

# ROADSTER

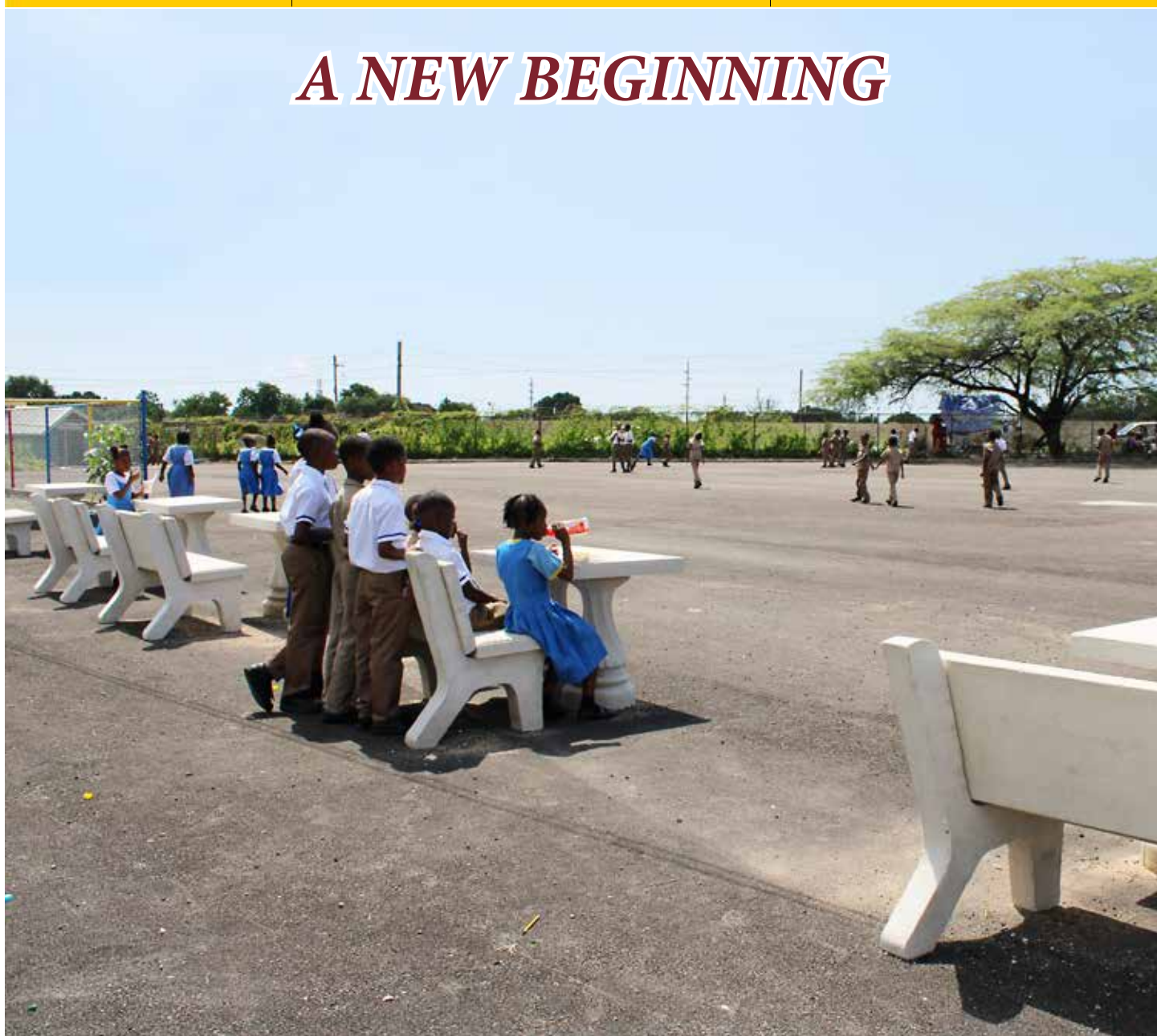


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*“Paving the Way”*

## ***A NEW BEGINNING***



See related story on on pages 2-3

Mountain View Primary  
School: A Joyous Start to the  
New School Year ... p. 2-3

Bringing Into Focus the Rehabilitation  
of Roadways across Northeastern and  
Southeastern Jamaica ... p. 4-8

Mount Ararat –  
The Refuge  
... p. 18

## *Mountain View Primary School: A Joyous Start to the New School Year*

The Mountain View Primary School community couldn't have asked for a better start to the new school year. As the gates opened for students and staff, there was a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation in the air.

What made this back-to-school season even more special was the completion of a remarkable rehabilitation project that has transformed the school's facilities, creating a safer, more welcoming, and conducive learning environment.

For the Mountain View Primary School community, the summer break was not just a time of rest but a period of hope and renewal. Their hopes were realized through the diligent efforts of the National Works Agency, which spearheaded a rehabilitation project at a cost of \$13.8 Million to transform the school grounds.

Principal Michelle Robinson expressed her deep appreciation for the improvements "The NWA exceeded our expectations", explains Robinson, "the work was done in the most unintrusive and efficient manner and our entire school

population is excited".

Ms. Robinson added that at the beginning of the school year when the parents first saw the transformation, they were greatly impressed.

