

ROADSTER



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"Paving the Way"

Partnering for risk reduction... NWA and ODPEM signs agreement



Chief Executive Officer of the National Works Agency, E.G. Hunter (right) and Acting Director The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Mr. Richard Thompson (left) both signed an agreement recently on behalf of their respective organization. The NWA and the ODPEM have joined forces to implement the final phase of the community based Landslide Risk Reduction Project which is being funded by the Japanese Social Development Fund, through the World Bank, at a cost of US\$2.3 Million. The agreement will see the NWA doing the designs for drainage features in the four communities being targeted. The communities are Harbour Heights, Melbrook Heights and Bedward Gardens in St. Andrew and Breastworks in Portland. The NWA/ODPEM contract is valued at 6-Million Dollars.

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On the Road with State Minister in the Ministry of Transport Works and Housing, Richard Azan and NWA CEO E.G. Hunter



Minister Azan (right), on a site visit to John's Hall, St. James. The Agency is spending over \$600m to re-align a section of the road and replace a bridge in the community. The project is to be completed by the end of the 3rd quarter of 2013\14.



E. G. Hunter on tour of projects in Hanover, including the construction of sidewalks near Hopewell High School and the rehabilitation of the Sandy Bay to Montpelier Corridor.



Eden River Bridge, St. Mary



Fontabelle Bridge, St. Mary

Eden River and Fontabelle Bridges Officially Opened

On May 31, 2013, St. Mary once again celebrated the construction of two bridges in the community of Jacks River. The occasion was the official opening of the Fontabelle and Eden River Bridges in the parish. The event occurred at an important juncture, right at the beginning of the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season, as St. Mary is one of the parishes in Jamaica often plagued by flooding during rain events. As such, the new structures represent, for many persons, peace of mind and relief. The replacement of these two structures was, therefore, welcomed as residents had suffered for several years from decrepit bridges at the two locations. This had contributed to much distress and inconvenience as the structures are located in the environs of Oracabessa and Port Maria, two major towns in the parish.

The plight of the residents, as well as the state of the then dilapidated structures, were highlighted in June 2012 during a media tour, lead by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, the Hon. Richard Azan. During that tour, the two structures that had long outlived their design life were noted for replacement. The situation at Eden River Bridge was especially visually disturbing as the Pier of the then structure had been compromised and persons expressed fear and general concern that it would soon be swept away by flood waters.

The fears were soon allayed, however, as the unsafe structures were slated for replacement as a matter of urgency. They were replaced by Compact 200 Bailey Bridges under the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP) at a combined contract cost of just over J\$27 million. Works on both bridges begun at the end of June 2012 and was completed by the end of August of that same year. The scope of works included the construction of a detour at Fontabelle and the repair of the existing detour at Eden River; the assembly and launch of the bailey bridges, the construction of approach roads; and the construction of Gabion Walls to contain the roadway fill.

Residents have expressed gratitude that the bridges have been replaced; although some have lamented the type of bridges that now sit at the locations. These concerns were borne out of the fact that bailey bridges are usually 'temporary solutions' as opposed to the expected lifespan of structures of a more permanent nature. There is, however, a general consensus that the new structures are safer than what existed, and that after having endured the inconvenience of derelict bridges for so many years, the new bridges represent progress and enhances the safety of residents.

Shoreline in Portland and St. Mary Bolstered against Erosion



Sea Defence works being undertaken at Orange Bay, Portland

Over the course of several years, the Jamaican shoreline has suffered tremendously from erosion mostly due to wave action, tidal and wave currents and drainage. This phenomenon has also been made more prominent as a direct effect of climate change. In many of the areas affected, the destruction of the coastline has resulted in roadways and critical infrastructure such as drainage systems, sea walls being threatened. Such has been the case in Portland and St. Mary where, for some time, the sea continually destroys the shoreline and threatens major infrastructure such as the recently rehabilitated North Coast Highway, sections of which run adjacent to the sea.

In an effort to mitigate further damage, as well as to protect the existing coastline and the roadway, the National Works Agency embarked on a programme of works, in sections of Portland and St. Mary, with the use of rock revetments. In this process, large rocks were placed in a sloping manner, against the shoreline, so as to absorb the energy of the water movements. This activity is expected to reinforce the existing shoreline and act as a line of defence, in adverse weather situations such as storms.

The project commenced in May 2013, and is a part of the \$500 million Capital 'A' Budget Programme, at a cost of \$24 million. This phase of the project targeted the Annotto Bay shoreline in St. Mary; and the coastline at Orange Bay and Blueberry Hill in the parish of Portland. Under the programme, a total of 220 metres of shoreline was protected with the use of rocks placed on a foundation of river shingle.

The programme forms part of an islandwide effort to protect our coastline as well as to lessen the probability of continuous destruction from erosion. Since tidal activity is a natural process, it is expected that the coastline will be threatened from time to time. Shoreline Protection, therefore, is a continuous process that will continue as the need arises.

Black River Seawall being rehabilitated - so too Round Hill Road

Works have commenced on a damaged section of the sea wall in Black River, St Elizabeth. The wall, located along High Street in the town has been in disrepair for a number of years due to several severe weather events. The repair works costing over 31 million dollars began on Monday June 17, 2013 and should be completed within sixteen weeks. The scope of work includes the construction of 70 meters of random rubble wall, installation of Guard Rails and sidewalks, as well as the paving of the reinstated area of roadway with Asphaltic Concrete.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport Works and Housing, Hon Richard Azan had toured the area on Thursday May 16 with a technical team from the National Works Agency, the Road Maintenance Fund, Member of Parliament FOR South –west St. Elizabeth, Hugh Buchanan, Mayor of Black River, Councilor Everton Fisher, Councilors and a technical team from the Parish Council. "We have identified the seriousness of the road. The road Fund has identified funding. We are going to try and work very fast", Mr. Azan said. He had stated that the project would be treated as an emergency since the road leads to the only hospital in the parish, Black River High School and other crucial government agencies.

The work is contracted to Dwight Construction Limited with the financial support from the Road Maintenance Fund. At the end of June, the project was 11% complete.



Construction of foundation of the seawall on High Street

ROUND HILL

The Round Hill PC road is located along the border between South East and South Western St Elizabeth. This road has been severely damaged by all the major hurricanes and storms over the past decade, including Wilma, Emily and Ivan. This corridor is an easy access to Malvern from Pedro Cross, and serves a large farming community along with returning residents.

Rehabilitation works started in May under the government's 500 million dollar Emergency Work Programme. The scope of work includes base reformation, drainage construction and paving with Asphaltic Concrete. Seventeen million dollars is being spent on this one kilometer project which at the end of June was 95% complete.



A section of road prepared for surfacing



V Drain construction along the Round Hill road

NWA undertakes extensive Bridge Construction and Repairs in Westmoreland

The parish of Westmoreland is now benefitting from a significant investment in its bridge infrastructure. This latest effort by the National Works Agency represents part of its mandate to provide a safe and reliable main road network and follows an extensive investigation into the condition of the bridge network in the parish.

