



*Peter Bunting M.P.*

# MP's REPORT

to Constituents of  
Central Manchester

Issue 15 | Sept. 2013

## Editorial

### Moving Jamaica From *Rescue to Recovery*

From the many visits and calls to the constituency office, it is clear that people are concerned for their families' future because of the rising cost of living, and a decrease in spending power. The truth is, as we move this country from rescue to recovery, Jamaica and this constituency will face some tough times. This Government has shown, even within the context of an IMF deal, that it is committed to making the hard decisions now so that our children can have a better future.

In an effort to ease the economic burden the current Administration has introduced the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP), phases I, II and III, and has expanded the National Youth Service to provide a wider range of on-the-job training opportunities for our young people.

#### RAISING THE BAR

The new school year has brought with it much apprehension and excitement, and for students, a tinge of disappointment that the summer holiday has ended. A recent ranking of CSEC results has placed two of our institutions in the top 20 in the island, and while we are grateful, it reminds us that as a community there is much more that we need to do, to prepare our children to take advantage of the best jobs and the best opportunities.

For a long time, scholarships from the MP's office have been awarded on a first-come first-served basis, as this was the most equitable way, we found, to distribute the very limited allocation from the CDF for education. As part of raising the bar, the Member of Parliament has indicated that in going forward, scholarships will be tied to academic performance; in that way our high achievers will be rewarded, and those who have not met the standard will be incentivized to work harder.

Teachers, how will you make the syllabus come alive for those students who do not grasp concepts easily, or who do not learn in the same fundamental ways as others? This school year you must reinvent yourselves, to challenge even those students who are achieving. The MP's office will



be working even closer with the Principals' Association, because our children's education is far too important.

Parents, for you the 'back-to-school' season highlight financial obligations which can be burdensome. The recently announced fare increase and general inflation means that it will cost more to get our children to school daily, but we must. Missing that one day, may be the difference between passing for the school of their first choice or not, or the difference between a Distinction and a Credit in their CSEC results.

We are also calling on the business community to lend assistance in whatever way you can, whether a job opportunity, or internship or discounts to ease the burden on the family. The Constituency Development Officer, Trishanna Archer, will be contacting you to discuss the possibilities.

The MP's office remains open and we look forward to your feedback. Come in and talk with us.

## LIVE. WORK. PLAY.

In Central Manchester - Peter Bunting

Central Manchester - Knowledge City

The plan to transform Central Manchester into a centre of excellence for the knowledge-based industries is gaining momentum, as we have been working actively with potential investors to see to the realization of this vision. We are currently in dialogue with a world-leading business process outsourcing company, Sutherland Global Services (SGS), the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) and the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) to establish a contact centre/BPO operation in Mandeville.

In the first instance NCU will facilitate the training of 200 persons to service a 50-seat facility. We are confident that once this operation is up and running, the investors will be so impressed with the quality of employees that they will expand. Our hope is that this facility will also encourage similar investments, and in a matter of years, we would have partially realized our vision. This will not only benefit those directly employed in the BPO/ICT industry, but there are tremendous spillover benefits to be derived by all businesses in the Parish.

The status of a Melbourne or Barcelona may be far-fetched in the short term; however, we certainly possess the natural attributes to position Mandeville as Jamaica's third ICT hub. Stay tuned as more of these projects come on stream.



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## #FridaysInCentral

Despite my hectic schedule, I spend part of every week at my home in Mandeville, and in my travels across the constituency I have discovered some hidden gems, eateries, meeting places and 'chill spots'. Below is my pick of must-sees for this quarter. If you did not make the list this issue, I welcome your invitation to visit your establishment, certainly if the experience is good, you might be featured in our next issue.



Bloomfield Great House Restaurant and Bar - Fine dining



Rat's Bar at Three Bars - Good vibes, good soup, good beer



Golf View Hotel - Accommodating staff, good venue for meetings



Mandeville Hotel - Drinks/ Happy Hour



Vineyard – Good Drinks, karaoke, and their famous poetry nights



Star-Grill Restaurant - Fine dining on a budget



Tweet @PeterBuntingMP on Fridays using hashtag #FridaysInCentral

## Decoding GOVERNANCE

Setting the stage for Central's celebration of the PNP's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the constituency conference held on July 18 evoked a sense of national responsibility through thought-provoking presentations by Senator the Honourable Mark Golding and Minister of State the Honourable Damion Crawford. Senator Golding delivered an in-depth presentation outlining the Government's management of the economy. Au fait with these matters given his strong business acumen, the Senator delivered a candid presentation on the often misunderstood IMF agreement. Pointing to crucial infrastructural development projects such as the hotel sector expansion, the recommencement of a USD 610M north coast highway project, and the possible construction of a transshipment terminal on the island's south coast, the Senator explained the strategic process being employed by the PNP Administration to return Jamaica to a sustainable growth path. He also spoke to the impending privatization and expansion of the island's main transshipment port to take advantage of the expanded Panama Canal, thereby strengthening Jamaica's position as a major logistics hub.