The scope of this transformative project included:

1. **Construction of Boundary Fencing:** The installation of a sturdy boundary fence, combining concrete and chain link elements, provided a renewed sense of security and clearly defined the school's premises.
2. **Paving and Kerbs:** The school's compound received a facelift with the installation of high-quality paving and kerbs. These improvements not only enhanced the visual appeal but also ensured a safer and more organized environment for everyone.
3. **Repair of a Utility Shed:** An essential utility shed on the school grounds received much-needed repairs and refurbishments, ensuring its functionality for years to come.
4. **Installation of Concrete Benches:** To promote outdoor activities and social interaction, concrete benches



Newly constructed boundary wall with chain link fencing & Landscaped areas on the compound

Continued on page 3



**Mountain View Primary School: A Joyous Start to the New School Year ... Continued from page 2**



**Newly renovated Performance Art Centre**

were strategically placed throughout the school grounds, offering comfortable seating areas for students to gather and connect.

The fact that the project was completed in time for the start of the new school year, made it that much more significant. The National Works Agency, in partnership with Brighton Engineering, delivered on their commitment to provide the school community with upgraded facilities that would enhance the educational experience.

The rehabilitation of Mountain View Primary School is not just about constructing physical structures; it's about investing in the future of our youth, giving them a safer and more inspiring place to learn and grow.

The National Works Agency remains committed to nation building and the successful completion of this project at Mountain View Primary School is a testament to that commitment. We are dedicated to making a positive impact in communities, in whatever way possible, as the resources become available.



**Supplied Concrete tables and benches for students and visitors provided by the NWA**

## Bringing Into Focus the Rehabilitation of Roadways across Northeastern and Southeastern Jamaica

Over the course of the last three months, much interest and focus has been placed on major projects being monitored by the National Works Agency (NWA) in Southeast Jamaica and Portland. Much has been said, and demonstrated, in relation to the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project (SCHIP) that is reshaping roadways within the parishes of St. Thomas and Portland. So much so, that NWA has constantly had to remind persons that other areas exist, much to the chagrin of persons directly touched by the works.



Paving Works along sections of the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project

Even projects that have yet to begin have received public interest, such as the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) projects slated to be done across the Corporate Area and sections of Portmore. In recent times, a SPARK programme has also been added to the conversation that is expected to target well-needed road infrastructure across the island. This programme is still in the planning stages, but is highly anticipated.

While larger projects like SPARK hold great significance, it is necessary to bring into focus other rehabilitation projects being undertaken, especially across northeastern and southeastern parishes. These projects are smaller and less expensive than the ones often talked about, but are just as important in their reach as they too reshape roadways, improve drainage infrastructure and affect the lives and livelihoods of the Jamaican people.

On a point of information, from the standpoint of the NWA, the southeastern region of Jamaica is comprised of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine and St. Thomas while

northeastern Jamaica is made up of Portland, St. Mary and St. Ann. Over the course of the last three months, all of these parishes have seen infrastructural repairs, to include routine works such as hotmix patching and drain cleaning.

In this issue of the ROADSTER, a sample of the projects being done in five of the above-named parishes will be highlighted, that is Portland, St. Mary, St. Andrew, St. Thomas and St. Catherine.

### NORTHEASTERN PROJECTS

Despite being under the radar at times, outside of the major activities referred to before, road rehabilitation works are being undertaken and residents of these parishes are benefiting positively.

#### PORTLAND

In the parish of Portland, John Town (a.k.a. John's Town) Road, Spring Bank to Stony Hill and Coopers Hill Road have received some attention in recent times.

#### • John Town Road

The rehabilitation of the John Town roadway, located in eastern Portland, began in mid-June and lasted for two months. This project was completed at a cost of \$10,650,770 and saw just under one point five kilometres of the roadway being cleared and reshaped. Side drains and blocked culverts were also cleaned and v-drains constructed. The surface of 3,300 square metres of roadway was repaired with the use of Asphaltic Concrete overlay. Pothole patching and repairs were also done.

#### • Cooper's Hill Road

Road works commenced on Cooper's Hill Road at the end of July and lasted for two months. Approximately one kilometre of the corridor was targeted for pavement repairs. The project which was completed at a cost of \$12,436,000 saw 3,200 square metres of roadway being overlaid with Asphaltic Concrete.

• Spring Bank to Stony Hill  
This roadway, located off Boundbrook Crescent in Port Antonio, is one of those used to access schools in the area to include the Boundbrook Primary



Bringing Into Focus the Rehabilitation of Roadways across Northeastern and Southeastern Jamaica.. Continued from page 4



Works at Cooper's Hill Road in Portland

At left: v-drain and final pavement works; at right: new concrete cross drain (in red circle above)



A before and after look at the Lewisburgh to Freetown roadway



Drain Cleaning (left) and reshaping works underway at Prospect, St. Mary

School. This is a roadway that also has a Ford. The Ford is often rendered impassable to both motorists and pedestrians during heavy rainfall.

Rehabilitative works commenced along this roadway in mid-September. Though the early start was affected by heavy rainfall, some progress was made during the period leading to the end of the quarter. Approximately 10% of the works had already been completed.