To date three bridges have been targeted for attention. These are the Stony Bridge in Smithfield Westmoreland; the Morgan's Bridge in Grange Hill and the Cave Bridge in Cave, Westmoreland.

STONY BRIDGE, WESTMORELAND

Residents of Smithfield and surrounding areas now have the benefit of a new and improved bridge. This as the NWA has now completed the construction of a new bridge in the community. The new bridge replaces the Stony Bridge which had overtime been severely undermined.

The Stony Bridge is nestled in the small community of Smithfield, just outside of the town of Savanna la Mar. It links the town centre to the communities of Ferris, Withorn, White House and surrounding areas. It is the main access point into the town of Savanna la Mar for persons travelling from as far away as St. James and St. Elizabeth. The project was completed at a cost of \$19 million and involved the demolition of the older structure, the construction of a wider structure and the construction of sidewalks.

Road users in the parish are expressing their satisfaction with this long awaited project that was completed just before the start of the Hurricane Season, which many feared would further undermine the bridge and possibly result in the roadway being closed.



The new Stony Bridge located in Smithfield, Westmoreland.

MORGAN'S BRIDGE

Morgan's Bridge, is located in the community of Grange Hill in Western Westmoreland, and is now being rehabilitated at a cost of \$16.8 million. The rails of this bridge were damaged and posed a threat to pedestrians, especially small children who traverse the corridor. Additionally, the foundation of the bridge was being undermined. This project involves the repair of Guard Rails, the construction of retaining walls and wing walls, and the improvement of the drainage system in the vicinity of the bridge. The repair to the Guard Rails has been completed and the NWA is now focusing its efforts of executing works to strengthen the bridge.



A section of the water way in Morgan's Bridge in Westmoreland where a retaining wall is now being constructed.

CAVE BRIDGE

In the meantime, plans are now in high gear to construct a new bridge in Cave. This bridge will replace the single lane structure which is now in use. The structure is also referred to as the Water Wheel Bridge by residents and falls along the stretch of roadway from Ferris to Scotts Cove. This new bridge will complement the major rehabilitation project which is now underway along the corridor. Over one billion dollars is being spent to rehabilitate sections of the roadway and install pipelines.

The original structure will be demolished to make way for the construction of the new bridge. The roadway in the vicinity of the bridge will be realigned in order to improve the safety and ease with which the public traverses the corridor.



2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season Predicted to be one of the Most Active Ever

Preliminary reports from the Directorate of Regional Implementation and Special Projects indicate that the National Works Agency has made the necessary preparations for the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season and the Agency could be considered ready for any eventuality. The 2013 hurricane season runs from June 01 to November 30. Scientists have predicted that 2013 will be among the most active ever. The names of storms for the 2013 season are Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastian, Tanya, Van and Wendy.

The National Works Agency recognizes it has no control over weather patterns or whether or not the island experiences the passage of a hurricane and therefore preparing early and putting in place the necessary protective measures is important.

The Agency has made every effort to ensure that drains and waterways are clear. Customers have been encouraged not to engage in improper dumping of garbage such as old refrigerators, or furniture that will clog or block these areas which lead to flooding of roadways during heavy downpour.

Nationally, preparations include the island wide flood mitigation programme. Critical drains, culverts and catch basins have been cleaned and minor patching and road rehabilitation has also been done. This exercise carried out by the Agency is especially meaningful for north-eastern parishes of Portland, St. Thomas, St. Mary and St. Ann, a region characterized by heavy rainfall and usually the first to experience the impact of a Tropical Storm or Hurricane.

Bridge repair and construction has been an important aspect of preparations. The NWA has constructed several bridges across the island, which takes care of perennial problem areas

affected by flooding, pedestrians unable to use the roadway and long delays for motorists. These are:

- KMR – Cassia Park & Queensborough Bridges, Kintyre Bridge
- Portland – Rio Grande Bridge, Craig Mill Bridge
- St. Mary – Eden River & Fontabelle Bridges, Box Culvert Robins Bay
- Westmoreland – Stony Bridge Box Culvert
- St. Catherine – Dover Castle
- Clarendon – Crooked River, Dawkins Pen, Southwood

The NWA has undertaken other significant preparatory works which include repairs in the Sandy Gully to inverts and Retaining Walls. The damage was considerable in several areas and these have been addressed. Cleaning of both North and South Gully – Montego Bay are being addressed. In addition the following gullies were also cleaned,

- Mammie Gully – St. James
- Jones Town Gully – Kingston
- Collie Smith Gully – Kingston
- Bentley Lane Gully – Kingstown
- Shoemaker Gully – Kingston

River Training has been carried out at Yallahs in St. Thomas and within the channel of the Hope River at Harbour View in St. Andrew. The Palisades Shoreline Protection and Rehabilitation project has been completed and the road level has also been raised.

Drain Cleaning has been carried out in several areas. Deposits which restricted flow particularly when the river is in spate have been removed. This caused flooding of the roadway and traffic delays. Over eighteen locations islandwide including:

- Third Street – Greenwich Town
- Majestic Gardens
- Waltham Park Road

Corporate Area Gully Repairs to be completed by October

The drainage network of the Corporate Area totals 71 kilometers. The Sandy Gully which is 11 kilometers long forms a major part of this network. The NWA has over the last seven years been on a drive to rehabilitate sections of this most important network. The most recent undertakings have seen some 30 gully sections being worked on at a cost exceeding J\$2.5 billion through funds sourced from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Petro-Caribe Fund and the Government of Jamaica (GoJ). Approximately J\$1.288 billion has been earmarked in this fiscal year to complete these works.

The works are being implemented in phases. Phase one was completed prior to 2010. Works on Phases two and three, which have been on-going following the passage of Tropical Storm Nicole in 2010 are scheduled for completion in October 2013. As at May 2013, overall physical progress towards completion for Phases two and three works was estimated at 93% and 76%, respectively.



Rome Gully, St Andrew

CDB FUNDED WORKS UNDER THE TROPICAL STORM NICOLE DRAINAGE NETWORK CONSTRUCTION & REHABILITATION PROJECT PHASE 2

LOCATION/PARISH	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	CONTRACT SUM	PHYSICAL PROGRESS (%)
Dupoint Primary School Lime Tree Lane - Olympic Way	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	55,940,807.52	80
Grove Dale, Drumbair Crescent - Washington Close (Liguanea Prep. - Waterloo Bridge)	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	195,021,817.63	100
Cassia Park Fording - Trade Centre (Wall Construction)	Reinforced Concrete Wall	58,498,388.79	100
Cassia Park Fording - Trade Centre (Invert Construction)	Reinforced Concrete Invert	161,081,431.83	100
Dumbarton Bridge-Molynes Road Jew Gully (Molynes Road-Waltham Park Road) Shoe Marker Gully (Holborn Rd. South Ave)	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	157,665,405.96	85
Halifax Avenue Lewis Ville Close	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	99,903,671.99	95
Total		\$728,111,523.72	

