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MINISTER OF STATE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & COMMERCE
SECTORAL CONTRIBUTION
2009 - 2010

1. INTRODUCTORY

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to once again be participating in the Sectoral Debate in this Honourable House. This is my second **innings** at the **crease** and I must pay tribute to the Honourable Prime Minister for his exemplary **captaincy**, especially in these very challenging times. I must express gratitude also to the Honourable Karl Samuda for his continued guidance and for the confidence that he has shown in me as a part of the team.

I am acutely aware of the awesome responsibility and the great expectations which the people of this country have placed on the shoulders of their representatives. It is hard work, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the constituents of North West Clarendon for their support, loyalty, honesty, and for their constructive criticisms. I am grateful for the contribution of my management team, councillors, caretaker and other executive members, constituency secretary, area leaders and PD workers, and all those who continue to work towards the growth and development of North West Clarendon.

I wish to also thank the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Reginald Budhan, the staff of my office and the rest of the Ministry for the strong support provided to me during the past year.

Mr. Speaker, to be engaged in any form of public life, particularly representational politics, is not without its sacrifices and its disappointments. Things can be extremely challenging and burdensome, if you are not surrounded by the people you consider most important in your life. I must, therefore, thank my family and friends for their continued support and the sacrifices they continue to make to allow me to represent the people of North West Clarendon.

Mr. Speaker my presentation will be in two parts. I will first deal with aspects of the portfolio of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce and then I will address accomplishments in my constituency of North West Clarendon.

2.0 SELECTED ASPECTS OF MINISTRY'S PORTFOLIO

Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce plays a critical role in the development of our country, in keeping with its mission of promoting industrial and commercial development, investment promotion, business facilitation and consumer protection. My colleague Minister has already addressed key achievements and the way forward during his Budget presentation. I now wish to briefly address the achievements of the following agencies of the Ministry:

- Companies Office of Jamaica
- Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies
- Fair Trading Commission
- Jamaica Intellectual Property Office
- Bureau of Standards
- Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation

2.1 Companies Office of Jamaica

Mr. Speaker, in the 2009 *Doing Business Report*, published by the IMF, Jamaica achieved a ranking of 11th in terms of starting a business. This is an indication of the progress we have made in terms of the procedures required to incorporate and register a business, although there is room for further improvement.

The Companies Office of Jamaica (**COJ**) plays a significant role in the process of starting a business, particularly in terms of determining that the desired company name is available and in the filing of the company deeds.

During the 2008/09 Financial Year, achievements of the COJ with respect to registration services were as follows:

- Local companies (regular) - 2071 compared with 2,112 in 07/08
- Local companies (expedited) - 939 compared with 763 in 07/08
- Business names - 6,909 compared with 6,564 in 07/08
- Electronic documents filed – 78,084 compared with 49,386 in 07/08
- Volume of documents processed by IT unit per hour: 38 in 2008/09 compared with 28 in 2007/08.

The only glitch which we now have is the prescribed forms. This will be fixed when we amend the Companies Act.

Mr. Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the Board and staff of the COJ. Everybody wants to be facilitated. No one wants to be regulated. It is a tough job to both regulate and facilitate. Sometimes facilitation borders on breaking the rules. When you regulate to the letter, one group say that you are

bureaucratic. When you facilitate according to the spirit of the law and regulations, another group says that you are in breach of the rules. A delicate balance must be maintained.

2.2 Department of Co-operatives & Friendly Societies (DCFS)

I now turn to the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies. Mr. Speaker, one of the responsibilities of the Ministry is to administer the Co-operative Societies and the Friendly Societies Acts, along with their respective regulations. The Cooperatives movement has a membership of approximately 1,000,000. This is a massive movement and has to be carefully regulated and supported.

