

October 2015

## ALGAJ's Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting of ALGAJ is proposed to be held on November 30, 2015 at a venue to be named in St. James.

Members will be further advised.



### The Disaster Risk Management Act, 2015

The Disaster Risk Management Act 2015 provides for a Board of Management of the office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). ALGAJ was asked to name a member of the Executive to represent the Local Authorities on the Board.

### MIDP/JEEP Infrastructure Improvement

The Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ) wishes to express gratitude to the Ministry of Transportation Works and Housing for allocation of \$140 million to rehabilitate infrastructures across the respective parishes. Further details will be communicated in ALGAJ's next Update/Newsletter.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The 3 strategic Laws to be debated in parliament this month.

### THE 'URBAN GOVERNANCE SURVEY' BY LSE CITIES, UN-HABITAT AND UCLG - PARTICIPATION IS WELCOMED!

LSE Cities, UN-Habitat, and UCLG Committee on Decentralization and Local Governance launched the 2015 edition of the Urban Governance Survey, an initiative to build a global database on current models of urban governance for public dissemination, comparative policy and research analysis. This is part of the how cities are Governed <https://urbangovernance.net/en/> that explores new and innovative ways of communicating and mapping urban governance to address the 'data challenge' on the wide spectrum of different urban governance arrangements that are implemented around the world.

It establishes a platform for individual cities to identify international urban governance cases that are of particular relevance to their specific situations in order to foster dialogue and exchanges of good practices between cities.

The survey was first launched in the summer of 2014 and 78 cities from all world regions completed it during this first round. You can visualize the first results at <https://urbangovernance.net/en/survey-results/>.

We are very keen to include more cities in this analysis and on the website (English, French and Spanish versions available). We invite local governments around the world to participate online; the deadline to participate is 31<sup>st</sup> October.

More information on how to participate here: <https://urbangovernance.net/en/survey-form/> and you can contact the team at: [survey@urbangovernance.net](mailto:survey@urbangovernance.net) to receive directly the questionnaire link.

# CLARENDON PARISH COUNCIL

## **Brand-new road for Thompson Lane Residents**

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Noel Arscott joined Northwest Clarendon Member of Parliament Richard Azan to officially open the newly rehabilitated Thompson Lane road in James Hill, Clarendon on Friday, October 2, 2015.

MP Azan told the small group of grateful residents who gathered to witness the occasion that they were special. He further said he insisted on having the ceremony to mark the road opening because success stories such as a small, remote community getting a paved road for the first time seldom makes news headlines, he said "I think we are hiding our success stories. When I heard Mayor Scean Barnswell said we fixed 154 roads in Clarendon I thought we were somewhere else, that's why I insist on having road openings so that the people know about it. If it were some other excitement the media would have been here. These things don't catch the headlines."

Local Government Minister, Noel Arscott, commended MP Azan on his persistent lobby on behalf of the Thompson Lane residents to have their road repaired. The Local Government Minister explained that with parish councils being responsible for some eighty percent (80%) of the country's roads, it takes strong representation to get a particular road in any one Parish Council Division or constituency repaired.

Minister Arscott boasted that despite the resource constraints his Ministry has so far managed to rehabilitate over 1000 kilometres of parochial roads across the island.

He said "we are doing it for the people, especially for the ones who have never seen roads like this. Each Councillor in the Clarendon Parish Council, can be pleased that at least seven roads have been repaired.

He also made mentioned that seventeen (17) roads were done in the smallest constituency of (Central Kingston)."

The Local Government Minister said the Thompson Lane project would not have been possible without the payment of property taxes and promised residents that he would extend the project if they remained compliant with their property tax payments.

Mayor of May Pen, Councillor Scean Barnswell, pointed out that the Parish Council's 154 parochial road work projects were undertaken between April 2012 and August 2015 were valued at \$300 Mil. and benefitted Clarendon's twenty-two Parish Council Divisions.

## **British Naval officers Work on Clarendon Drop In Centre**

Thirty (30) highly skilled British naval officers joined JDF soldiers to carry out extensive rehabilitative work at the Clarendon Drop-In Centre over three days between September 25 – 27, 2015.

On completion the building, which is earmarked to house a rehabilitative facility for Clarendon's growing street people population, will be ready for occupation.



The Clarendon Drop-In Centre project started just over a year ago and will be operated by the Poor Relief Department of the Clarendon Parish Council.

The British Royal Fleet Auxiliary Lyme Bay, a human disaster relief vessel, is scheduled to dock at the Kingston Wharves on Thursday, September 24, 2015 after assisting with six and half days of post-Hurricane Erica relief in Dominica.