CDB FUNDED WORKS UNDER THE TROPICAL STORM NICOLE DRAINAGE NETWORK CONSTRUCTION & REHABILITATION PROJECT PHASE 3

LOCATION/PARISH	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	CONTRACT SUM	PHYSICAL PROGRESS (%)
May Pen Cemetery Gully, Studley Park Road - Spanish Town Road	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	210,012,020.00	85
Grants Pen Ford - Mega Mart Waterway via Gore Terrace, Grants Pen Rd - Cruiser Gully - Church - Washington Close & Wiggan Loop Barbican	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	79,567,364.00	90
Sandy Park Gully Upper Norway terrace - Norbrook Crescent	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	137,339,485.00	70
Dames Rd. Bridge (Barnes Gully), Deanery Drive & Glendale Road	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	328,011,972.00	45
Lexington Avenue, Lilford - Lady Musgrave, McGregor Gully (1st Avenue) & Mtn. View - Byron Road	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	189,869,132.00	75
Gold Smith Villa	Reinforced Concrete Wall and Invert	141,829,060.00	90
Total		\$1,086,629,033.00	

PETRO - CARIBE FUNDED WORKS UNDER THE TROPICAL STORM NICOLE DRAINAGE NETWORK CONSTRUCTION & REHABILITATION PROJECT

LOCATION/PARISH	REVISED CONTRACT SUM	PHYSICAL PROGRESS (%)
Jones Town Gully, St. Andrew Lime Tree Lane - Olympic Way	28,978,070.55	100
Benson Ford - Norbrook, St. Andrew	130,967,753.34	100
Charlton Avenue - Olivier, St. Andrew	226,526,634.51	94
Shoemaker Gully (Rome), St. Andrew	19,562,844.40	100
Total	\$379, 935,302.80	



Valentine's Gardens, St Andrew after

2013 Atlantic Hurricane ... Continued from Page 7

- Hunts Bay
- Oaks Glade
- Luana - Tombstone, Tombstone – Gutters, St. Elizabeth

Over 20 retaining walls have been completed at locations islandwide. These include:

- Barton's – Ginger Ridge , St. Catherine
- Worthy Park – St. Johns, St. Catherine
- Bamboo – Worthy Park, St. Catherine
- Sour Sop Turn – Danks, Clarendon
- Rock Hall – Parks Road, St. Andrew
- Lawrence Tavern, St. Andrew
- Mount Ogle, St. Andrew

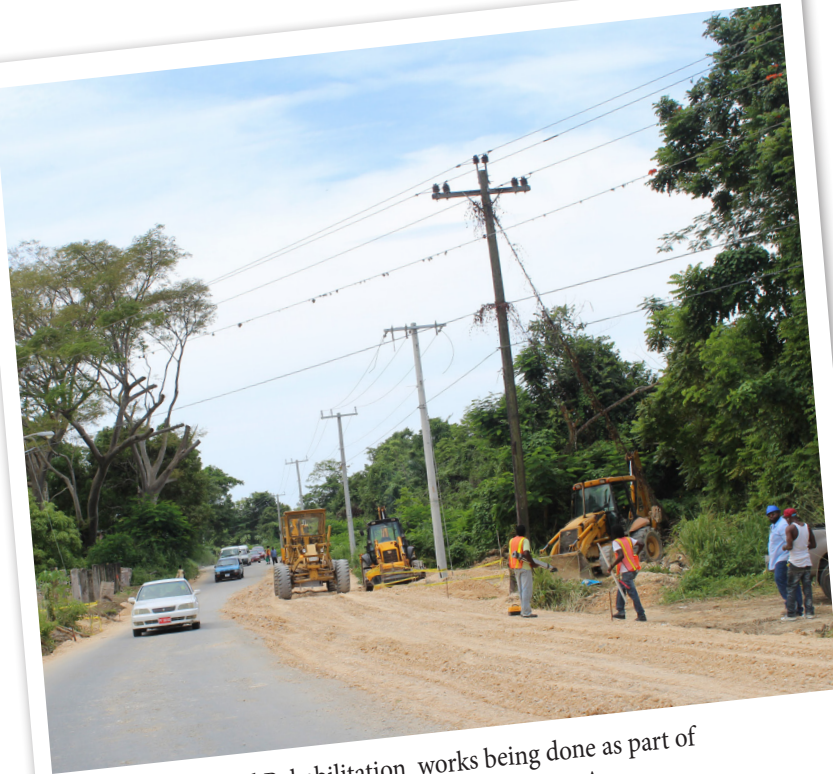
Our internal preparations include putting in place contingencies. The NWA is a first-responder and met with other state agencies to fine tune its response mechanism.

The NWA has checked to ensure that its systems are working, that is information flow and the effectiveness of information provided. Consequently the Agency has had

- Meeting with contractors and discussed expectations and obligations during the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season.
- It has identified flood prone areas, using Geographical Information System. (GIS)
- Checked and develop plans to preposition equipment.

**For everything you have missed, you have gained something else;
 And for everything you gain, you lose something else.
 It is about your outlook towards life. You can either regret or rejoice.**

Fern Gully – The Restoration of a Landmark



Road Rehabilitation works being done as part of activities in the Fern Gully, St. Ann

roadway between Colegate and Hinds Gully, complemented by minor drainage and infrastructural repairs. Phase I of the project cost \$123 million dollars.

In late 2010, the second phase of the project was implemented and saw approximately 1.4 kilometres of rigid (concrete) pavement being constructed between Hinds Gully and Harrison Town. This type of pavement is deemed to be more durable than Asphalt and would thus be more suitable for the humid conditions in the Fern Gully. Toe walls and some drainage structures were also constructed. This phase was completed in December 2011.

Several months later, in March 2012, Phase III of the project was implemented. During this phase, box culverts and a concrete "U" drain are being constructed along approximately 1.6 kilometres of the roadway. The works will also include the rehabilitation of Milford Road, which was severely scoured, and an Asphaltic Concrete pavement. Sidewalks and handrails will also be constructed, along with the installation of Guard Rails. Phases two and three cost a combined \$680 million dollars.

The already completed works were severely tested in October 2012 during the passage of Hurricane Sandy and impressively endured the battering of this ruthless storm. Consequently, as the works continue within Fern Gully on the U' drain, and the complementary works, residents anxiously await its completion as this corridor is a major thoroughfare into Ocho Rios. Though hesitant to comment on the progress, stakeholders are grateful for the effort and wait with bated breaths for the rehabilitation and improvement of the roadway's drainage capacity and the restoration its former aesthetic beauty.

Fern Gully, a former riverbed in St. Ann, became a roadway in 1785 when the then National Assembly authorized expenditure on a roadway from Moneague to Ocho Rios, incorporating the gully. Two hundred and twenty-three (223) years later, in April 2008, the Fern Gully was severely damaged by heavy rains that flooded some sections of Ocho Rios and dumped several feet of mud on the resort town, resulting in millions of dollars' worth of damage.