As part of the works, the road banks will be cleared and foliage overhanging the roadway will be cut. Side drains and blocked culverts will also be cleaned. Just over three thousand square metres of the road surface will either be patched or overlaid with Asphaltic Concrete. The work is being completed at a cost of \$9,458,575.

## ST. MARY

### • *Lewisburgh to Freetown*

The Lewisburgh to Freetown rehabilitation project commenced at the beginning of July and lasted for a month. The works were executed at a cost of \$12,901,300 and targeted approximately one kilometer of roadway. As part of the project, side drains, blocked culverts, catch basins and outlets were cleaned. Three thousand four hundred square metres of the road's surface was then treated with Asphaltic Concrete overlay.

### • *Prospect to Content*

Rehabilitation of the roadway from Prospect to Content, in St. Mary, commenced on Monday, August 21, 2023. The works were scheduled to be completed in six weeks but were affected by intermittent rainfall during the month of September. At the time of this article, the works were expected to be completed within a week which would take it to mid-October.

The project targeted 1,000 metres of

Continued on page 6



## Bringing Into Focus the Rehabilitation of Roadways across Northeastern and Southeastern Jamaica.. Continued from page 5

roadway and saw side drains, blocked culverts and catch basins being cleaned. The surface of the roadway will be repaired with Asphaltic Concrete. .

### SOUTHEASTERN PROJECTS

The Corporate Area is arguably the most travelled section of the country, so most persons are often aware of road projects being done in that section of the island. Portmore also, being one of the largest dormitory communities in the island, is travelled by residents and stakeholders alike, all of whom would likely be aware of issues and or repairs being done.

In recent times, St. Thomas has occupied an indomitable position in the highlights as it relates to infrastructural development, however in other parts of the region, noteworthy projects are being undertaken.

Let us shift our focus to a sample of the road rehabilitation efforts in St. Andrew, St. Catherine and St. Thomas.

#### ST. ANDREW

##### • *Guava Ridge to Mahogany Vale (Robertsfield Road)*

This project complements an earlier project that was undertaken along the Cooperage to Guava Ridge to Mahogany Vale roadway. It commenced in the second week of August and is scheduled to be completed in two months.

The area was inundated with rainfall in recent times, however works are progressing steadily despite issues, to include equipment failure.

As part of the project, the roadway was cleared of foliage and overhanging trees, side drains and other drainage infrastructure were improved and the road surface was treated with Asphaltic Concrete, as well as pothole patch and repair. The works are being completed at a cost of just under \$22 million.



Preparatory works along sections of the Guava Ridge to Mahogany Vale roadway



Paved sections of the Robertsfield roadway



At left: A photograph of the state of the Brivate roadway prior to the start of the works. At right: an earth drain that was cleaned as part of the rehabilitative works



Bringing Into Focus the Rehabilitation of Roadways across Northeastern and Southeastern Jamaica.. Continued from page 6



At left: Base course laid on the Brivate Road as part of the rehabilitation project.  
At right: Prime coat being applied to the roadway.



• **Stony Hill to Parks Road (Cavaliers)**

This project commenced in July and will see 10,200 square metres of the road surface being treated with Asphaltic Concrete. The roadworks, however, have been temporarily halted to facilitate the installation of pipelines. This component, though not directly related to the roadworks, is important so the road rehabilitation will recommence once this is completed.

**ST. CATHERINE**

• **Brivate Road (Frazer's Content)**

The rehabilitation of Brivate Road in Frazers Content commenced in June. The Municipal Corporation roadway was done from an allocation of \$40 million dollars to each constituency to treat with scoured and damaged roadways.

As part of the project, just under one and a half kilometres of roadway was targeted for repairs. The roadway was cleared of silt and debris, and reshaped. Damaged concrete structures were also removed. Side drains, earth drains,



Base work, v-drains and pavement works along Oxford Road in St. Thomas



Base work, v-drains and pavement works along Oxford Road in St. Thomas

Continued on page 8



## Rehabilitation in progress along the Vauxhall to Arcadia Main Road St. Elizabeth ... Continued from page 7

blocked culverts, catch basins and outlets were cleaned and a rip-rap drain and kerbs and channel were constructed. A new base was also constructed and Asphaltic Concrete laid. Some 2,700 square metres of Asphaltic Concrete mix was used.

The project which is still in progress is being completed at a cost of \$18,316,700. Ancillary works will include the construction of sidewalks; the fabrication and installation of mild steel grating, the installation of 600 metres of road markings and erection of road signs.

### ST. THOMAS

#### • Oxford Road

Oxford Road is located in Western St. Thomas and its rehabilitation commenced on Saturday, July 8 and lasted for 8 weeks. The works included the clearing of bush and foliage from 300 metres of roadway; the cleaning of 1,000 metres of side drains; the construction concrete cross drain, v-drain and rip-rap.

The road surface was treated with base course and prime coat and 5,550 square metres was overlaid with Asphaltic Concrete. The project was completed at a cost of \$19,626,794.20.

Ramble Bridge is located on the Llandewey to Windsor control section in St. Thomas. It is a metal and concrete frame bridge with a wooden plank deck. The deck of the bridge is one that deteriorates from time to time and has to be replaced. Before this year, it was last repaired in two phases between 2019 and 2020.