The Department of Cooperatives & Friendly Societies plays a key role in the institutional strengthening and capacity building of co-operatives and friendly societies. Support provided to Cooperatives includes audit, oversight of boards, training, resolution of conflicts of various forms, preparation of business plans and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the 2008/09 financial year was a highly productive one for the Cooperatives Department. For example in that year:

- 122 audits were done covering 160 years compared to 90 audits in 2007/08 – a 35% increase.
- Inspections increase by 67%
- Pre-audit checks increased by 125%
- Intervention at boards increased by 72%

- Training of staff of Cooperatives increased by 117%

With respect to technical assistance provided, let me give you a feel of the nature of the work:

- Christiana Potato Growers Co-operative Association Limited, benefited from technical assistance in modernising and updating its accounting and internal systems and processes. This will ensure that the association is able to meet the increased demands arising from significant growth in business.
- The Frankfield Cocoa/Coffee Co-operative Society Limited was given technical assistance in policy development, planning and internal control procedures to create a base for transparency, growth and development.
- The Department provided technical assistance to credit unions and other co-operatives in amending their rules, systems and processes to ensure full compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the staff of the Department of Cooperatives for the solid work being done.

2.3 Fair Trading Commission (FTC)

Mr. Speaker, in 1993 the Fair Trading Commission (FTC) was set up to administer the Fair Competition Act, which essentially, seeks to encourage competition in the conduct of trade and business, with the objective of providing consumers with competitive prices and choices in the marketplace.

As such, Mr. Speaker, the role of the FTC is not exactly similar to that of the Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC). While the CAC deals fundamentally with direct consumer complaints and seeks timely redress on their behalf, the FTC is more of a regulatory agency. The FTC carries out investigations into the conduct of business and seeks to determine whether an enterprise is engaging in any business that is contrary to the Fair Competition Act. These include:

- Tied selling (marrying of goods)
- Misleading advertising
- Offences against competition

During the last Financial Year, the FTC in carrying out its role, received some 164 new cases:

- 106 of these cases, or 64.6%, were classified as **Misleading Advertising**
- 20 were classified as **“Offences Against Competition”**.

The majority of these complaints were made against the major providers of telecommunication services.

Over the period April 1, 2008 to March 2009, the Commission investigated some 497 cases, with 489 of these cases being completed and closed. This represents a resolution rate of 98.8%, compared to 38.1% (357 cases closed out of 937 investigated) in the previous financial year.

Mr. Speaker, institutions such as the FTC are important to us as they operate as watchdogs and work behind the scene to keep businesses in check, safeguarding consumers' welfare.

2.4 Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO)

One of my greatest desires, Mr. Speaker, is to see much greater priority and attention being paid by Jamaicans to the business of intellectual property. The Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) administers the international property laws now in force and has the job of ensuring the drafting, reviewing, amendment and enactment of our IP-related legislation. Chief among these are:

- The Copyright Act
- The Trade Marks Act and Regulations
- Patents and Designs Act
- Geographical Indications Act

Mr. Speaker, we recognise the importance of the necessary institutions being in place to implement IP legislation and to capitalise on our innovative capacity. We have to get it right, however, and we have to do it now. We need to get all the necessary legislation in place and to treat the area of intellectual property as a major priority.

Instructions for the drafting of regulations to accompany the various Acts have been submitted to the CPC and we are anxiously looking towards the regulations being revised and passed.

I would like to use this opportunity to commend the Board and the enthusiastic staff which is led by a dynamic lady, Ms. Carol Simpson.

2.5 Bureau of Standards

Mr. Speaker, another responsibility of the Ministry, through the Bureau of Standards, is to ensure the compliance of all goods – locally produced and imported – with the requirements of compulsory product standards (technical regulations) and labelling.

Under the Bureau's Standards Compliance/Import Monitoring programme, inspections, examinations and investigations are carried out at the ports of entry as well as establishments within the domestic market.

During the period April 2008 to March 2009, the Bureau:

- Inspected some 10,267 establishments, an increase of 33% over the previous period. This included inspection of the premises of importers, retail/wholesale outlets and food factories, as well as the weighing and measuring devices used in trade.