The country's image as a regional business process outsourcing destination has also grown over recent years. As explained by the Senator, the aim is to not only expand this sector, but also to ensure that the country moves up the value chain by providing, among other things, legal and accounting outsourcing services. According to Golding, seven (7) pieces of legislation specific to the BPO sector are currently in the pipeline.

Minister Crawford in his usual charismatic style, 'tun up di ting'. His presentation brought us back to the roots of the People's National Party and the premise on which the institution stands. Calling on all citizens to remember their roles in

nation-building, Crawford reminded us that being a good citizen means doing your individual duty to secure the country's development. Admitting that major sacrifices



will be required to achieve the most fundamental goal of reducing our public debt, the Minister outlined that while things may not be perfect, we are heading in the right direction. In the very powerful words of the Minister, "no country can grow if the people don't grow", we must therefore take responsibility for our own growth, and that

of those under our direct influence, in so doing, we will build better households, communities, divisions, constituencies, and ultimately a better country. Despite the different presentation styles, both speakers received thunderous applause from the vibrant audience.

## Whither Central Manchester...

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium on July 21st, ushered in a lengthier discussion on Jamaica's way forward under the theme "Towards a Brighter Future... Facing the Challenges". With a much larger and politically diverse audience, the wine and cheese style event featured a panel of presenters spanning academia, business and law. The panelists were Professor Anthony Harriott, Professor Brian Meeks, Dr. Damien King, Attorney-at-law Ms. Danielle Archer, and Mrs. Patricia Sutherland.

The presentations were concise, but aptly captured key objectives for Jamaica to achieve considerable levels of development in coming years. While each presenter focused on a different issue, the underlying theme in all the presentations was the need for the citizenry to take seriously, their role in the nation's advancement. From Professor Harriott's point of view, a crucial starting point is a re-socialization to promote respect for the rule of law.

Despite it being a very frightening reality, Professor Meeks drew examples from the Kurds and the former Yugoslavia to illustrate the possibility of Jamaica losing its statehood to become a stateless nation. Failure to take urgent action to correct our economic and social ills he warned, could ultimately render Jamaica a nation



that once was. While the idea of a coalition government may be far-fetched in the near future, Meeks advocated for a type of social partnership agreement between the two major political

parties around critical areas. He highlighted education, fiscal policy, health and industrial policy as the four critical areas around which we should encourage consensus.

Dr. Damien King echoed Prof. Meeks' call for more consultative politics. As an Economist however, King focused more on the importance of fiscal prudence, identifying the country's high debt as the main obstacle to development. He urged attendees to support the changes now being made, including the debt exchange,





tax package and public sector wage freeze. Despite the short-term hardships, these measures he believes embed better fiscal management in the country's business architecture. Attorney-at-Law Danielle Archer, highlighted the responsibility of citizens in effecting change, starting with their own communities. She encouraged a spirit of volunteerism and challenged citizens to take their responsibility beyond their right to vote. In very powerful words she warned, "unless we access the power within ourselves to change, regardless of the leader, we will continuously be in the same place". Patricia Sutherland brought home the message by deconstructing the Progressive Agenda's main tenets of participation, accountability and responsibility to put into perspective the individual role of each citizen.

## ROXBOROUGH-

*The Centrepiece of Heritage Tourism in Manchester*



Roxborough forms part of a larger thrust to establish heritage and community tourism in Manchester. The Mandeville Courthouse, Market, Parish Church, Brooks Park, Manchester Golf Club, and various historic sites, will be integrated into the economic landscape of the parish. This will both raise the profile of Manchester as a premier destination for heritage tourism as well as provide much needed job opportunities for residents.

For more information on Roxborough contact The Jamaica National Heritage Trust at telephone (876) 922-1287

The July 4 celebrations commemorating the 120th birthday of National Hero and Manchester native, The Rt. Excellent Norman Washington Manley, was this year given a boost with the opening of a permanent exhibition on his life at the newly built museum at Roxborough. Speaking at the opening ceremony, MP Bunting said that the new structure represented a promise honoured, coming out of last year's celebration, when a collective declaration was made by the Mayor, Councillors and himself that the site would not have been allowed to remain in its current state for another year.