For some time before this disaster, it was recognized that the Fern Gully was susceptible to flooding based on its topography and poor drainage system. In fact, when the town was flooded plans were underway for the construction of a major drainage system to be funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The floods of April 2008 deferred the project somewhat, however, in April 2009, Phase I of the Restoration and Rehabilitation Programme commenced in earnest and was completed in early 2010. This phase of the project saw the resurfacing of 4.6 kilometres of

Toe walls and some drainage structures were also constructed.

Multi-Million Dollar Upgrade of the Capital Heights Gully underway

Residents of Capital Heights, Green Pond and surrounding areas in Central St. James have long bemoaned the persistent problem of flooding in the area. The major source of the problem has been a section of the North Gully that runs through the community. The gully at the point where it runs through the community has been unable to contain the flow of storm water during abnormal rain events. This is especially troubling during the rainy season, as constant overflows often leave a trail of debris strewn across the nearby roadway.

In response to this the NWA is undertaking a multi-million dollar effort aimed at increasing the capacity of the drain. The project is valued at approximately \$27 million dollars and involves the widening of the most critical 60 meters section in order to increase the capacity of the channel.

To date, much ground has been covered and residents have already begun to express approval at the Agency's effort to solve this long standing problem. Member of Parliament for the area Mr Lloyd B. Smith speaking to the media following a recent tour of projects in the parish expressed his satisfaction with the work that has been undertaken.

The gully project augments a \$146 million dollar road improvement project which is currently underway along the Kings Street to Green Pond corridor. This project involves significant drainage improvement, the reconstruction of a significant stretch of the corridor and the patching and local rehabilitation of other sections of the roadway. This project which is being executed under the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme is in the final stages.



State Minister for Works Richard Azan (2nd left) looking at the projects of works being done on a section of the North Gully located in the Capital Heights community of St. James. Also in the picture are Member of Parliament for Central St. James - Lloyd B. Smith (right), Chief Executive Officer of the NWA - E. G. Hunter (3rd left) - Major Project Manager, NWA - Horace Cotereil (4th left) and Project Officer, NWA - Orville Reynolds.



A section of the drain

Brunswick Avenue to Dam Head main road to be Rehabilitated

Motorists, residents and pedestrians are to benefit from major rehabilitation works to be undertaken along the main road between Brunswick Avenue and Dam Head in St. Catherine. This corridor is heavily trafficked. The surface has numerous potholes and considerable deterioration in some locations.

The rehabilitation project will include the removal of soft spots, milling of the road surface, overlay with Asphaltic Concrete and minor drainage repairs. Drainage improvement along this section of roadway is particularly important as poor and compromised drainage structures are major contributors to road damage and flooding of the roadway.

The project got underway at the end of June and is expected to be completed within two months. Many callers to the Agency's Corporate Offices have highlighted the importance

of this project. One caller said, "It is the major link to the north coast, Ewarton and Bog Walk. Everything should be done to improve its condition in order to prevent delays, reduce travel time and save the motorists unnecessary front-end repairs".

Through this project the 2.5- kilometre length of roadway will be rehabilitated. The total projected cost is J\$33 million. On completion, it is anticipated that there will be increased safety and improved traffic flow leading from Spanish Town to Linstead, Ewarton and other communities.

It is expected that much of the activity on this project will take place at nights and on weekends. This is in an effort to avoid peak hour traffic although there will still be the need for single lane usage during the project.



NEW ROAD -
 Workmen assisting with the application of the final layer of Asphalt along a section of the Ferris to Belmont road in Westmoreland.

NWA Western Region ... Preparations in High Gear for the 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The 2013 Atlantic Hurricane Season is now upon us, and as the nation braces itself for any eventualities which may arise as a result of the season, the NWA-Western Region is now on high alert, having put in place the necessary infrastructure to ensure that the Western Region is able to 'weather the storm.' In the Western Region, contractors have been informed of the operating procedures in the event of storm activity. Additionally, the NWA's drain cleaning programme is now in high gear.

The latest effort by the NWA to have drains and gullies cleaned, forms part of the Agency's mandate to provide an efficient flood control system. Currently, seven million dollars is being spent to clean critical drains across the region. Among the drains that are being targeted are the North Gully in St. James; the Venture Gutter in Hanover; the Long Pond drain in Trelawny and the McNeil Land drains in Westmoreland.



The Venture Gutter, which is the main drain which runs through the town of Lucea Hanover, is being targeted under the NWA's mitigation programme.

This drain cleaning exercise will complement a raft of drainage improvement and construction projects which have been undertaken in the region to date. These projects were completed under the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP) and the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP).

Among the communities where such activities have been completed or on-going are Granville, Canaan, Green Pond, Palmyra,



A section of the South Gully Silt Trap in St. James which was recently cleaned under the NWA's Mitigation Programme.

Bogue Heights in St. James; Riley, Montpelier and West Avenue in Hanover; Joe Hut, Clarkes Town and Martha Brae in Trelawny and Ashton, Cedar Grove and Moreland Hill in Westmoreland.

The projects focussed on complete rehabilitation of roadways to include extensive drainage improvement and repair. These projects were not just concentrated along main roads, but also along several parochial roads. Residents across various communities have expressed their appreciation for the works done as they now feel a greater sense of security, as they prepare for the torrential rains which are associated with this time of year. The extensive drainage improvement works which were done in these areas should have an overwhelmingly positive impact on their lives and livelihoods.

The process of Flood Damage Mitigation in the Northeastern parishes of Portland and St. Mary

The Atlantic Hurricane season is upon us and as atmospheric scientists predict an extremely active season in 2013, the National Works Agency (NWA) is taking no chances with the weather. Since the attack from the Category One Hurricane Sandy last October, the effects of which are still fresh in our memories, mitigation efforts have been underway to limit adverse effects of weather for this year's season.

Various activities have been undertaken in the northeast, mainly in the parishes of Portland and St. Mary, some as a result of damage by Sandy and other rain events that occurred subsequently, while others were prompted by the necessity to improve and protect the roadways. This is because the region is characterised by heavy and continuous rainfall throughout the year, hence issues associated with flooding, landslides, erosion and drainage are rampant.



Gabion Wall at Otrum River, St. Mary

As early as November 2012, efforts began across Portland and St. Mary to improve bridges and culverts; align and protect river embankments; and protect the coastline. These projects include river training at Mount Oakley and at Leyton Valley, sea defence at Buff Bay and Orange Bay and the construction of the Craigmill Bridge, all located in Portland. In St. Mary, river training continues at the Otrum River in Port Maria; a triple cell box culvert was constructed at Robin's Bay, sea defence works were undertaken at Annotto Bay and the Diamond in the vicinity of the Castleton police station is being replaced. Over

\$70 million dollars has been spent to complete these works in the parishes.



River Training - Cane Side River, Portland

Other mitigation works, such as drain cleaning, are also planned and underway within the northeast region. These activities represent expenditure of approximately half a billion dollars, and are complemented by road rehabilitation and restoration projects such as that of the Mount Oakley to Pleasant Hill parish council road in Portland.

Overall, these projects are well advanced and once completed are expected to greatly improve the capacity of the road network.