We continue to be vigilant and proactive in the marketplace and during the period April 2008 to March 2009:

- Bureau inspectors withdrew some 208,557 units from sale, an increase of 113% over the previous period. These included food items, clothing and footwear being offered for sale after expiration dates, or having otherwise breached the labelling requirements.

Mr. Speaker, we have some people out there who may simply be ill-informed, or simply ignorant of the requirements. On the other hand, there are those who deliberately set out to breach the regulations and we have a responsibility under the Standards Compliance programme to ensure that consumers are protected.

(a) Building Code Project

Mr. Speaker, as Jamaicans we all need to have confidence in the quality of our construction, materials, and how our structures will withstand the forces of nature. The Bureau of Standards in association with the Jamaica Institution of Engineers has been providing technical support in facilitating the development of a national building code. This is necessary in order to regulate and control the design, construction, quality of materials and maintenance of our buildings to

ensure that any threat to life, health, and welfare of occupants and the public is minimized or prevented.

To date, some nine out of eleven building code documents have been completed, including the Jamaican application document for:

1. International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
2. International Maintenance Code (IMC)
3. International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
4. International Fire Code (IFC)
5. International Private Sewage Disposal Code (IPSDC)
6. International Building Code (IBC)
7. International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)
8. International Plumbing Code (IPC)
9. International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)

The Department of Local Government in the Office of the Prime Minister will be responsible for enforcing the Code under a new **Jamaica Building Code Act**, expected to be passed through the Houses of Parliament later this year.

(b) Furniture Resource Training Centre

The Bureau of Standards, Mr. Speaker, is also responsible for developing a Furniture Incubator Resource Training Centre to improve the competitiveness of the Jamaican furniture industry.

The project will provide support through training, financing, marketing and preferential procurement. The project is being implemented in four phases, starting from 2008, with the final phase being in 2010. Under the project, the country has been divided geographically, with each area forming a hub. The Corporate Area, St. Catherine and St. Thomas are all in Hub One, which will serve as the pilot. Coordinating and Design Centres will be responsible for

developing the prototypes, while Resource Centres will provide training and technical assistance. Production Centres, focusing on the final output, will also be established. Once the pilot is successfully completed, then the process will be replicated in the other hubs.

(c) CROSQ/IDB Project

Mr. Speaker, as part of the CARICOM regional strategy to promote small and medium enterprise competitiveness, the Bureau of Standards, has been designated as one of the four regional sub-executing agencies for the four-year CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) project.

This project seeks to encourage the participation of our SMEs in the standardization process in CARICOM and to facilitate the export of their goods and services regionally and internationally. The project has four components:

1. Raising awareness for the public and private sectors
2. Development of 25 technical standards and conformity assessment guidelines
3. Training and SME coaching, and
4. Establishment of a national and regional information system.

(d) National Certification

In addition to JANAAC, we have the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ), which was established in 2007 as a unit within the Bureau of Standards, with the mandate of offering management systems certification services to ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14001:2004.

The NCBJ currently offers certification services to six clients – four for ISO 9001 and two for ISO 14001. This clearly is not good enough. Based on the results of market research conducted in June 2008, the NCBJ is now targeting over 300 companies for certification.

2.6 Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC)

Mr. Speaker, we continue to make progress in terms of our competence as a country in assessment of the quality and consistency of our goods and services. Against this background, the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC) was officially launched in June this year. We now have an accreditation based conformity assessment system in Jamaica, supported by an independent, impartial accreditation body.

Through **JANAAC** we are able to say to the rest of the world that the conformity assessment bodies in this country, such as accredited testing laboratories and accredited certification and inspection bodies, are operating at internationally accepted levels and have proven their competence in their area of responsibility. This means that:

- Once our goods are tested by an accredited local lab we can be confident that it will be accepted abroad;
- There is no need for additional costs because Jamaican goods have been detained at the ports of importing countries.
- There is no need for samples or test/inspection reports from Jamaica being held in question pending re-testing, re-inspection, or re-certification.