In mid-August, works commenced to once again replace the wooden deck of the bridge which had fallen into disrepair as a result of natural wear and tear of the material. The project which was originally slated to be completed in six weeks was completed approximately two weeks earlier than originally scheduled.

The project saw the replacement of the entire wooden deck. The deck was replaced with a double layer of 50 mm by 250 mm planks that were bolted together. The rest of the bridge is considered to be structurally sound and was not targeted by this project. The deck replacement was completed at a cost of \$6,171,300.



Representations of the bridge deck during and after the rehabilitation work



## *Rehabilitation Works Continue Along Black River To Pedro Cross Road St Elizabeth*

Through a series of rehabilitative projects, the Government of Jamaica is committed to the development and improvement of the main road network which will aid in the development of our country. Some of these roadways are heavily pitted and have deteriorated over time especially after heavy rains.

The National Works Agency began rehabilitation work on the Little Park to Barbary Hall section of the Black River to Pedro Cross main road in South Western St Elizabeth on August 14 2023. The project was completed by mid-September as a part of the government's islandwide repair to scoured and damaged roads.

The works which were undertaken by J & L Equipment & Construction Services Limited were completed at a cost of over \$15 million dollars.

The scope of works included the bushing and trimming of overhanging trees, cleaning of existing drains, excavation and disposal of damaged road surface, the construction of v-drains, reshaping of the roadway, and the strengthening of the road base. Asphaltic Concrete was used as the final surface.

This is the fourth phase of rehabilitation work along the 22-kilometer stretch from Black River to Pedro Cross. The other sections include Little Park to Pedro Cross, Claremont to Little Park and Williamsfield to Watchwell.

This particular corridor has been in a state of disrepair for some time, with several deep potholes, especially in the vicinity of the Newell High School, and the Watchwell cross road. The execution of the rehabilitation work is greatly welcomed as this stretch of road is a critical corridor which serves to take traffic from the central region of the parish to the Southern areas such as Treasure Beach and Junction.



**Paving Works along the Little Park to Barbary Hall Road**



**Construction of side drains which forms part of the overall rehabilitation works**



## *Internal Audit...The magnificent 6*



**Ms. Donna Foster, Chief Internal Auditor (seated) is flanked by team members L-R: Mr. Rayon Waugh, Senior Auditor, Mr. David Jones Internal Auditor, Miss Angelina Brown, Administrative Assistant, Mr. Andre Graham Internal Auditor (Missing from photo is Miss. Andrea Stone, Internal Auditor.)**

As the Roadster embarks on another of its journeys to provide you with insightful information on the NWA's Directorates roles and function, this issue will seek to explore the anatomy of the Internal Audit Department which is fared by the capable Ms. Donna Foster, who wears the hat of Chief Internal Auditor and is buoyed by a staff compliment of six (6) dedicated team members.

The major function of the Internal Audit Department is to give independent, objective assurance and consulting; designed to add value and to improve the efficiency of the Agency's operations and processes. With that being said, the Department does not operate in a vacuum but is governed by the Financial Administration and Audit (FAA) Act which provide clear guidelines to govern the Functions of the Department.

The mandate of the department includes, but is not limited to the following:

**Risk Assessment:** Internal Audit assesses and identifies potential risks that the Agency faces, such as financial risks, compliance risks and strategic risks. We evaluate the likelihood and impact of these risks on the Agency's objectives.

**Control Evaluation:** The evaluation of the effectiveness of internal controls in place to mitigate identified risks also falls within the remit of the department. They examine the Agency's processes and procedures to determine that they have been adequately designed and implemented and are operating effectively so that the Agency's goals and objectives can be met.

**Compliance Assurance:** The department verifies that the Agency is complying with relevant laws, regulations, policies and procedures. This includes compliance with circulars from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.



## Internal Audit...The magnificent 6 ... Continued from page 12

Operational Efficiency: Internal Audit reviews and assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of various processes, identifying areas where improvements can be made to enhance productivity and reduce costs.

The Roadster had a sit down with Ms. Foster, who reiterated that the Department has been charged with some very critical responsibilities.

She explained that in planning and performing our functions, we have a critical responsibility to consider the risk of fraud. Internal audit communicates findings and recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer as well as the Senior Management Team, the Audit Committee, the Auditor General's Office and the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

The Roadster enquired about how the role of the Department helps the Agency to fulfill its mandate; Ms. Foster had this to say: "Internal audit helps ensure that public funds and resources are used efficiently and effectively. By conducting regular audits, the agency can identify and address any misuse or mismanagement of resources, promoting greater accountability for public funds".

When pressed by the Roadster concerning any changes that she would like to see taking place in her department, Ms. Foster said that, 'the biggest changes that I would love to see are: Expanded use of technology (including data analytics) and the implementation of artificial intelligence to enhance audit procedures, detect anomalies and identify patterns in data."

She also mentioned the increased use of virtual collaboration tools across all Directorates and adoption of remote auditing techniques, especially in our readiness for global events like the recent COVID-19 pandemic and also to facilitate remote work which promotes a greater work-life balance and in fact leads to increased work output.

The Roadster was on a roll and decided to shoot another shot by asking her, if the department receives information in a timely manner from other units, in her calm and calculated manner, the Chief Internal Auditor said 'I wish we could say that information is consistently received in a timely manner, but we cannot say that. What we can say is that some Units are more responsive than others and that the CEO offers strong support in ensuring that the Directorates respond.