NWA Targets Major Rehabilitation of Roads and Structures during 2013/14 Financial Year

ROAD REHABILITATION

Road rehabilitation is a critical and important investment. In order to increase access to our towns and communities and reduce transport costs associated with movement of people, goods and services, the MTWH through the NWA will be completing several road rehabilitation projects during financial year 2013/14.

These projects include the Scotts Cove to Belmont; Ferris Cross to Belmont in Westmoreland and Red Hills to Santa Maria roadways in St. Andrew/ St. Catherine which are being funded through the IDB/GOJ transportation infrastructure rehabilitation programme (TIRP).

In addition, the ministry has awarded a contract for phase (2) of the road rehabilitation project, which spans the Sligoville to Bog Walk roadway and will shortly complete the tender process for phase 3 Santa Maria to Sligoville. Both phase 2 and 3 are to be funded through the IDB/GOJ TIRP.

It is important to note that not only will these works extend the lifespan of these roadways, but once completed the Bog Walk to Sligoville roadway will serve as an important link to the north coast and as an alternative route when the Bog Walk Gorge is impassable or during inclement weather.

The importance of upgrading and improving the junction road in St. Mary is recognized, so in addition to the above projects, the ministry, through a collaborative effort between the GOJ and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arabic Economic Development (KFAED), plans to rehabilitate approximately 18 km of main road between Toms River and Aqualta Vale in St. Mary, popularly called the junction road.

During this fiscal year (2013/14) the ministry's focus will be to commence civil works on the 5.5 kilometres stretch of the Junction roadway between Broadgate and Aqualta Vale. Similarly, the Ministry of Transport, Works & Housing, through a collaborative effort between the GOJ and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), plans to rehabilitate approximately 31 km of main road between May Pen and Trout Hall in Clarendon. The ministry, during this fiscal year will be concentrating on the 10.2 kilometres section of the roadway between Sour Sop Turn and Chapleton.

The designs for these roads will significantly enhance their



A section of a deteriorated road similar to those the NWA will be targeting for rehabilitation

geometrics and improved road safety through wider lanes, drains, and sidewalks and shoulders, where appropriate. Together these works represent some 56 kilometres of road rehabilitation being undertaken by the Agency; with total project costs estimated at almost J\$4 billion. It is also anticipated that the MTWH/NWA will also complete the JDIP Fern Gully road rehabilitation project during this fiscal year as well.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

During this financial year work will begin on a Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP). This project is valued at approximately US\$350 million and is being financed by a loan from the China EXIM Bank, (US\$300M) and by the GOJ's contribution of approximately US\$50 million.

This Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) is designed to deliver significant improvements in the island's road network over the next three (3) years.

MIDP is a major undertaking by the government of Jamaica to significantly improve the island's road network in order to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Jamaica and to stimulate economic development. The programme will include some 430 kilometres of road construction and rehabilitation works; bridge works; retaining wall construction; and river training.

JEEP Projects driving development in Clarendon

Several infrastructural projects are in progress in Clarendon with many being undertaken through the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP). These projects include but are not limited to road repairs, bushing of roads, bridge repairs and the cleaning and maintenance of drains and gullies. The National Works Agency has been instrumental in overseeing the projects and has employed numerous persons in various capacities.

SOUTH WEST CLARENDON

Over 13 Million dollars has been spent on JEEP projects since January 2013 in this section of the parish. Work was undertaken on Sand Road and Rock Road. The works which include excavation of soft spots and Double Surface Dressing were 80% complete at the end of June.

CENTRAL CLARENDON

Over 24 Million dollars has been spent since the start of 2013 in Central Clarendon. Works have been completed along Atkinson Drive, in Bushy Park Gardens, as well as along East Street and Donald Avenue. The scope of works included trimming of embankments, construction of sidewalks, and wearing course comprising of Double Surface Dressing and Asphaltic Concrete.

SOUTH EAST CLARENDON

Drains in the flood prone community of Mitchell Town benefitted from the JEEP in the South –east of the parish. The \$24 million effort also included the rehabilitation of the Bustamante School Road.



Aenon Town Sidewalk and Patching

NORTH CENTRAL CLARENDON

Approximately Six kilometres of roads in North-central part of the parish benefitted from the second phase of the JEEP. Works valued at \$23 million have been carried out along the roads from Cocoa Piece to Wood Hall, Summerfield to Blackwoods, Prospect Community road and Kuplus to Mount Hindmost.

NORTHERN CLARENDON

In Northern Clarendon, over six million dollars was spent to carry out work in Mother Rob Gully. U-drains were also constructed in Kellits and Crofts Hill, while sidewalks, U-drains and kerbs and channels were completed in Aenon Town, Crooked River and James Hill.

NORTHWEST CLARENDON

Gravel Lane and Wisbeach benefitted from a 10 million dollar injection from the JEEP. Both roads are being rehabilitated and should see on completion improvements in not only wearing surface but road formation and drainage.



Crooked River
"U" Drain and Parapet Wall

JEEP Projects in Manchester

The Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP) is one of the strategies of Government to respond to chronic unemployment among some Jamaicans particularly those in lower socio-economic group, persons with special needs as well as those with low skill levels. The National Works Agency has been supporting several of these projects in Manchester. These projects include road repairs, bushing of roads and the cleaning and maintenance of drains and gullies. The overall expenditure in Manchester up to June 2013 was over 91 million dollars or ninety eight percent of works completed.

NORTH WEST MANCHESTER

Over 23 Million Dollars was spent in the north-west of the parish. Since the start of the year, several roads received hot mix patching. These includes Beverly to Freetown (800 m²), Greenvale Housing Scheme (250 m²) Gabbi Street (700 m²) Bethel Street (400 m²) and Hatfield to Maidstone (1300 m²). The construction of V and U Drains, bushing and trimming of road embankments and Double Surface Dressing was done along the Summerset Road, the Mount Prospect Road, Big Heads Street and at the New Green Primary and Junior High Schools.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER

In the Central part of the parish, corridors completed to date are Waltham Avenue, Cedar Gardens Road, Lamb Town Road, Blue Mountain Road, New Hall Road, Red Bank Road, Darling Street, Bellefield P.C. Road, Harcourt Drive and Jackson Drive. There was the Construction of Random Rubble Walls at Bombay, Bartley Town and Bellefield.

SOUTH MANCHESTER

Over 17 million dollars has been spent in the Southernn part of the parish. The major project was Rose Hill to Wellington Road, with the scope of work including bushing and trimming of embankments, patching Double Surface Dressing and construction of U-drains. The other projects were the rehabilitation of Trinity Road, Blenheim Town to Kensworth Road and the Heathfield Road.

NORTH EAST MANCHESTER

The main project in North Eastern Manchester is the rehabilitation of the Halifax P.C Road costing over 11 million dollars. The Scope of works include bushing, cleaning of outlets, construction of kerbs and channels, Double Surface Dressing and Asphaltic Concrete overlay. Other projects include the rehabilitation of Waterloo P.C Road, Abatour Road in Christiana and Azan Lane. At the end of June these projects were 75% complete.