The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) has allocated 46 million for the restoration and establishment of the museum, and has spent \$11 million towards the completion of phase 1 of the project. Phase 2, slated to be shortly, will cover the lighting of the entire complex, build-out of the museum and the further beautification of the site. It is envisioned that Roxborough will be self-financing, earning revenue from venue rentals, a developed campsite, art park and gift shop.

The developments at Roxborough will have a positive impact on the surrounding communities especially the neighbouring Belretiro district. Already benefitting from resurfaced roadways and signage, Belretiro is being looked at for the development of a craft village, which will add to the overall experience.

The rehabilitation of Manley's birthplace and the establishment of the museum at

## A "SUPREME" start to the 2013 Sporting Season

**NETBALL** – The Central Manchester Sports Development Committee has taken a different approach to this year's competitions. Instead of the netball, football and cricket competitions running concurrently, they will run consecutively, giving each event maximum support and exposure. The season kicked off in July with an exciting netball competition. Twenty teams participated, and despite intense competition, Mandeville All-Stars emerged winner, copping the Peter Bunting Netball trophy and \$80,000 cash prize. The Mandeville Police netball team took the second place spot, winning \$60,000 and the second place trophy. The Belretiro and Georges Valley clubs, both newcomers to the competition, won third and fourth place respectively. Rally winners, Royal Flat, also took home the prize for the 'best-dressed' team.

Thanks to the members of the Netball Committee, Ms. Trishanna Archer, Bryan Green, Kirk Robinson and Bryan Sterling, who have worked assiduously to make the event a success.



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**FOOTBALL** – The football season kicked off with a grand opening ceremony on September 8th and will conclude with the much anticipated finals in November. With twenty-eight (28) teams set to participate, the football competition promises to eclipse the excitement of the Netball competition. In addition to the first place trophy, the winners will receive JMD 100,000. The team to secure second place will also receive a trophy and JMD 60,000. Third and fourth place winners will receive JMD 30,000 and JMD 10,000 respectively. There are also cash prizes of JMD 10,000 for the most disciplined team and a JMD 5,000 prize for the winners of the dress parade.

Matches will be played on Sundays and Thursdays across the constituency, contact the constituency office for details.

Thanks to title sponsors Supreme Ventures for making this year's competitions possible.

Look out for the 20/20 cricket competition, which will begin in November.

## Mandeville Regional Hospital

**Opening Of Block J-** The recent opening of the renovated Block J, takes Mandeville Regional Hospital one Type A status. Block J, which houses the pediatric and neonatal wards was scheduled to open in 2015, tracked based on a chronic shortage of beds and rooms that placed a strain on patients, doctors and the the Mandeville Regional Hospital. The new block was retrofitted with state of the art equipment from of Mandeville and bedding and furniture from Food for the Poor. The Manchester Wellness Foundation a cheque valuing JMD 1 million dollars to Health Minister, Dr. Fenton Ferguson to assist with fixtures

step closer to but was fast-infrastructure of the Rotary Club also presented and amenities.

## Youth Empowerment:

The Ministry of Youth and Culture in association with Diageo, conducted a Merchandising & Customer seminar in the parish in June. Through the office of the Member of Parliament, some fifty constituents years old benefitted from the training, which also included resume writing, interview preparation and planning. Participants received certificates at the graduation ceremony in August.

Ten constituents of Central Manchester participated in a TPDco two-day training exercise in July. The participants were placed on two separate three-week internship programmes; the first in mid July and the final in August.

## Roadwork

Micro-surfacing roadwork was carried out in the Mandeville town centre, courtesy of the Ministry of Transport and Works.

## Labour Day 2013

The main Labour Day projects for 2013 included: the Mandeville Regional Hospital, the Health Clinic, the Mandeville Court House and Hope Village. See website for pictures.



Service training between 18-34 small business

## We want to hear from you.

We have made some changes to the layout of the newsletter. We understand that some constituents are unable to attend all our events, so we are attempting to make the report more experiential, by giving greater details on the key events for the quarter.

Please let us know your thoughts on this new layout and style of reporting.

This new layout allows for the inclusion of features by constituents, therefore we are inviting you to submit your articles, events, birthday greetings and advertisements.

With the redesign of the newsletter, we are also considering a name change, which will better reflect the new style of the report. Please indicate your preference:

- ☐ Central
- ☐ Grand Central
- ☐ Central Point

Other \_\_\_\_\_