Ideally, internal audit departments should receive



**The newest addition  
to the team,  
Mr. Rayon Waugh,  
Senior Auditor**

information in a timely and cooperative manner from other units within the Agency. Timely access to information is essential for internal auditors to effectively perform their duties, including risk assessments, control evaluations, compliance checks, and financial audits.

Foster used the opportunity to emphasize that the various Directorates should trust that internal auditors will handle information with confidentiality and integrity. Confidentiality is one of the principles from the Code of Ethics which governs us as Internal Auditors. As members of the Institute of Internal Auditors the Audit Team must abide by its Code of Ethics. Breaches of the principles can result in disciplinary action.

She also said it was important to note that the Department does not operate on its own, but reports functionally to the Audit Committee while the Chief Executive Officer has administrative oversight.

The Roadster, leaving no stones unturned, could not complete the audit dialogue without rubbing shoulders with their newest team member Mr. Rayon Waugh, Senior Auditor in the department. Mr. Waugh, who joined the Agency just this September, said that he decided to join the Team after seeing the posted advertisement and after doing his own research, found the Agency to be a growing organization that could benefit from his experiences coupled with his qualifications.

Mr. Waugh, mentioned that as a Practicing Forensic Accountant as well as a Provisional Auditor (ISO9001) of the Professional Evaluation and Certification Board (PECB), the Agency has given him the opportunity to do what he does best in utilizing his skills especially as the NWA embarks on another round of ISO 9001:2015 certifications.



## *Residents give Thumbs up to Wakefield to Friendship Road Repairs*

"Long overdue, but nothing happens before its time." These sentiments were expressed by Roxanne Rose, a business operator in Wakefield, Trelawny. This was in response to the rehabilitation of the Wakefield to Friendship roadway in North Trelawny, which is now well underway. For Rose, the project is a "welcome development in the area," one which will give the community a well-needed facelift and also give residents more comfort as they traverse the roadway.

Similar sentiments were issued by Wakefield resident, Mildred Gordon, who lauded the recent drive to upgrade the road network in her community. She expressed that prior to the commencement of the project the roadway was really in a poor state, making it difficult for residents. "Believe me, even to go church sometimes I just wouldn't bother when me consider the problem with the road." Though pleased with the project she expressed her desire to have the project extended to other sections of the roadway which are also in poor condition.

The \$19.8 million road rehabilitation project commenced in August 2023 and is expected to be completed in October 2023. Now in the preliminary stages, the project targets approximately 400 meters of roadway and involves drainage improvement, and the reshaping and resurfacing of the roadway using Asphaltic Concrete.

This project is one of two projects which was targeted in North Trelawny, through the Government of Jamaica's Island-wide Repair to Scoured and Damaged Roadways programme. The National Works Agency is also targeting the Clarks Town to Kinloss roadway. The project which is now in the final stages of completion is being executed at a cost of just under \$20 million and involves extensive repairs to the 1-kilometre stretch of roadway between the Kinloss Square and the Mchill parochial road.

Since the commencement of works in August, residents and other stakeholders have expressed their appreciation for the effort to repair the roadway and are now anxiously awaiting its completion.



### **Full Speed Ahead!**

Drainage improvement works underway along a section of the road from Wakefield – Friendship, Trelawny. The roadway is being rehabilitated at a cost of \$19.8 million under the Government of Jamaica's Island-wide Repairs to Scoured and Damaged Roadways Programme.



A view of a recently completed section of the Martha Brae to Kinloss roadway in Trelawny. This section of the roadway was reshaped and asphalted, and a concrete V drain constructed along the targeted section of the roadway.

## Revitalizing Aberdeen Street: Road Rehabilitation Underway

The Aberdeen main road in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, has long been an essential route connecting several vibrant communities. Yet, the passage of time has taken its toll on the road's surface, creating inconveniences for residents and commuters alike.

The good news is that change is underway, as the Aberdeen rehabilitation project kicked off on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. This significant initiative, led by J & H Construction Solution, is set to rejuvenate the road, benefiting multiple communities in the region.

The Aberdeen rehabilitation project is set to cover a stretch from Aberdeen Square to Aberdeen House, encompassing approximately 3,170 square meters of road surface. The focus of the project is primarily on pavement repairs, which include preparatory works and Asphaltic Concrete sheet patching. As at the end of September, the project was at the 30 per cent completion mark, with a planned duration of six weeks. Expectations are that works will conclude in mid-October.

The impact of this project extends far beyond a mere facelift for Aberdeen. Several communities in the vicinity are set to reap the rewards of this endeavor. Residents of Siloah, Williamsfield, Aberdeen, Quickstep, Thornton, and Balaclava can look forward to smoother journeys and improved connectivity. The rehabilitation aims to enhance both accessibility and safety for all those who rely on this vital roadway.

The project aligns with the broader programme aimed at maintaining and upgrading secondary roads across the region. While major highways often steal the spotlight, secondary roads play a pivotal role in facilitating local transportation and supporting economic activities. By investing in the maintenance of these roads, the authorities ensure that communities remain interconnected and businesses can thrive.