V-drain Works Completed on the Mt. Prospect Road, Manchester



Blenheim Town, Manchester



Big Heads Road Rehabilitation, Manchester

Serving with Pride for over Five Years - Office Attendants



**CLOVER JOHNSON,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT -
MANCHESTER**

Mrs. Clover Johnson is a Public Works 'old girl' from 1997 who glided smoothly into the operations of NWA since its inception in 2001.

Dedicated to achieving the mandate of the NWA – Mrs. Johnson, affectionately called “Johnno” displays a high level of professionalism in carrying out her duties as an Administrative Assistant in the Southern Region – Manchester Parish Office.

Ensuring that the government’s business is done, Mrs. Johnson is cognizant of deadlines and quality of work. She is held in high regard by the parish team who looks to her for support in the day to day running of the office.

Her physical stature is no deterrent to the volume of work she is capable of producing in a given day, while her jovial personality coupled with a caring persona makes working with her a breeze.

An ability to adapt to different working environments is an asset which the NWA can be assured it has in this dedicated employee - Mrs. Clover Johnson. Her tenure with the Agency has gained her a wealth of knowledge and has cemented her commitment to completing tasks in a timely and meticulous manner, thereby ensuring total customer satisfaction.

Mrs Johnson is humble, calm and a Christian who loves the Lord. From the testimony of her peers Clover Johnson is charismatic.



**GARCIA CLARKE-MCKENNIS,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT -
HANOVER**

Garcia Clarke-Mckennis joined the National Works Agency in September 2011 and is assigned to the Hanover Parish Office as an Administrative

Assistant. She is a no-nonsense, outspoken individual who takes pride in the presentation of her work and likes to get involved in creative and exciting activities.

Garcia is a Specialist Teacher who has opted to devote her time to the NWA’s fulfillment of its mandate to ‘developing safe, reliable and quality roads’ for the citizens of Hanover and by extension, Jamaica. Mrs Clarke-McKennis also possesses excellent culinary and baking skills.

She is fun-loving and her vibrant persona is quickly transferred to those in her immediate surroundings. Anyone who comes in contact with this young lady is captivated by her beautiful smile and her zest for life. She sings well and uses her talent to praise God as she is a very ardent Seventh Day Adventist Christian. She enjoys her role of mother to her two adorable children.



**NICOLA MILLER -
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT -
WESTMORELAND**

“I joined the NWA Westmoreland team as an Administrative Assistant on July 1, 2011, however I was no stranger to the NWA family having worked as a

Temporary Administrative Assistant at both the Hanover and Trelawny Parish Offices. An Administrative Assistant needs to have a positive attitude, strong work ethics and good communications skills: I would like to think that I possess all those qualities consequently I was able to quickly fit into the NWA family. My experience since joining the team has been a good one as I have developed a great working relationship with both my immediate team as well as with team members from other offices. “

Dwelling on the negative has little or no place in her daily list of activities. She holds no petty grudges and every day she makes a concerted effort to be happy. Her glass is always half-full. Nicola’s attitude is one of gratitude – grateful for the good things and using the unfortunate ones as stepping stones. She thrives on the wise counsel of her grand-mother particularly the one which reminds her that “it doesn’t matter how much you think your life sucks, someone has it much worse.”

Nicola’s creativity is one of her best kept secrets. She writes short stories, poems and songs. “I am currently working on my first novel”, the budding novelist proudly announced to the Roadster.



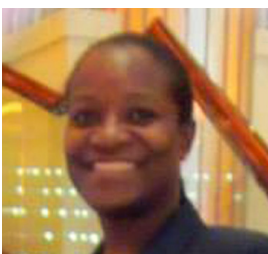
**PAMELLA KENNEDY,
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT –
ST ELIZABETH**

Mrs. Pamela Kennedy, affectionately called “PK”, or “Ms. K”, a Public Works ‘old girl’

was drafted into the cohort of employees transferred to the National Works Agency in the capacity of Administrative Assistant in the parish of St. Elizabeth. Ms. K. has served for many years across the entire Island. Her vast experience has spanned a period of 39 years. She is a hard working individual who is passionate about what she does. ‘ ‘ Ms. K.” is efficient at her task and shows interest in her work. She communicates effectively with the other members of staff, always sharing information and is very dependable. No problem is too small or large for her to assist with or no customer too low to be discriminated against.

An avid dancer and fashion stylist “Ms K.” gets many a compliment on her mode of dress. She is a keen musician who appreciates music of whichever genre. Whenever there is a song playing, Ms. K. can be seen not just shaking her feet but rocking smoothly to the rhythm of the beat.

Mrs Kennedy not only contributes to the success of the office through her administrative capabilities but enhances the spirit of camaraderie by her good humour and her always cracking jokes at her co-workers.



**COLLEEN GRAHAM,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
– ST ANN**

Colleen Graham, is a hardworking, dedicated, no-nonsense, team player. Ms. Graham joined the NWA St. Ann team in February

2008, as an Administrative Assistant. She exhibits a positive attitude in executing her duties as well as take on additional tasks that may be delegated to her from time and still manages her usual tasks in an orderly and timely manner. Colleen has demonstrated personal commitments in meeting job targets and is not averse to going the extra mile to get the job done.

Her passion has always been to ensuring that the organization’s goals are met. Professionalism is the rule of thumb by which she is guided. This diminutive lady is charming and her winning smile, coupled with her pleasing personality has won over many a customer regardless of status or state of

mind. For her, customer satisfaction (internal and external) is key.

Miss Graham, through team work was awarded the CEO Certificate of Excellence in 2008 and was also awarded Employee of the 1st quarter 2009 for the North Eastern Region. In collaboration with her team mates the St. Ann staff was once again awarded Employee of the 3rd Quarter in 2011.

Colleen is a member of the Jamaica Association of Administrative Professionals – St. Ann Chapter for over ten years, she has held several positions and is the current President. This ardent Christian is a member of the Miracle Tabernacle Church, where she sings with the Praise Team. Outside of being engaged in religious activities, Colleen enjoys reading, listening to music and travelling but most of all she enjoys spending quality time with her son Cameron, who is elite beneficiary of her teacher training.



**ROSE STRACHAN-HENDERSON
– ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,
PORTLAND PARISH OFFICE**

According to John D. Rockefeller, ‘if you want to succeed you should strike out on new paths, rather than travel the

worn paths of accepted success.’

I remember the last essay I wrote in my final year at primary school ‘What would you like to be in the next five years?’ I wrote: ‘I would like to be an Executive Secretary....’

On December 12, 1983, the fulfilment of the prophecy began when I was employed as a Typist in the Port Antonio office of the Ministry of Construction (Works) – Public Works Department. I was overwhelmed and delighted at being employed.

As the Ministry took on different functions and name changes with each administration, Rose confessed that she grew with each challenge. Her horizons began to broaden, her interpersonal skills sharpened and her training took on new dimensions. During her tenure, she has been involved in various in-house and institutional training. Invariably through these stages of training her dream became reality and she earned the title Secretary/Stenographer beginning at Grade 1 and through the years was elevated to Grade 111 (ST III).

