



Peter Bunting – Member of Parliament for Central Manchester

# Central Manchester Member of Parliament's QUARTERLY REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS

## Dear Constituents,

I am pleased to bring you my first quarterly report as your Member of Parliament. Coming from my background as Chairman of a publicly listed company, I have become accustomed to reporting to my stakeholders on a quarterly basis over the last 15 years. I am adopting this practice in my new position as I believe that the same levels of transparency and accountability should also apply to political officeholders.

## PARLIAMENT

After my swearing in at Gordon House on September 27, 2007, I was appointed the Opposition Spokesperson on Industry and Commerce. In that capacity I have actively been putting questions to Ministers and participating in debates in the House of Representatives, as well as making contributions to discussions in the media. Particular attention was given to the Scrap Metal Industry as well as the dramatic price increases which consumers have experienced over the last few months. On the latter issue, emphasis has been placed on encouraging the Government of Jamaica to introduce measures that will mitigate the impact of the price increases on the most vulnerable in the society. One specific measure I have proposed is to expand the scope of the school feeding programme.



I have also been selected Chairman of the House Committee on the Economy and Production and at our first sitting in January we will be examining the socio-economic impact of the bauxite alumina industry on the communities where they operate, such as those in Central Manchester. In addition, I used the occasion of the debate on the transfer from the Capital Development Fund to the Consolidated Fund to bring to the attention of the House the serious and often damaging effects which these mining and processing activities are having on the environment, health, social capital, and the incomes of the residents of surrounding communities.

## CONSTITUENCY

The Member of Parliament's Office is located at Unit #42, 5 1/2 Caledonia Rd. and is open Mondays to Fridays from 8:30 to 4:30pm. I am personally available on most Fridays to see constituents by appointment and can be contacted at the office through a toll free number 1-888-BUNTING. In this quarter, I have held appointments with approximately 400 constituents and in many cases have been able to provide assistance through representation on a wide range of matters.



MP Peter Bunting at work with constituents - Woodlawn, Mandeville.

A contract has been approved for the construction of an 840-pupil Replacement Primary School in Bellefield in the amount of two hundred and nine million dollars (J\$209M). The former MP - John Junor - had made strong representation for this school over a long period of time and he must be satisfied that this has finally come to fruition. The constituency has received modest levels of funding for road repair and cleanup with the major allocation being one and a half million dollars (J\$1.5M) for repairs to Sweden Street in Georges Valley. Work should commence on this road in the first quarter of 2008.

In December, 40 constituents applied to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to be selected for the farm work programmes for the United States and Canada.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Councillor **Donovan Mitchell**  
Royal Flat Division



Her Worship the Mayor of Mandeville  
and Councillor for Bellefield Division  
**Brenda Ramsay**



Councillor **Goyfield Harrison**  
Knockpatrick Division

In the Local Government Elections held in December, the number of People's National Party (PNP) Parish Councillors in our constituency increased from one to three out of a total of four divisions. As a result, the People's National Party now has the majority in the Manchester Parish Council and the new Mayor is Her Worship Councillor Brenda Ramsay, who represents the Bellefield Division in Central Manchester. The other newly elected councillors in the Constituency are Goyfield "Frenchie" Harrison for the Knockpatrick Division and Donovan Mitchell for the Royal Flat Division. I am confident that we will work as an effective team in the interest of the constituency.

## PLANS IN THE PIPELINE

I am pursuing a number of initiatives which should be advanced in the upcoming quarter, namely:

- **Constituency Development Plan** – The constituency team is working closely with the Social Development Commission (SDC) to develop a medium term constituency development plan. The first draft of this plan is scheduled for completion on Jan. 31, 2008 after which it will be discussed in a number of public fora prior to finalization.
- **Constituency Resource Centre** – The Member of Parliament's office is being converted into a resource centre where all constituents can come to access information on the services offered by various government agencies such as the National Health Fund. Special attention will be paid to the interests of persons seeking training and employment so that there will also be computer and internet access, assistance in writing resumes and job applications, a placement service, and information on applying to H.E.A.R.T., the National Youth Service (NYS) and the Student Loan Bureau. There will also be a referral system to the Morris Entrepreneurial Centre for those interested in micro-business.
- **Investments and job creation** – Discussions are being pursued with business operators in the IT and health care sectors, as well as with Jamaica Trade and Invest, with a view to encouraging investment in Central Manchester. Thus far, the dialogue has been positive.

Let me close by thanking all those persons whose support has provided me both the opportunity and the privilege of serving as the Member of Parliament for Central Manchester. My special thanks go to John Junor, who has worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition. I wish all the citizens of Central Manchester a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,