3.0 CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker, I now turn my attention to the love of my life – my constituency of North West Clarendon. I feel so honoured to represent the people of this constituency and I am motivated by this privilege entrusted in me. In the nights as I lie in my bed and look on the ceiling, I reflect on every road that needs

repairs, every community that has a water problem, every basic school that is in need of something and strategize how I am going to leverage resources to help.

For this reason they say I am like the humble “ants”, you see me everywhere and always busy solving some problem!

Mr. Speaker, last year I reported on a wide range of projects within my constituency of North West Clarendon and I am proud to say that we made significant achievements, touching all areas of the constituency. During the Financial Year 2008/09 I had four major constituency consultations, from which a decision was taken to look at building capacity, infrastructure and human capital.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture continues to be a mainstay of the parish of Clarendon, but the agro industry in NW Clarendon has suffered for decades due in part to the weather patterns and neglect by our farmers. Our key industries in agriculture and food processing have been reduced to nought over the last three decades, fuelling massive unemployment and social decay. The demise of our major industry was also fuelled by a lack of a cohesive vision shared by all stakeholders, as well as inflation, unreasonable and dishonest buyers, the absence of crop insurance and capital support. This, Mr. Speaker has left our farmers in dire straits with very little hope for the future. Mr. Speaker, despite the consistent decline, things have been changing since my tenure as Member of Parliament. We have seen a marked difference in the local economy, in spite of the challenging economic conditions we now face.

As the representative for NW Clarendon, I have been playing my part to ensure that the agricultural sector survives and that our farmers are able to access the necessary inputs, training, support and technology to sustain the industry. My office, coupled with key stakeholders such as Christiana Potato Growers Association, RADA, SRC, UWI – Biotechnology Unit, Bodles Research Station, the Agricultural Ministry’s Export Division and farmers are currently building

clusters of niche farm products across the constituency. This will eventually form the basis of major income earning agro processing initiatives. In that regard, we have been doing a lot of work in the constituency in several areas.

3.1 Agriculture

(a) Top Alston - Ginger Resuscitation Project.

Mr. Speaker, by special request of the ginger farmers in my constituency, we embarked on a major project to build capacity in the island's main ginger growing region, namely Silent Hill, Moravia, Bullocks, Butlers Run, Alston, Walders Run and Bailleston. This project involves the propagation of healthy planting material for the distribution to ginger farmers. Over 1000 tissue culture plantlets have been planted in two professional greenhouses specifically constructed for growing ginger.

Mr. Speaker, we now have a cumulative minimum order for over 100,000 tons of dried ginger per annum from manufacturers in Japan, Europe, USA and Canada. In essence, this project will help to achieve and support the Ministry of Agriculture's export targets, directly contributing to foreign exchange earnings and GDP within the next two years.

In addition to that Mr. Speaker, we will be boosting the income earning opportunities for the farmers and the residents, in general, through value added production initiatives in the not too distant future. Our collective vision is not to simply sell our raw material, but to produce value-added products such as baked products, extracts, sweets, juices etc. thus creating a new ginger industry in the parish.

Mr. Speaker, in lieu of the output from the new ginger greenhouses, over 8000lbs of ginger planting material was distributed to farmers for this year's planting

season, because we are serious about increased productivity and capacity in this region. ***This, Mr. Speaker, is a promise made and a promise kept!!***

- **Greenhouse Ginger Research & Development** – six persons trained in the fine art of tissue plant propagation. Some are currently employed to Christiana Potato Growers Association.

- **Thompson Town Pepper Production Facility** – Mr. Speaker, the farmers' cooperative in Thompson Town recently received a personal donation from me in pursuit of a grant from the EU Banana Support Programme to help build the capacity of the pepper farmers in preparation for a processing facility at the former Thompson Town market. We have already received monetary commitments for this new facility and plans are far advanced for work to begin in this fiscal year, Gods willing. This project is in line with our vision of turning around agriculture and agro-processing in this constituency and opening up new frontiers and opportunities for our people. When the facility is complete it will produce crushed pepper in vinegar, ready for the manufacturing sub-sector.

