

**REPORT ON THE THREE STRATEGIC LAWS REFORM - THE
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

The Local Governance Bill

The revised draft Bill was received from the Office of the Parliamentary (OPC) in June and is being revised. Further drafting instructions are being prepared by the Ministry to be issued to the OPC. As soon as the Bill is deemed settled, it will be submitted to the Legislation Committee of Cabinet, thereafter to the Cabinet for approval to be tabled in the Houses.

The Local Government (Unified Service and Employment) Bill

This Bill was reviewed by the Legislation Committee of Cabinet and given approval to be submitted to Cabinet. Upon Cabinet's approval the Bill will be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

Local Government Financing and Financial Management Bill

Further drafting instructions were issued to the OPC in respect of this Bill. The revised Bill will be submitted to the Legislation Committee of Cabinet and thereafter to Cabinet for approval that the Bill be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

Overall, the Bills have a maximum of two stages before they are ready to be tabled in the House of Representatives.

**Postponement of Local Government Elections until
December 29, 2016.**

Two Bills were passed in the House of Representatives on June 30 to allow for the postponement of Local Government Elections until December 29, 2016.

The elections were due to be held not later than June 30, 2015.

The Bills passed are the Parish Councils General Election (Postponement) Act and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation General Election (Postponement) Act.

Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Noel Arcsott, said the postponement of the elections will allow for implementation of elements of the Local Government Reform Programme.

ATTENTION ALL COUNCILLORS

The Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica (ALGAJ) has postponed it's Half Yearly Meeting.

The meeting was scheduled to be held on July 22 , 2015 at the Golf View Hotel, Mandeville commencing at 9:00 a.m.

A new date will be communicated to the Local Authorities.

ALGAJ wishes to apologize for any inconvenience caused.



CLGF 2015 Conference Gaborone, Botswana, 16-19 June 2015

The President of ALGAJ Mayor Scean Barnswell , Councillor Audrey Smith—Facey, Vice President of ALGAJ and Councillor Andrew Swaby, Co-opted member of ALGAJ were all in attendance.

This being CLGF’s 20th Anniversary since its founding in 1995; the Secretary—General Mr. Carl Wright presented a special report on 20 years of CLGF and Local Government 2030: “Achieving the Vision” - the importance of local government in economic development and cities as engine of economic growth.

Our delegation participated in in-depth working groups discussion:

(Picture to right)

At the close of a successful conference the President was selected to give the vote of thanks for the fifty three (53) commonwealth countries present and approximately 500 delegates in attendance.

Also in attendance were Minister of State Hon. Colin Fagan and Mr. Clive Edwards from the MLGCD.



1. Multi-level governance, intergovernmental relations and role of LGAs in meeting the SDGs.
2. Governing with the citizen: promoting transparent and accountable local governments
3. Elected Councillors and Parliamentarians working together nationally and locally for development
4. Inclusive local government, involving women and young people to achieve the SDGs
5. Developmental local government building partnerships with civil society for development
6. Local economic development as a means of implementing the post –2015 agenda in Africa
7. Mobilizing financial resources domestically and internationally
8. Partnering with private sector to promote economic growth
9. Smart cities: Using ICT to stimulate local economics
10. Shared responsibility for sound natural resource management
11. Cities as engines of growth and innovation: towards a new urban agenda 2030
12. Connecting urban, peri-urban and rural areas through development planning
13. Local responses to climate change and disaster management
14. The role of LED in ensuring sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth
15. Reducing inequality and supporting employment opportunities for young people

COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM
GABORONE STATEMENT ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND LOCALISING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Board, meeting in Gaborone, Botswana, 16 June 2015, on the eve of the CLGF 20th Anniversary Conference, *Local Government 2030: achieving the vision*, hosted by Hon Slumber Tsgowane and Rev Mpho Moruakgomo, chaired by Mayor Lawrence Yule and attended by local government leaders, ministers, senior officials and other key stakeholders from Africa the Americas, Asia, the Pacific and Europe:

Celebrates the 20th Anniversary of CLGF and its achievements in support of local democracy and developmental local government 1995-2015 and pays tribute to the support provided during these two decades, notably by past Patrons, Board members and its many prominent alumni, with which it plans to maintain active engagement.

Celebrates further the 800th Anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, which underlies common law and legal systems in many Commonwealth countries, including provisions for democratic local government elections, in line with the CLGF *Aberdeen Principles* and the provisions of the *Commonwealth Charter*.

Underlines that a key objective of CLGF since its establishment has been to support its members, local governments, local government associations and ministries of local government to implement decentralisation, good governance and improved service delivery, notably through technical advice, knowledge sharing and capacity-building.

Recognises that building effective, democratic developmental local government requires institutional capacity and know-how, which in turn necessitates access to financial and other resources through improved revenue collection, greater fund-raising powers, enhanced central-local budget transfers and direct access to international development finance, both bilateral and multilateral, as well to capital and bond markets.

Recalls the 2014 CLGF *Abuja Declaration on Local Democracy and Development in the Commonwealth*, especially its call that localising of SDGs is accompanied by localisation of resources and that CLGF should develop programmes 2016-20 to support its members to localise the SDGs.

Aware that global urbanisation, the role of cities as engines of economic growth and innovation, requires a greater CLGF engagement with and support for achieving inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements across the Commonwealth.