A section of the Aberdeen Main Road which is being rehabilitated

The Aberdeen rehabilitation project comes at an overall cost of \$10,354,500. This financial commitment underscores the government's dedication to improving infrastructure and enhancing the lives of its citizens. The allocation of funds demonstrates a commitment to long-term solutions and reflects the importance of this project to the region.

J & H Construction Solution, a reputable construction firm, has taken charge of executing this significant project. With their expertise and track record in road rehabilitation, residents and local authorities can have confidence in the quality of work that will be delivered. The selection of a capable contractor is a crucial factor in ensuring the project's success and timely completion.

As the Aberdeen rehabilitation project progresses, the future looks brighter for residents and businesses in St. Elizabeth. This initiative represents a proactive step toward ensuring safer, more accessible transportation networks, which are the lifeblood of any thriving community.



## Road Rehabilitation Along Newport To Mandeville Corridor

The main road from Newport to Mandeville Manchester forms part of the link which provides access to the central town of Mandeville for commuters traveling from the neighbouring communities of Plowden, Rose Hill, Lancaster, Alligator Pond and Restore in Southern Manchester.

For some time, the residents have grown exasperated with the poor condition of this critical section of roadway. These commuters recently received a glimmer of hope when rehabilitation works by the National Works Agency (NWA) went into high gear.

The rehabilitative project for the corridor was contracted to F.S.C. Construction Limited at a cost of over ten million dollars. Works under the project commenced on August 26, 2023.

The key deliverables under the project included engineer fill, the bushing and trimming of banks and overhanging trees, cleaning of side drains and catch basins, removal of deleterious material and the application of Asphaltic Concrete.

Commuters are indeed happy with the latest drive from the NWA and had anxiously awaited the completion of this project. The undertaking has created better access for motorists and pedestrians to Mt Saint Joseph High School, Guardsman Limited and the Foster Barracks Military Base. Funding was provided under the Government of Jamaica's Islandwide Repair to Scoured and Damaged roads.



Overlaid section of Newport to Mandeville Corridor



Works underway along the Newport Main Road



## *New Traffic Lights for St. James*

September 1, 2023, marked the start of a new era for residents of Norwood, Felicity, Salt Spring, Vernon's Drive and surrounding communities as four new traffic signals were commissioned into service. The signals form part of a new traffic management plan aimed at reducing the demand on roadways in the city centre of Montego Bay and increasing the flow of traffic at critical points along a route that has become an unofficial bypass of the city centre.

Traffic Congestion has been a concern in the city of Montego Bay St. James, with many persons seeking alternative routes to avoid the city centre, especially during peak hours. One such route has become increasingly popular among commuters. This route takes commuters through the community of Ironshore, along the Dr. Horace Chang Boulevard, Middle Road, and several other communities, before exiting onto Westgate Boulevard.

Over time, as this route became more popular, there were bottlenecks at critical intersections during the morning and evening peak hours, which then necessitated these intersections being controlled by electronic signals.

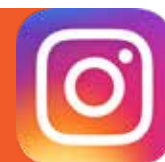
The traffic signals were installed at the intersections of Middle Road and the Felicity roadway; Felicity and Sun Valley Road; Felicity and Salt Spring Road; and Salt Spring Road and Vernon's Drive. These signals are expected to regulate the flow of traffic at these intersections and to improve the safety of road users. The unofficial bypass provides a viable alternative for commuters who wish to avoid the hustle and bustle within the city; while the government works on completing the US\$270 million Montego Bay Bypass Project.



(From left) Dr. Horace Chang, Member of Parliament – North West James, Heroy Clarke – member of Parliament for Central St. James, Richard Vernon, Deputy Mayor of Montego Bay, Robert Francis – Regional Manager (National Works Agency – Western Region) and Barrington Cross – Signal Technician, during the recent commissioning of the traffic signals at the Felicity and Salt Spring Road intersection in St. James.



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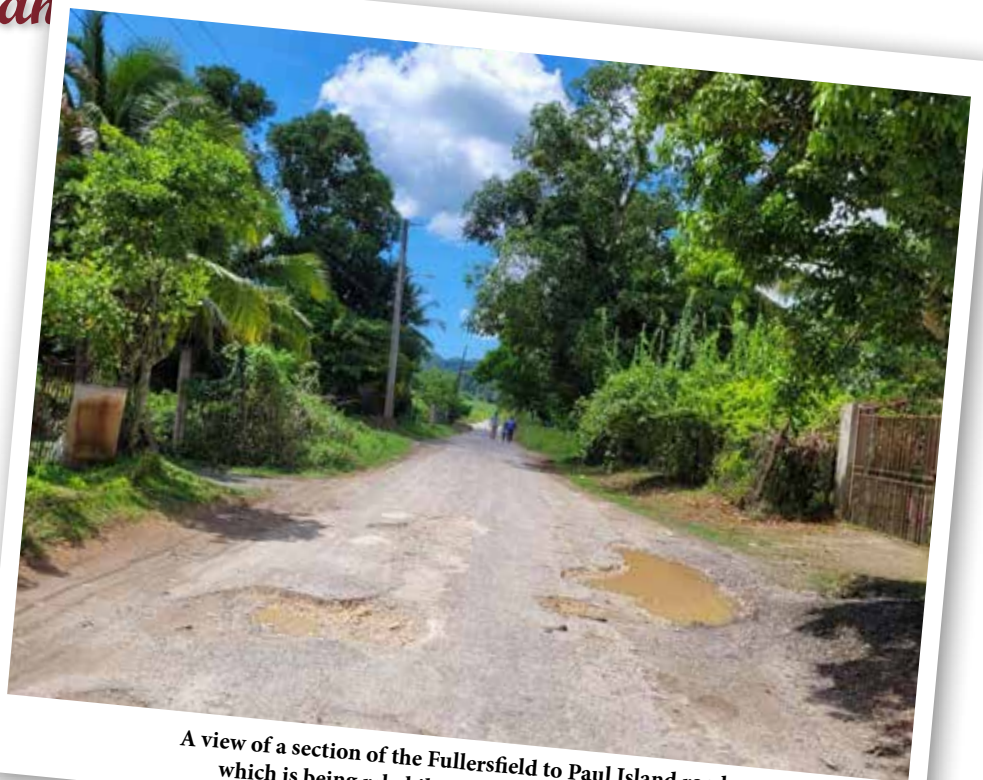