- **Broiler Production**
We have distributed over 30,000 chickens, with feed and technical assistance, to needy residents in a non-partisan way, with recommendations coming from RADA officers, community based organizations, farmers groups and through public consultations and letters written to my office. This has been done in a systematic way so as to maximize earnings to our small poultry producers. I am impressed by RADA's direction in this programme; they have offered training of the highest standards and have assisted the farmers in raising their productivity levels, in addition to the general acceptance of international health and post production standards in poultry production. These initiatives have contributed to the improved standard of living for the farmers across the gender, including their dependents.

- **Goat Rearing** – This area has benefited from the resources of my office with forty (40) goats being distributed to Producer Marketing Organisation (PMO) members, which has resulted in increased productivity. Mr. Speaker, despite the rumblings from Members on that side of the House, I will continue to build capacity in this area as it is quite lucrative and it is important that we raise the local stock from what now obtains. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, the farmers have asked for the assistance because the current herds are simply too meagre to make a meaningful profit. The initial vision is for the recipients to assist other goat farmers in their respective communities to build their breeds and it is simply amazing to see this work in progress and people helping neighbours once again.

- **Pig Rearing** - Our approach to this subsector is very scientific as it involves production via artificial insemination to increase productivity and earnings. As usual, the cluster approach is being taken, supported by the RADA Clarendon team. In addition, schools such as Alston and Edwin Allen High, which have benefitted from new bio-digesters will benefit from this initiative, producing bio-fuels for use in their school canteens, thus saving on the purchase of propane gas.

- **Bee Rearing/Honey Production** – 36 colonies and equipment have been distributed to farmers across the constituency. Training has been conducted for this cluster by RADA and the Bodles Research Station.

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica has a reputation for producing the finest organic honey. The market for honeycomb is untapped and we are positioning our farmers to take advantage of this lucrative market. Mr. Speaker, if every square inch of available land in Jamaica is put into honeycomb production we would still not be able to fill the demand for Jamaican honey comb, as we are currently supplying less than 1% of this market. Jamaica has been fortunate to benefit from an investor who has pioneered an award winning new technology in honey

comb production called bee-o-pack. He is a Canadian living right here in Jamaica's west end. The technology reduces the use of any other equipment, except for the input of the bees.

- **Layer Production/Eggs** – Mr. Speaker, we have re-energized the layer production/egg industry with over 2,000 layers, feed and medication, plus technical and marketing assistance. When this cluster has attained sufficient capacity we will move to the next level of producing liquid egg production for the local and export markets. We are very encouraged by this sector and will continue to build capacity in this area as it will also be linked to a school feeding programme.
- **Fertilizer** - \$3.5 million worth of fertilizer has been distributed to over 2000 farmers across the political divide. My policy is that as long as you are a legitimate farmer and in need of assistance, RADA will be there to assist and we are proud to say that this initiative has increased productivity and we are playing our part in the increased national figures in the agricultural sector.
- **Seeds/Seedling Production** – Through RADA and the kind donations of various private sector entities we have distributed over 1,000 packs of seeds and 2500 orange seedlings to farmers.
- **Agricultural Support (Training)** – Over 1000 agro almanacs have been distributed to farmers and farm groups across the constituency. This informative tool has helped to inform farmers of modern agricultural practices in disease control, seedling/plant propagation, fertilizer use, post production best practices, etc.
- **Agricultural Support (Tools)** – Over 300 pieces of tools were distributed to farmers in this fiscal year.

- **Farm road improvement** – Mr. Speaker, my constituents are delighted because of the ongoing initiative to renovate or build new farm roads. Some of these roads include Limekiln, Woodside, Sheckles, Wisbeach, Cabbage Hall, Corn Hill, Nut Cut, and Bullocks. It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that most of these roads were uncleared and remained in a state of disrepair since Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. These farmers now enjoy access to their farms.