In April 2001, the Public Works Department was transformed to National Works Agency as an Executive Agency. Rose was selected to serve as Administrative Assistant in the Portland

BIG UP TEAM NWA!!



Office of the Member of Parliament
Western Kingston
Desmond McKenzie, CD, J.P.
85 Charles Street, Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.
Tele: 967-0232 / 967-1417
Fax: 924-9115
Email: westkingstonmp@hotmail.com
mayorsparlour@hotmail.com

May 13, 2013

Mr. E. G. Hunter
Chief Executive Officer
National Works Agency
140 Maxfield Avenue
Kingston 10

Dear Mr. Hunter:

I write again to express my thanks and appreciation for your quick and positive response to my request to repair a section of the Spanish Town Road in front of the Denham Town Police Station.

Kindly express our gratitude to the staff of the National Works Agency (NWA) for a job well done.

Again, my sincere appreciation and I am anticipating much more from you.

Yours sincerely,

Desmond McKenzie, CD, JP, MP
Cc: Hon. Dr. Omar Davies, MP - Minister of Transport, Works & Housing

Desmond A. A. McKenzie, CD, J.P.
Member of Parliament

Hello Mr., Shaw:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for getting the ditch problem at out gate fixed, it has been a sore eye since February, the water is flowing freely, and no more garbage or build up at my our gate. I am pleased with the end result, once again thank you, problem solved.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lucy Wilson
Canon, Dt James

South East Regional Health Authority
Bustamante Hospital for Children
Arthur Weir Drive, Kingston 5
Voice: (876) 968-0300-4 Fax: (876) 924-3076 Emergency: 1-888-GO-SERHA
Website: www.serha.gov.jm E-mail: hbospe@serha.gov.jm



Bellefleur Hospital
928-1360-7
Fax: 928-1236
bellefleur.hospital@serha.gov.jm

Bustamante Hospital for Children
928-6721-2
Fax: 928-3076
hbospe@serha.gov.jm

Hopetown Institute
927-2119/27-2887
Fax: 702-2889
hopetown@serha.gov.jm

Kingston Public Hospital
922-0210-9
Fax: 967-1636
kph@serha.gov.jm

KSA Health Department
924-1902-2
Fax: 920-4977
ksa.health@serha.gov.jm

National Child Hospital
970-665077-7700
Fax: 977-6963
nch@serha.gov.jm

Sir John Goding Rehab. Center
927-2584/277-1459
Fax: 977-6923
srgc@serha.gov.jm

Victoria Jubilee Hospital
922-9210-9
Fax: 967-7038
vjh@serha.gov.jm

Spanish Town Hospital
984-3077-5
Fax: 984-1431
gsh.st@serha.gov.jm

St. Catherine Health Department
927-5483/584-2282
Fax: 927-6280
stcath.hdp@serha.gov.jm

Linstead Hospital
985-2241
Fax: 985-4742
lsh@serha.gov.jm

Princess Margaret Hospital
982-2004/984-0182
Fax: 702-4183
pmh@serha.gov.jm

St. Thomas Health Department
724-4183/823-1819
Fax: 724-4183
stthomas@serha.gov.jm

2013 May 28

Mr. E. G. Hunter
Chief Executive Officer
National Works Agency
140 Maxfield Avenue
Kingston 10

Dear Mr. Hunter

On behalf of the management and staff of the Bustamante Hospital for Children please accept our thanks for the kind assistance with repairs to the road way in the vicinity of the main entrance and the administrative area on the hospital grounds.

We appreciate your commitment as a corporate friend, unhesitant in speedy response to calls from this institution. This was done despite the challenges and constraints experienced by the National Works Agency and we are grateful for the caring corporate citizen offering meaningful support.

Thanks again and best wishes to the members of the National Works Agency.

Yours truly
BUSTAMANTE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Anthony Wood
Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

/nm

Board of Directors
Mr. Lyleston O. Shirley, J.P. (Chairman), Dr. Carol Archer (Deputy Chair), Mr. Donald Fairguson, J.P. (Regional Director), Dr. Heather Reid-Jones (Regional Technical Director), Mr. Godfrey Boyd, J.P. (Chief Executive Officer, KPH/NWA), Ms. Dr. Patrick Bhooasingh (General Medical Officer, KPH), Miss Naticia Miller (Director of Legal Services, MCH), Mr. Hurley Taylor, Dr. Penelope Bahado-Singh, Dr. Andrea Cooke, Mrs. Hyacinth Inzerery, Mr. Dorian Patterson, Mr. Hopeton Morrison, Ms. Andrea Georgina Manning, Mrs. Audrey Smith-Facey.

National Housing Trust
Head Office: Kingston 5, P.O. Box 5000, Tel: 928-6500-9, Fax: 968-2953, E-mail: wccan@nht.gov.jm, Website: www.nht.gov.jm
BRANCHES: St. Catherine: Telokompan Park, Spanish Town, P.O. Box 8158, Tel: 984-8023, Clarendon: 47 Manchester Ave., May Pen, Tel: 896-2051, Westmoreland: 120 Great George St., Spanish Town, Tel: 955-2877, St. James: 42 S&C Union St., Montego Bay, Tel: 952-0563, St. Ann: 28 Graham St., Ocho Rios, Tel: 924-4834, Manchester: Lot 22 Calabona Mall, 3102 Calabona Road, Mandeville, Tel: 962-2549, SERVICE CENTRES: Hanover: Midway Shopping Centre, Mandeville, Tel: 955-2877, St. Thomas: 2 George St., Falmouth P.O., Tel: 954-3712, St. Mary: 61 St. Mary St., Port Maria, Tel: 984-2216, St. Thomas: 2 George St., Morant Bay, Tel: 982-9417, St. Elizabeth: 109 Main St., Sassa, Cocle, Tel: 966-2510, Portmore: 20 Harbour St., Port Antonio, Tel: 993-3863

July 3, 2013

CEO
National Works Agency
104 Maxfield Avenue
Kingston 10

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your business!

At the close of the NHT's Financial Year 2012-2013, we have noted with much appreciation, your organisation's compliance with the submission of annual returns and contribution payments to the NHT for the period.

As a token of our appreciation, we enclose a copy of our 2013-2014 Financial Year desk calendar which is distributed to only top compliant contributor organisations such as yours.

We wish you every success and look forward to your continued compliance.