## Multimillion Dollar Road Improvement Projects for Western Westmoreland

Residents of two communities in Western Westmoreland are now breathing a collective sigh of relief as the National Works Agency (NWA) has announced its plans to repair the Grange Hill to Kings Valley main road and the Fullersfield to Paul Island roadway.

The projects are being undertaken at a cost of approximately \$11 million, through the Government of Jamaica's Repair to Scoured and Damaged Roads programme. This programme targets both main roads as well as Parochial Roads and is an answer to the cry of many residents, across the island, who have been faced with poor road conditions, in the aftermath of successive flood events. Many of these roadways have not received attention for some time and so this systematic approach to the repair of these roadways has been welcomed by residents.



A view of a section of the Fullersfield to Paul Island roadway, which is being rehabilitated at a cost of \$9.4 Million.

Since the start of the year, the government has undertaken five similar projects across the parish of Westmoreland, under the programme. This represents a \$50 million dollar investment in the road infrastructure in the parish.

### ROADWAYS TARGETED UNDER THE G.O.J. REPAIRS TO SCoured AND DAMAGED ROADWAYS 2023

Roadways	Status
Darliston – Hopeton	100%
Seaford Town – Marchmont	100%
Macfield - Welcome	40%
Top Hill – Darliston	10%
Hopeton to Auchindown	50%

This latest effort targets two residential communities, in close proximity to each other. The Fullersfield to Paul Island project is located off the Grange Hill to Little London corridor, while the Grange Hill to Kings Valley project is located, mere minutes away, along the Goodens River to Glasgow corridor.

The projects involve drain cleaning, the construction of additional drainage features, and the reshaping and asphaltting of the targeted sections of the roadway. Both projects are expected to commence in September 2023 and are expected to be completed by the end of November 2023.

## Reshaping Cavaliers Roadway

In the heart of St. Andrew, the Cavaliers Roadway is set to undertake another round of remarkable transformation that promises to breathe new life into this vital artery. Commencing in early July, this ambitious project, is set to restore and enhance the Cavaliers Roadway, creating a safer and more accessible corridor for all. Spearheaded by the National Works Agency (NWA) and executed by MatCon Construction Systems Limited, this comprehensive project will reap massive rewards.

Spanning from Stony Hill to Parkes Road in St. Andrew, the Cavaliers Roadway rehabilitation project is an extensive undertaking. The primary objective is to rehabilitate the section that encompasses Cavaliers, covering approximately 9,750 square meters of road. The project includes various critical components such as site clearance, pavement restoration, and pothole repair. As at the end of the quarter, the project stands at an impressive 35 per cent completion, with an expected four-month duration set to conclude at the end of October.



Removal of overhanging trees along the Cavaliers roadway

The rehabilitation project involves a multifaceted approach to address the roadway's issues comprehensively. This includes, bushing, trimming of banks, and the removal of overhanging trees over a distance of 1,500 meters. Additionally, the project includes the removal of silt and debris that have accumulated over the years.

In terms of pavement restoration, the project will undertake scarifying and preparing the formation, applying a base course and prime coat, and overlaying the surface with Asphaltic Concrete. Additionally, the team is actively working on patching potholes and repairing damaged sections covering an area of 450 square meters. This comprehensive scope of work aims to ensure that the Cavaliers Roadway is not only restored but also fortified against future wear and tear.

The rehabilitation of Cavaliers Roadway is part of a broader initiative aimed at maintaining and enhancing secondary roads across the region. Secondary roads, although less visible than major highways, are the lifelines for many communities and businesses. By investing in the upkeep and improvement of these roads, the government is fostering connectivity and supporting local economies.

The Cavaliers Roadway rehabilitation project is being carried out at a cost of \$31,509,100, reflecting the magnitude of the undertaking.

MatCon Construction Systems Limited has been entrusted with the responsibility of executing this transformative project.

As the Cavaliers Roadway transforms before our eyes, it becomes a testament to the enduring spirit of progress and development in St. Andrew.



## *Mount Ararat – The Refuge*



Mount Ararat also known as Mount Ağrı or Masis is a snow-capped and dormant compound volcano in the extreme east of Turkey.