3.2 Education

(a) Basic School Development

- Some 18 basic schools across the constituency have been assisted, in areas such as e-learning computer systems, remedial work, perimeter fencing, electrical work, repairs to roof and ceilings, general refurbishing, school feeding programme, back to school assistance, Teachers' Day gifts, monetary contribution, and graduation packages. One new basic school was opened in Smithville.

(b) Primary School Development

- During the Financial Year, the primary schools within the constituency faced numerous challenges in a number of areas. Nonetheless, they did remarkably well. Kilsyth Primary School was a trailblazer in scientific research, winning both the JPSCO Science award in the Primary Category and a trip to Trinidad courtesy of the SRC for winning in their Open Day. A total of \$126,000 was spent on graduation awards during the 2008/2009 period. The Northern Clarendon Principals Association was sponsored with a cash donation of over \$100,000. Over 600 book vouchers were distributed to primary schools.
- Assistance was provided to some 14 primary schools in the constituency, including school fencing, playfields, school feeding programme, back to

school assistance, computer systems, construction of a computer lab, and so on. Twenty-eight (28) students who excelled in academia will be treated to a day pass at Beaches Boscobel. Many of these schools also benefitted from educational trips to the SRC's Open Day and other similar initiatives.

(c) High School Development

- The high schools within the constituency did exceptionally well during the financial year in academia, sports and infrastructural development. These achievements occurred both at the local and international levels, with Edwin Allen High successfully defending their championship title in the Penn Relays, as well as placing second in the Boys & Girls Championship 2009. The office of the Member of Parliament was proud to have sponsored the teams in their endeavours.
- Spalding High also made a good showing by placing second in the annual DaCosta Cup Football competition, for which \$100,000 was donated.
- 80 computer systems and equipment, worth some \$18 million, were presented to Edwin Allen High and Claude McKay High.
- At Alston High, assistance was provided with the construction of a biodigester, 30 pigs and technical assistance slated for the piggery. A new hard court will be built shortly.
- All high schools received graduation scholarships valued at \$50,000 each. Over 300 book vouchers were distributed to high schools.
- Thompson Town High School received assistance with two classrooms, fencing and improvements to the entrance.

(d) Tertiary Development

- In terms of tertiary development within the constituency, \$1 million was provided to improve the welding certification programme to level two at the C. Palmer HEART Training Institute – Harwood, Tweedside.
- Bursaries – 230 students were provided with small tertiary grants over the last 18 months to many tertiary institutions.
- Under the Educ8 Plan, some 108 person were able to upgrade their literacy and numeracy skills through community-based programme from EDEXCEL, UK.
- Bloomwell Training School was established this year with the assistance of my office and we wish to thank Rev. Mitan Mclean for his generosity in offering the church for this initiative.

3.3 SPORTS/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the area of sports and community development, Mr. Speaker, over \$750,000 was spent on sponsorship of the annual NW Clarendon Football and Netball Competitions. All teams in the competition received balls.

Several community clubs and open spaces were refurbished over the last fiscal year:

Green Vaders Youth Clubhouse refurbishing	Playfield/Community Centre rehabilitation
Santa Hill	Newly constructed playfield
Tweedside, Mocho & Peckham	Playing field cleaned and rehabilitated
Trout Hall	New Multi Purpose Hard Court
Bullocks Moravia	Playfield rehabilitation
Ritchies Primary school	Newly constructed Playing field

We will begin work on several playfields and community centres shortly including.