## PORTMORE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

On Friday October 2, 2015, the Portmore Municipal Council observed National Tree Planting Day 2015 by embarking on Tree planting activities along Quarry drive in Bridgeport, Portmore. The Portmore Municipal Council chose the location because it was along a major thoroughfare as well as the fact that the residents had started a beautification project with the planting of trees and erection of benches.



This drive was a collaborative effort with the residents of Quarry drive, the Citizens Association of Bridgeport and Business owners along the Port Henderson road and also the neighboring schools in combating the efforts of climate change. A total of thirty nine (39) trees including; yellow poui, bottlebrush, poor man's orchid, lignum vitae were planted along the Quarry drive.



The Portmore Municipal Council has partnered with The Best Dressed Chicken to develop an initiative that is aimed at standardizing the operation of jerk vendors and promoting Local Economic Development. Under the initiative, thirty (30) jerk vendors will participate in workshops to improve their food safety practices, sanitation and food preparation practices, among other things. The Jerk Carts were handed over to the vendors on July 28, 2015 at the Council Office in Portmore Pines, St. Catherine.

The Best Dressed Chicken commissioned the production of Thirty (30) fully equipped self-contained Jerk Drums, which will be distributed to the jerk vendors participating in the programme. These drums are fully contained to include a hand wash station with water, waste water disposal area, service counter for preparation and serving, as well as a storage area.

## St Elizabeth Parish Council

The St Elizabeth Parish Council and its leader, Mayor of Black River Everton Fisher, have earned high praise for their "creative" initiative in opening a new Poor Relief office in this south central town. Built at a cost of \$3.5 million, the new office on Institution Drive beside the St Elizabeth Infirmary was formally opened on August 4, four months after the start of construction.



The funds came from the Parish Council's sale of prime real estate close to the Santa Cruz commercial centre - site of an old, run-down building which previously accommodated the Poor Relief office as well as the local Red Cross Centre.

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Noel

Arscott commended Mayor Fisher and his Council for being "very creative" in their approach to financing the project without needing to call on central government for help.

The rehabilitated Frazer to Donegal main road, near New Market, in St. Elizabeth, was officially opened on August 4, 2015 by Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Noel Arscott.

The road was repaired at a cost of \$8 million, taken from the St. Elizabeth Parish Council's Equalization Fund. It will serve over 8,000 citizens of the communities.



The Minister said farmers in the communities will be better able to transport their produce to the Lewisville market in New Market, and that the communities are now open for better business and other developmental opportunities.

## St. Catherine Triumphed In Spirit of Independence Competition

The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission under the distinguished patronage of Hon. Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth and Culture hosted the Spirit of Independence Awards Presentation held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at the Louise Bennett Garden Theatre, 36 Hope Road, Kingston.

The competition was designed to bring out the “Spirit of Independence” in every parish and submissions were made in various categories, namely: “**Best decorated Business/Office**” “**Best Decorated Town Square**”, and the “**Best Window Dressing Decorations**”. Media houses were also judged on their involvement in the promotion of the Emancipation and Independence celebrations.

The St. Catherine Parish Council won the award for **Best Decorated Parish/Town Square**. The award was collected by Mr. Michael Morris, Secretary/Manager.

In the meantime, The Transport Authority took home the award for Best Decorated Business/Office and Monarch Pharmacy for Best Window Dressing Decorations.

For involvement in the promotion of the Emancipation and Independence celebrations, RJR won the award for Radio, CVM TV for television, The Jamaica Observer for Print and Lizzpush for online.

The St. Catherine Parish Council uses this medium to extend sincere thanks to the Management and Administrative Team who were instrumental in making the town centres in St. Catherine, particularly Emancipation Square, Spanish Town, feel the true Spirit of Independence 2015, namely:

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Norman Scott  
Mr. Michael Morris, Secretary/Manager  
Mrs. Nicholee Downie, Dir. of Administration  
(and staff)  
Mrs. Patricia Lewis, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator  
Mrs. Collette Smith Palmer – Community Programmes Coordinator  
Mr. Romond Fisher – Deputy Superintendent, Roads and Works



*Secretary/Manager of the St. Catherine Parish Council, Mr. Michael Morris, JP., receives the award from Hon. Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth and Culture*



*Commissioner Pamella Redwood of the JCDC's Board of Commissioners presents Mr. Morris with the St. Catherine Parish Council's Certificate of participation*

# Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation

Kingston's Mayor Senator Councillor Dr Angela Brown Burke has been invited to participate in the Cities 2030: Vision, Leadership and Public Service Excellence International Workshop, Singapore from October 5 – 6, 2015.

This consultative workshop jointly organized by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), the UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (GCPSE) and the Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC); brings together city mayors, city chief executives/managers and development expert-practitioners and is designed to contribute to the new UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global debate on urbanisation, urban governance and development and will address the new sustainable development goal on cities, which will apply to cities in all countries.