The name “Ararat” was first mentioned in the Bible in the 7th century BC, where it is referred to as the mountain where Noah’s Ark came to rest after the Flood. Mount Ararat, at a height of over 5100 meters, is the tallest peak in the region. According to the Old Testament, as the floodwaters receded, Noah’s ark landed “in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the Mount of Ararat” (Genesis chapter 8). The name of the Kingdom of Ararat (Urartu) is used in the text, and Mount Ararat is now commonly associated with Noah’s Ark.

Did you know though that right here in Maroon Town, St. Ann, there is also a Mount Ararat? There most certainly is.

In September of 2021, The National Works Agency undertook some extensive drainage improvement work along the Hampstead to Mount Ararat roadway located in the community of Salem.

The six-week project was undertaken as part of the Maintenance of Secondary Roads initiative. As part of the works, the construction of concrete v-drains as well as a cross drain, u-drain and asphaltic concrete drain were executed.

A critical component of the overall works completed at the time was a rubble masonry retaining wall which was necessary to maintain the integrity of the roadway.

# 10 Time Management Tips for Busy Professionals

In today's fast-paced world, where the demands of work and personal life often collide, effective time management has become essential for busy professionals. The ability to manage your time efficiently not only increases productivity but also reduces stress and allows for a better work-life balance. Here are 10 tips to help busy professionals achieve better time management:

1. **Prioritize Your Tasks:** Start your day by identifying the most important tasks on your to-do list. Focus on completing high-priority items first to ensure you're tackling what matters most.

2. **Set Clear Goals:** Define clear, achievable goals for your day, week, and even months ahead. Having a roadmap helps you stay on track and minimizes time wasted on indecision.

3. **Create a To-Do List:** Maintain a daily to-do list with tasks organized by priority. A well-structured list can serve as a visual guide for your day, helping you stay organized and on top of your responsibilities.

4. **Time Blocking:** Allocate specific blocks of time for different tasks or types of work. This technique minimizes distractions and ensures you allocate enough time for essential activities.

5. **Learn to Say "No":** Don't overcommit yourself. Politely decline tasks or requests that don't align with your priorities or workload. Saying no when necessary is a valuable skill for time management.

6. **Delegate When Possible:** Don't try to do everything

yourself. Delegate tasks to capable team members or consider outsourcing non-core activities. Trusting others can free up valuable time.

7. **Limit Distractions:** Identify common distractions in your work environment and take steps to minimize them. Turn off non-essential notifications, close unnecessary tabs or apps, and create a focused workspace.

8. **Batch Similar Tasks:** Group similar tasks together and tackle them in one go. This minimizes context switching, making you more efficient in completing related work.

9. **Use Technology Wisely:** Leverage productivity apps and tools to streamline your workflow. Calendar apps, task management software, and note-taking apps can help you stay organized and on top of deadlines.

10. **Reflect and Adjust:** Regularly assess your time management strategies. Identify areas for improvement and adjust your approach accordingly. What works best for you may change over time, so stay flexible.

Effective time management is a skill that can be developed with practice and dedication. By implementing these tips and consistently refining your approach, you can regain control of your time, reduce stress, and achieve better work-life balance as a busy professional. Remember, it's not about doing more but doing what truly matters efficiently.





## EXCITEMENT IS IN THE AIR!

In the twenty-two years that the National Works Agency have been around, one may fully surmise that this is the most exciting news ever. In a recent circular 'From the desk of the CEO' staff was informed of a prestigious upcoming occasion.

*"The National Works Agency (NWA), in celebration of our 22nd anniversary, will be acknowledging all team members, with special emphasis on those members serving for 10 years and more. This recognition will be executed at this year's staging of our annual End of Year Function.*

*The End of Year Function will be celebrated under the theme "Celebrating 22 Years of Excellence". The event will take the form of a Grand Gala as we recognize and celebrate all our employees who have contributed to the significant success of the NWA since its inception on April 1, 2001.*

*Our noted achievements have been made possible only because of the dedication and sacrifices made by our valued team members. Your efforts and dedication have not gone unnoticed.*

*We look forward to celebrating together as we continue to serve this Agency. "*

From then, the excitement brewing from office to office has been quite the buzz. There are indeed a number of staff members who will qualify for the special award to honour those serving for 10 years but even more so, there are a

number of persons who have given over 20 years of stellar service. The Roadster was curious to find out how truly excited these NWA 20-year-olds were. We took some time to catch up with a few of them and posed the question, 'How did you feel when you first read the email regarding the upcoming gala?'

### 21 years: Janice Richards

I felt truly appreciated. I came here as a young lady and have grown basically alongside the Agency. Some others who I started out with, regrettably have passed on, so I feel blessed to still be here to experience this milestone at the Agency. It is a very good initiative to recognize people who help the agency to grow over the years.

### 22 years – Stephanie Green

I forgot where I was and screamed!!!! I could not believe that this day would actually come where we would get the opportunity to go to such a grand place (AC Marriott); And that my team members and myself would be acknowledged for our hard work and dedication to this great institution for the last 22 years.

### 22 Years – Noel Cover

Commendations to the Agency for the initiative and the venue choice is well received. I am definitely looking forward to attending.