Thompson Town High School	Expanding the existing playfield
Victoria Primary	Work to be done on playfield
Copperwood	Playing field & construction of new center
Tweedside	Playing field and centre/bathroom facilities
Ritchies	Playfield/community centre
Sunberry Primary school	Work to commence shortly on playfield

Labour Day activities were conducted in several communities. These include:

- Smithville beautification project
- Mt. Pleasant patching of road with cement
- Victoria beautification at the school compound
- Peckham drains and playfield
- Frankfield-roof bus stop
- Trout Hall Housing Scheme - drains
- Lodgie green - clubhouse
- Alston basic school - additional room
- Bailleston - fencing of basic school compound

(a) SOCIAL WELFARE & HOUSING

- 1,200 persons were assisted with small business grants and social assistance

Funeral Assistance

- Over 200 families assisted with funerals across the constituency, both from personal funds or the Constituency Development Fund
- The Ministry of Labour and Social (Security) has been instrumental in assisting constituents with over 80 funeral grants.
- I attended over 230 funerals.

Food-for-the-Poor Housing

- Over 80 homes including base structures have been constructed across the constituency for the indigent and persons below the poverty line.
- The ***Indigent Care Programme*** is ongoing; it treats and cares for over 150 elderly and sick persons.

Roads and Infrastructure - In terms of road and infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, we have covered a wide cross section of the constituency. We have embarked on a massive drain and road cleaning programme, such as never been seen before in this constituency. Residents are reporting that they did not know that some of these drains and culverts existed. Thanks to the NSWMA's bushing team, our minor roads are much cleaner for the first time in decades. All this work, Mr. Speaker, will help to protect our investment in road rehabilitation as well as flood mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, through the assistance of the Government and other Non-Governmental Organizations, we have rehabilitated over sixteen (16) roads, cut six (6) new roads and built several walls inclusive of the requisite patching. We now boast a new Angel Bridge in Frankfield valued at Cdn. \$2M (CIDA) and a Bailey bridge in Quarry, Leciesterfield at a cost of J\$11M.

We have patched 20km of roadways across the constituency and I wish to express thanks on behalf of my constituents, to my colleague the Hon. Mike Henry, the NWA, RADA, CIDA and the European Union. Mr. Speaker, as the saying goes many of my main thoroughfares became "roads less travelled"; but now the taxi men and road users are again happy.

Mr. Speaker, we spent J\$5M on drain repairs and construction in Sanguinetti proper. Two areas along the main thoroughfare suffered from blocked drainage for many years. Mr. Speaker, we decided to fix these areas properly once and for

all. It has been almost six months since we built these drains and patched the repaired sections of the road and the residents are, indeed, happy because the volume of water on the road and in their yards has been reduced tremendously.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make special mention of farm roads in NW Clarendon. As I previously mentioned, many farms roads in areas outside the ambit of the Ministry of Agriculture have been repaired, opened or cut for the very first time. This has improved accessibility and productivity in areas such as Cabbage Hall, Butlers Run, Corn Hill, Smithville, Wisbeach Tweedside, Flowers Corner in Bailleston, Santa Hill to name a few.

Cabbage Hall	This road was on the top of the residents agenda for many years and has been cut and marled
Cupits	\$500k was spent to patch this road which has not been rehabilitated for over 15 years
Sunberry	Road, water and light improvement
Banana Ground	Piece River Rd, Garlogie Rd - bushing done
Dykes Hill	Road improvement ongoing to walls, drain and road surface
Smithville	Improvements to roads and water supply to Corn Hill
“	Wakefield water improvement
Lime Kiln	Farm road newly constructed
Lampard	Road & water rehabilitation
Cabbage Hall	Cutting of road
Park Hall	Patch road & construct wall
Trout Hall – Lampard	Marl & oil road
Grantham – Woodside	Road improvements and general maintenance,
“ - Sheckles	Road & water improvement on going
Nine Turns – Barns Pass	Water & road improvement on going
Bryans Piece	Walls & drain construction and new bridge
Leciesterfield	Water improvement
Coffee Piece	Road and water (ongoing), play area for basic school
Lodgie Green Front Rd	Improvements to road and water supply
Lodgie Green back Rd	Repairs to water mains and extension to Morant
Santa Hill	Road & water, playfield newly constructed
White Shop	Road improvements and general maintenance, including retaining walls ongoing
Sanguinetti	Major main road repair, school fencing, playing field, repair pipes ongoing
Nine Miles	Road improvements and general maintenance,

