



**His Worship The Mayor,
Councillor Scean Barnswell's
Message for Clarendon Parish
Council's Local Government
Month Gleaner Supplement**



I am proud to be the Chairman of the Clarendon Parish Council, a position which affords me the opportunity to steward the development of arguably Jamaica's fastest growing parish and parish capital.

In this my second year as Mayor of May Pen, I have seen the parish develop exponentially in commerce and trade, even as congestion in some major town centres and squatting have increased.

Clearly some of the changes have brought great benefits to the parish and the Council, but others have severely challenged our efforts to regulate, monitor and maintain critical aspects of the built environment in a manner which is becoming of the proud and hard-working citizens we serve.

I welcome development to the parish. In fact, I want to see all of Clarendon's 81 recognized communities prosper and thrive. But as Mayor, ensuring that this development is sustainable is far more important than merely being able to boast of a growth spurt.

My fellow councillors and I as well as the administrative staff at the Clarendon Parish Council have to perform a delicate balancing act in many respects. We will not however be able to attain equilibrium without attracting partnership and buy-in from our constituents, customers and citizens on a whole.

We will never be able to sustain any gains we make if we do not plan for the long term and move away from the ‘projectised’ approach to development. That is why our team of planners took care and time during the envisioning stages of the Local Sustainable Development Program (LSDP) to ensure that all aspects of Clarendon’s vast potential was duly considered in planning the development policy and approach for the parish.

We are looking forward to the LSDP Secretariat’s recommendations of a practical solution to alleviate congestion in some of our major towns, how best to expand our market district and best practices in sewerage management.

As the Clarendon Parish Council continues to embark on its quest to reform the parish, I pause to acknowledge the commitment and continuous support of the business community along with other government and non-government agencies. It is through these partnerships that the local authority will become a more powerful entity that is able to truly represent the people we serve. Let us continue to work together to uphold a much stronger and successful Council.