The event seeks to explore how the political and administrative leadership combine to handle the complexity of the urban system and how to reform governance models to address increasingly complex challenges. It is recommended that each city should therefore be represented by a team of a politician and administrator.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to share experiences and also contribute towards the aims and practical work plan of the new Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network which was agreed by the CLGF Board at its meeting in Gaborone in June 2015.

There will further be an opportunity to learn about Singapore's journey to become a liveable, smart and efficient city (past, present and future).

Mayor Brown Burke is accompanied by the Town Clerk, Mr. Robert Hill.

## Courtesy visit from Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera



Her Worship the Mayor of Kingston, Senator Councillor Dr. Angela Brown Burke, J.P., recently received a Courtesy visit from Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera, Deputy Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera reviewed key issues concerning bilateral cooperation between Jamaica and Mexico.

Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera was accompanied by Her Excellency Cecilia Jaber, Ambassador of Mexico to Jamaica, Ms. Marcela Carrillo, Ambassador Morgan and Ms. Araceli Grave.

# C A R I L E D

On September 16, 2015, a meeting took place in Kingston, Jamaica with administrative and political representatives from eight (8) Parish Councils to raise awareness about Phase II under the CARILED program. The meeting received presentations from the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and CARILED. Parish Councils were invited to submit written expressions of interest to CARILED to participate in Phase II. Phase II in Jamaica is expected to launch in Q3.



**Pic. above Kingston**

Ten (10) LEDOs participated in Local Economic Development (LED) training in Trelawny, Jamaica from September 21 - 25, 2015. The training was led by Mrs. Marilyn MacArthur, Federation of Canadian Municipalities volunteer from Vulcan, Alberta. The LEDOs represented the six (6) municipalities engaged under Phase I and the Social Development Commission under the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development. The training focused on building institutional capacity to facilitate LED of local authorities in Jamaica. Additional updates on Phase II and training in Jamaica can be found on the [CARILED website](#).



**Pic. above Trelawny Falmouth**

## **Business Support, ICT & Other Services**

CARILED approved support for the Skills Training and Empowerment LDP in **Clarendon, Jamaica** on September 21, 2015. The Training for Peckham Bamboo Project will see fifteen locals from Clarendon, Jamaica, trained in pre-processing techniques for bamboo production. The aim of the training is improved employee productivity and reduced resource waste. The training forms part of a much larger initiative under The Peckham Development Community Bamboo Project, with financial and technical contributions from the OAS, the Chinese government, the National Housing Trust, The Planning Institute of Jamaica, the SDC and the Peckham Citizens Association, among others.

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development on September 15, 2015 re ALGAJ's Workshop. Persons in attendance were Mayor Scean Barnswell, Councillor Audrey Smith-Facey and Ms. Stephannie Hutchinson (NCC – CARILED)

## **November 2015 Alternate Workshop**

It was recommended that a one day session with Mayors and Deputy Mayors looking at LED, Accountability etc.

Cllr. Audrey Smith-Facey will obtain feedback from the Mayors and Deputy Mayors regarding date and topics to be discussed

The training will be one-day sessions, 9am – 5pm

It was recommended that the workshop be held in 2016 instead of the date that was proposed, November 2015

## Signing of The Memorandum of Understanding and Launch of Building Code Training

The official training of officers from the Parish Council commenced on Tuesday, August 18, 2015, and was completed on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at the University of Technology Jamaica (UTECH Ja.) Over 50 officers completed the course where they attended classes once weekly.

The feedback from the officers was that the course was an overwhelming success. After this initial training, the plan is to regionalise the training for the other officers, professionals and other practitioners in the construction industry who are interested in this training.

The Regional campuses would alleviate travel woes that were encountered by some of the officers coming into Kingston. The campuses would mainly be in the three counties: Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey. However the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development would decide on the campus location.

The MOU launch for the Building Code Training was held on September 16, 2015, in Conference Room D at the Ministry Of Local Government and Community Development. The Hon. Minister Noel Arscoff delivered the main address to the stakeholders in attendance. After the exchange of greetings and opening remarks, the MOU was signed by the Hon. Minister and Professor Colin Gyles, Acting President of UTECH.

The general consensus of all the speakers was that with this training on in earnest, the safety of the construction of buildings should be significantly improved in Jamaica, whilst the Code is adhered to.

## RENOVATION OF ALGAJ OFFICE

Renovation was recently done to the office of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ) situated at 1 Brooks Avenue May Pen, by the Clarendon Parish Council.



Right—Mayor Sean Barnswell, President of ALGAJ—left, Mr. James Samuels, General Secretary, ALGAJ

The Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica, 1 Brooks Avenue, May Pen.

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*Thank you for your continued support*