

MP's REPORT

to Constituents of Central Manchester

Issue # 9 | Aug. 2011



Peter Bunting

DEAR CONSTITUENTS

As we embark upon a new school year, accompanied by the various back-to-school challenges and preparations, I commend your effort to send your children to school looking smart and with a positive mental outlook. In observing your sacrifice and ingenuity, I'm sure they will be inspired to adapt this spirit of resourcefulness in their own studies. Please remind them that they also have a responsibility to be punctual, disciplined and to complete their assignments.

As your Member of Parliament, I pledge to partner with you in your efforts to ensure that your children realize their full potential. In this regard I committed \$3.5 Million of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) towards educational assistance in the current year. Unfortunately the demands far exceed that allocation and tertiary students are particularly hard hit. I continue to support the education system through consultation with the revitalized Principals' Association and by making other contributions to renovate schools, purchase equipment and support sporting activities.

Finally, rest assured that I continue to make vigorous representation to various ministries of Government to achieve the Vision 2030 National Development Plan of making Central Manchester in particular, *the place of choice to live, to work, raise families and do business!*

Sincerely,

Peter

STATE OF THE CONSTITUENCY

✓ Constituency Development Fund

Last April, we held a community consultation meeting at the Manchester Parish Council. Based on our discussions, supported by other research, we are submitting this proposal for the 2011/2012 financial year:

- Disaster Mitigation & Prevention
- Education
- Community Facilities
- Farming
- Housing (Social & Improvement)
- Sports
- Emergency & Welfare



✓ Delay in 2010 CDF Disbursement

We are yet to receive a total of \$3.4 Million representing a number of approved constituency development projects from 2010. The administrative delays are costing constituents deliverables they were and are still depending on. As Member of Parliament, I will intensify my demands for the Government to give a definitive response on the disbursement of these funds.

✓ Community Relations

I continue to maintain an active schedule of divisional visits, spending time with our youth, shut-ins and the indigent. Last quarter I toured the Knockpatrick, Bellefield, and Mandeville Divisions. I convened meetings between Alpart and representatives of Church St., Knockpatrick, as well as between residents of Kendal and the Divisional Police Command. The meetings provided appropriate forums for residents to air their concerns regarding the operations of the respective organizations.



ON TOUR OF CEDAR GROVE, KNOCKPATRICK

The Peter Bunting/Georges Valley Corner League is now underway, and I look forward to using it as a means to foster community spirit and discipline while engaging our youth. I hope to see you at one of the games.

I have been attending as many community activities and events as I can, and as always, I am available to see constituents by appointment at my constituency office.



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PARLIAMENT

✓ **The State of the Economy**

As we enter the final year of the current administration's term in office, the economy continues in a state of uncertainty regarding 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.

✓ **Investment and Job Creation (ICT)**

We welcome Minister Tufton's announcement on his emphasis on ICT job creation. Constituents will recall the proposals I made to his predecessor, Karl Samuda, to have developed an ICT facility in Mandeville, which has all the necessary endowments, in order to mitigate the impact of the fall out in the bauxite alumina sector. 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. I have been courting potential ICT investors, but the lack of purpose-built office space is a serious obstacle.

NATIONAL SECURITY

✓ **The Crime Rate**

There is a new approach in Parliament to redesign the format of the sectoral debates; as a consequence, I have not yet made my contribution on National Security and Electoral matters. Notwithstanding the overall decline in the 2011 murder statistics, July and August have shown increases relative to 2010. This reminds us that we cannot become complacent in the fight against crime, as we are still ranked among the most violent countries in spite of the reductions flowing from the Tivoli operations/Christopher "Dudus" Coke extradition. My presentation to Parliament will speak to the additional measures to be implemented in this regard.

In July, the nation was rocked by what threatened to be a "trend" in decapitations. The Opposition denounced this practice and also used the opportunity to renew its call for the de-linking of political parties and gangs. The Opposition continues to support the Police in their fight against crime and terror networks who threaten the stability of our country. We commend the Police who have vigorously pursued these terrorists and have since captured some of the suspected perpetrators.

✓ **Amendments to Bail Act found unconstitutional**

Finally, the recent ruling by the Supreme Court on the unconstitutionality of the Government's amendments to the Bail Act in 2010 vindicated the Opposition's position in Parliament at the time the Bill was being debated. The court upheld the Opposition's principled stance, that tough crime fighting measures cannot be at the expense of the individual rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, unless in the very limited circumstance of a State of Emergency.

HIGHLIGHTS



LABOUR DAY 2011



MEN WHO COOK 2011



TOUR OF MINED LANDS -
KNOCKPATRICK