Bailleston/Boothe Town	Water extension to NWC main
Alston Flowers Corner	Newly cut road to be asphalted (ongoing)
Gavin Hill	Light & marl road, drain cleaning ongoing
Thompson Town Primary and Junior High School	Road, water, class room improvements
Wanstead	Water, school computer lab (new)
Piece River	Improved water to greater Thompson Town Division
Victoria	Road improvements, light & water
Mount Pleasant	Road improvements
Peckham	Light & water improvements – Major water system \$30M funded by CIDA and Govt. of Jamaica
Nut Cut	Light and new road asphalted to the community
Brown Town Road – Cumberland	Light (New)
Ettrick Hall	Light (New)

Water – This precious commodity was a main focus for me during the run up to the 2007 general election. Last year, I reported that 57 communities were suffering from water problems for many years and we are proud to say that we have supplied water to over (6000) residents in 25 different communities. Mr. Speaker, the water supply systems have been improved and the work continues as we speak, with over J\$30M currently being spent on the expansion of the Christiana/Spalding water system to Tweedside, Peckham and surrounding communities.

Some \$17M was spent to improve the Piece River water supply, which provides water to over 10 different communities in the Thompson Town area. Mr. Speaker, this again is a promise made and a promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I had to get Dr. Lindo to personally attend to over 50 students at the Leciestfield Primary and Junior High School who were suffering from health issues and skin disorders due to the lack of clean, potable water. Mr. Speaker, we spent one and half million dollars (J\$1.5) on this minor water supply scheme (the Leciestfield water improvement) and we are proud to say that this problem has been alleviated. Again, promise made, promise kept.

Mr. Speaker simple repairs to the minor water systems in Top Alston, Moravia, Union/Jericho, Grantham Lodge Green and other communities have also resulted in improved supplies.

International and NGO Agencies

Mr. Speaker I wish to make special mention of some Non-Government and international agencies that have generously assisted me with development projects across the constituency. The entities have significantly buttressed my constituency development fund.

Bio-digester – Environmental Foundation and the Scientific Research Council for two Bio-digesters in Alston High and Edwin Allen High

Training –

- CPGA/Bio tech-UWI for tissue culture training to six youth
- SRC's Marketech for Roots and Tubers Seminar
- ECBIPS for export and Business development training
- RADA – for Bee Rearing, Ginger, Small Ruminants and Poultry training
- PSDP – Capacity Building, Marketing and Business Development Seminars
- OXFAM – Build catchment water distribution

Greenhouses – 2 professional greenhouses were acquired through the EU/PSDP for ginger plant propagation which were financed by CIDA

Bee-o-Pac – Caribbean Export Development Agency for grants to bee farmers.

Education – JPSCO, E-learning Jamaica and HEART NTA

Ginger – Export Division - Ministry of Agriculture

Roads and Water – The European Union for Santa Hill and Belcarries flexi-road programme. Spauldings water distribution - two meetings held with Alston.

Pepper Project – Thompson Town received assistance through the EU Banana Support Programme.

Food for the Poor (Jamaica) – Water catchment tank, agro support, E-learning computers, medical and food supplies, furniture, housing and school supplies.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, our ultimate goal as a Government is to improve the quality of life of our people. As a Member of Parliament, I am totally committed to the development of my constituency, and Jamaica as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am an action man. I believe in working to get things done. To me, my constituents are like my extended family and so I truly appreciate being able to serve them.

Mr. Speaker, I am an action man. I believe in working to make things happen. I don't dwell unnecessarily on the problems. I look for the solutions and so in concluding, I believe for the past financial year my constituents can attest to the:

- Roads rehabilitated by Stern
- New roads cut by Stern
- Roads paved by Stern
- Water supply systems expanded and rehabilitated by Stern
- Farmers supported by Stern
- Schools supported by Stern
- Community development projects supported by Stern
- Housing assistance supported by Stern

I thank you.