Yours sincerely,
NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST

A. Cecile Watson (Mrs.)
Managing Director

The Board: Mr. Easton Douglas - Chairman, Mrs. A. Cecile Watson - Managing Director, Senator Lambert Brown, Mr. Robert Bullard, Mrs. Brenda Culbert, Rev. Oliver Daley, Mrs. Helene Davis Whyte, Dr. Doreen Davy, Mr. Kevin Clarke, Mr. O'Neil Orlin, Mr. Norman Horne, Mrs. Sonia Hyman, Mrs. Mirza Inani, Mrs. Mirza Inani, Mr. Pinawal La'Touche, Ms. Deborah Martin, Mr. Vincent Morrison, Company Secretary - Mrs. JAMES LAMOND Inery



OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE
AIR JAMAICA BUILDING (GROUND FLOOR)
72 HARBOUR STREET
KINGSTON
JAMAICA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE
AIR JAMAICA BUILDING (GROUND FLOOR)
72 HARBOUR STREET, KINGSTON
JAMAICA
Telephone No. (876) 948-1231/1433

May 07, 2013

Mr. E. G. Hunter
Chief Executive Officer
National Works Agency
140 Maxfield Avenue
Kingston 10

Dear Mr Hunter

RE: Perimeter Fence at Dunrobin Primary School

Ms. Lytle, the "concerned parent" from the Dunrobin Primary School, who had initially brought this matter to my attention, has advised that the National Works Agency has commended you and your team for the work done and for a satisfactory resolution to this matter.

Yours truly

Diahann Gordon Harrison (Mrs)
Children's Advocate



"DOING ROAD" -
*Sights,
Scenes and
Community
Relations*



Communication and Customer Services Officer at the NWA, Warren Wilson engages visitors at the Agency's booth at the recently held Yallahs Irrigation Exposition.



Manager, Material Testing and Evaluation Unit - Vivian Blair of the National Works Agency explains to on-lookers, the process through which Asphaltic Concrete is made. The occasion was at the National Soils and Minerals Exposition held at the Jamaica Conference Centre.

Continued from Page 19

Parish Office. This transition carried with it not only change in operations but Supervisors. "I have had the privilege of working with seven Parish Managers whose personalities and styles have been as different as their physical structures. One common thread however, has been our goal to achieve the desired outcomes to make the 'Agency look good' and consequently our customers satisfied."

"As an Administrative Assistant to Mr. Ernest Clarke, Parish Manager - Portland, I enjoy my work immensely. I have

a passion to serve to the best of my ability all my external and internal customers - serving in the same Ministry for 29 years 7 months is no mean accomplishment. I am truly happy that my dream has come through".

Rose has been a proud member of the JAAP - Portland Chapter for 19 years and has been instrumental in achieving remarkable successes in the Chapter's outreach programmes, being head of the Civic Committee. She currently serves as Chapter Vice President.

Major Road Improvement Projects underway in Westmoreland

Residents of Westmoreland have consistently complained of a lack of a sustained effort aimed at improving the road network in the parish. Such residents at various fora have expressed the sentiment that the parish was seemingly 'forgotten' by the government. This perception is certainly changing as evidence of the government's commitment to the development of the road infrastructure in the parish can be seen in the number of road improvement projects which are currently underway.

These projects are certainly improving the safety and ease with which persons travel throughout the parish. The projects focus on road safety, road rehabilitation and drainage improvement. Residents across several communities have expressed their satisfaction with the latest efforts by the government. Such residents are especially pleased with the emphasis which is being placed on not only the main roads but also community roadways, which have been neglected for some time.

NORMAN MANLEY PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In the western end of the parish, approximately \$18 million is being spent to improve the safety along the Norman Manley Boulevard in Negril, Westmoreland. The roadway is located in the heart of Negril's tourism district and also extends to the neighbouring parish of Hanover which also is home to several tourist accommodations. This corridor was targeted due to high incidents of traffic accidents, some of which have been fatal.

The project involves the installation of pedestrian signals, the construction of medians and the construction of sidewalks. To date three pedestrian actuated signals have been installed and commissioned into service along critical points of the corridor. These are located at the Time Square Plaza, Rondel Village, and Couples Swept Away. Additionally, medians and crosswalks have been installed in the vicinity of Traveler's Beach resort, Gran Pineapple Hotel, Beachcomber Resort and Sea Wind Resort. The signals are expected to assist in reducing vehicular speeds and separating vehicular and pedestrian movement.

The National Works Agency is now moving forward with plans to construct 1.5 km of sidewalks from the Negril Community Centre to the Gran Pineapple Hotel.



A view of the shared user path which is being constructed along the Norman Manley Boulevard in Negril, Westmoreland.

JAMAICA EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME (JEEP)

The Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP) is improving the face of several communities throughout the parish through the improvement of road infrastructure and the provision of much needed employment. At the end of the last quarter of the 2012/13 financial year, 27 roadways had been targeted for rehabilitation. The projects involve road repair, the improvement of drainage systems and the construction of sidewalks.

The NWA has completed the rehabilitation of the Cedar Grove roadway which is located in Eastern Westmoreland. The Agency is now focusing on several other roadways including Church Lincoln, Ashton and Bastard Cedar Walk.

JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

The Berkshire roadway which is located along the Seaford Town to Pisgah corridor is receiving some much needed attention under the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP). This roadway is currently being rehabilitated at a cost of approximately \$38 million and involves the construction of a retaining wall, the improvement of drainage systems and the rehabilitation of the roadway using Double Surface Dressing. Much ground has been covered with the roadway now being completed up to prime surface.

On the Road with State Minister in the Ministry of Transport Works and Housing, Richard Azan and NWA CEO E.G. Hunter



Mr. Hunter (1st left) on site at Fern Gully where the NWA is now in the final stages of completing an over \$20 million dollar road and drainage improvement project.



Minister Azan looking at the works being erected for the re-opening of the Mount Ogle road in St. Andrew. The road was rendered impassable by rains related to Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Just under 40-million dollars was allocated to projects in the area.



All the world is a laboratory to the inquiring mind.
 —Martin H. Fischer, American professor of physiology

Parents worry about it. Educators complain about it: Kids can fall behind academically during the summer. Most kids enjoy having a summer break from school, but many forget what they've learned. You can encourage your child to learn in the summer in fun ways—ways many wouldn't even call learning. Consider these ideas.

TIPS FOR . . . ALL PARENTS

- Take kids on walks. Before you do, check out nature books that include photos of local wildflowers, birds, bugs, trees, and wild animals. As you walk, be on the lookout for different aspects of nature.

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN AGES BIRTH TO 5

- Bring children to different places to stimulate learning. For example, take them to the beach and play in the sand. Take them to a playground on the other side of town. Take them to a different library than the one you usually visit. Take them to a children's museum.

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 9

- Find day or overnight camps that get your child excited. Many camps now have specialties, such as horseback riding camp, canoeing camp, and archery camp. All these camps emphasize learning skills while having fun.

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN AGES 10 TO 15

- Ask your child if he or she has any summer homework. Many schools assign a book or research project for kids to do over the summer, and many kids don't tell their parents about these projects until the day before school starts. Create a plan to get the work done gradually over the summer.

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN AGES 16 TO 18

- Encourage teens to find internships and apprenticeships in areas that interest them, such as auto mechanics, photography, videography, soccer coaching, and so on. These types of experiences are not only great for their high-school resume, but give teens valuable hands-on learning experiences.

- Encourage teenagers to think creatively about their technology skills and how they can help others with the skills they have. For more ideas, see Teen Online Entrepreneur.

<http://www.parentfurther.com/resources/newsletter/archive/summer-learning>