating environment for them. Let us provide wholesome opportunities that will enable them to maximize their potential, becoming skilled and equipped to play their part in the development of Jamaica Land We Love.

- We invite constituents to submit editorial articles  
for publication in the MP’s Report





# Dr. Carl McKay Williams It Is!

Contributed by  
Odane McDonald, Constituent

“I feel I’ve done my best with him, and I feel Carl will do his very best. I’m asking the good Lord and you, members of the public, to give him your support.”

These are the heartfelt words of Lynette Williams, mother of Dr. Carl Williams, who has been appointed as Jamaica’s 15th Commissioner of Police since Independence.

Dr. Carl Williams is no stranger to hard work. He comes to the post with a track record of innovation and performance in a wide variety of command roles in the JCF. He is highly qualified academically, with a Ph.D in Criminal Justice, and is a proven strategic thinker, being the founding Director of MOCA and the innovator responsible for conceptualizing and developing Jamaica’s Anti-Lottery Scam Taskforce. Dr. Carl Williams famously led Jamaica’s anti-narcotics campaign from 2000 – 2004, resulting in the successful prosecution and extradition of a number of major drug traffickers.

His entry into the top job comes at a time when citizens are growing increasingly impatient with the deteriorating police-citizen relationship; with Mario Deane’s unfortunate death while in police custody, representing the proverbial straw on the camel’s back. Dr. Williams however, seems appropriately seized of the task at hand and his acceptance message to the thousands who gathered at the Police Officers’ Club to witness his swearing-in, reflected an early appreciation of the environment in which he will operate. He said,



Commissioner Carl Williams greets Minister Bunting at his swearing-in ceremony at the Police Officers’ Club

“Here in Jamaica, it is an unfortunate fact that the police still have a challenging relationship with the communities that we seek to serve... The vast majority of our police officers serve with honour and dignity as they put their lives on the line. Yet, too often, even as we strive to defend the innocent, there are those whose actions violate the very rights that we have sworn to protect. We cannot allow this to continue.”

The new Commissioner seemed to be singing from the same hymn sheet as Minister Bunting, who charged him to place emphasis on three areas: the professionalization of the Force, a strategic restructuring of JCF resources, and thirdly to hold police managers and supervisors accountable.

Indeed, Jamaicans have the right to be protected from criminal elements, but unfortunately, must also be protected from rogue members within the Force who choose to violate their basic human rights. We have long sought a champion who will not only focus on capturing hardened criminals, but who will place equal emphasis on weeding out the bad apples who give the Force a bad name. Based on his utterances, Dr. Carl McKay Williams it is!



## It Will Be an “A” for Mandeville Regional Hospital

The Mandeville Regional Hospital has crossed what administrators describe as a significant hurdle and is now on its way to becoming a world class health facility in Jamaica.

This leap came in the form of the acquisition of a property (10 -12 Caledonia Road) adjoining the hospital and was made possible because of strident representation by the MP in support of the Board, under the outstanding leadership of Mrs. Faye Bell.

Since 2007, MP Bunting has been lobbying the Ministries of Health and Land to get the facility upgraded. Type A designation will facilitate an expansion of the range of services offered to residents, and qualify the hospital as an accredited training institution for the hundreds of students who pursue qualifications in health services each year.

Mandeville Regional has long been the pride of Central Jamaica, and the Board and Management team are looking forward to the expansion, while the MP and residents of Central Jamaica anticipate the Type A services they will soon receive.

## Meet Your Facilitator

Cordesia Rankine

**Job Title:** Youth Development Assistant, Office of the Member of Parliament (2013-present)

**Philosophy:** “Be the change that you wish to see in the world”

**What do you enjoy most about working in the constituency:** I am passionate about the development of our youth as I believe that investing in them and harnessing their potential can help us to secure a better Jamaica.

**What activities do you have planned for your portfolio:** Major activities for the final quarter of 2014 include:

- 1. Cancer Symposium - Friday, October 24 at Villa Road Primary & Junior High
- 2. Street Feeding - Sunday, November 9
- 3. Youth & Business Expo - Friday, November 14 at Mandeville Park
- 4. Youth Social - Friday, November 28 at Office of Peter Bunting
- 5. Christmas Treat - Friday, December 19

- If you are interested in any matters related to youth, or if you would like to be a part of the youth development programmes run by the MP’s office, come in and see Cordesia at the MP’s Office or contact her at: rankinecordesia@gmail.com



MP Bunting presenting Political Education Certificate to Cordesia Rankine