Notes that the forthcoming UN Summit, New York, September 2015 and the preceding Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, July 2015, will be key events at which the 2015-2030 Development Agenda will be determined, including related issues of means of implementation such as capacity and resources and follow-up and review, where local governments expects a 'bottom-up' approach, involving localisation of the SDGs in line with the 2013 CLGF *Munoyono Statement* endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government.

Welcomes the significant progress achieved since 2014 through the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments on the post-2015 Development Agenda and Habitat III at the UN negotiations on the new sustainable development goals (SDGs), notably the proposed SDG on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements and the recognition, also underlined by Commonwealth Heads of Government in 2014, that the Agenda should address effective and accountable institutions at all levels.

Applauds the growing recognition of the role of developmental local government by development partners and the conclusion of strategic partnerships between CLGF and key partners such as DFID, the EU, UNDP, New Zealand Aid Program, Cities Alliance and others.

Encouraged by the recognition in the 2014 UN *Turin Statement on Localising the Post-2015 Agenda*, that local and regional governments are essential for promoting inclusive sustainable development and necessary partners in the implementation of the post-2015 Agenda and in particular its call for national governments and the UN to strongly advocate for the localisation of the agenda, as well as localising resources.

Encouraged further by the recognition in the 2015 UN *Chisinau Outcome Statement on Strengthening Capacities and Building Effective Institutions for the Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda* of the need to strengthen the capacity of local authorities and their associations, and its stress on the importance of establishing suitable financing mechanisms to support the strengthening of capacities and building effective institutions at all levels, including through the localisation of resources alongside localising the SDGs, and its recommendation that this issue be considered at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Accordingly:

Calls on Commonwealth Governments, in line with the endorsements already provided by Heads of Government in 2013 and 2014, to actively support at the forthcoming Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and in the remaining UN intergovernmental negotiations on means of implementation and follow-up and review mechanisms for post-2015, the localising of the SDGs through local government, as well as ensuring inclusion of suitable financing mechanisms to support the strengthening of local governments and their associations.

Urges the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in its proposed Addis Ababa Accord, to acknowledge that in many countries responsibilities for revenues, expenditures and investments in sustainable development are devolved to the sub-national level and local governments and that these often require adequate technical capacity, financing and support, and to commit to mechanisms to assist them, including to strengthen capacity, particularly in areas of infrastructure development, local taxation, sectoral finance and debt issuance and management, including access to bond markets and through international cooperation; as well as to acknowledge the need to support local governments' wide remit such as energy, transport, water and sanitation, and responding to climate change and disaster risk management in line with the 2015 Sendai Framework.

Looks to all Governments to partner with local government to implement the post-2015 Development Agenda 2015-2030 and to ensure that the necessary mechanisms exist at both national and global levels to facilitate this vital partnership.

Seeks the engagement of international development partners, the corporate sector and other partners, to support local government with resources to help realise the localisation of the SDGs, including through the conclusion of new strategic partnerships with CLGF 2016-2020, notably for capacity-building and institutional development of local governments and their associations.

Encourages the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Malta, to agree to practical measures to demonstrate how the Commonwealth and its many organisations and networks can collectively add global value towards the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, based on more strategic cooperation between, in particular, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth Associated Organisations such as CLGF, which have significant capacity, membership outreach and democratic legitimacy to contribute to toward such global value.

Agrees the establishment of a *Commonwealth Sustainable Cities* network with representation on the CLGF Board.

Agrees further the launch, as mandated by the 2014 Abuja Board meeting, of an alumni network of *CLGF Advocates*, composed of prominent individual members, willing to act as personal advocates for CLGF and local government.

“Negotiation of Public-Private partnerships for SMART City Management” which took place in Oslo, Norway on 29–30th June 2015.

The Uraía Platform was launched in June 2014 with the objective to bring together local governments and their partners in the search for innovation in city management. The idea behind Uraía rises from the fact that many cities, especially in the developing world, are increasingly using SMART and mobile technologies in the daily management of public services, but many have difficulties in keeping up with adapting public management to this changing environment.

The idea of creating Uraía originated in the need of cities to access a space of exchange about the possibilities offered by SMART technologies in three specific aspects of city management: a) increasing municipal revenue, b) decreasing the cost of public services and c) providing more transparent and accountable channels of communication between the city managers and the citizen.

Objective

The final objective of the Workshop was to produce a set of Guidelines addressed to support local governments to negotiate contracts with the private sector in the implementation of SMART technologies applied to municipal management. The guidelines looked at different case studies presented during the workshop, looking for lessons learnt and common mistakes to be avoided during the negotiation and implementation of PPPs. The task was not easy, given the different national laws and administration cultures, but we hoped to produce an easy and applicable tool including a series of recommendations to look into the agreements to ensure transparency, fairness and a good working relationship between the private and the public sectors.

The president of ALGAJ Mayor Scean Barnswell was a member of a panel sharing the country's experience in PPP and how this new initiative will impact on the Local Authorities in Jamaica.

Participants:

The activity was addressed to:

- Cities and local governments both in developing and industrialized countries
- National governments, in particular Ministries for finance, public administration or innovation.
- Associations of local governments.
- Private companies involved in the provision of public services, innovation in public administration, telecommunications, mobile apps, etc.



You can visit their website @ www.uraia.org .

KSAC's Dance in the Park Initiative

While we continue encouraging cooperation and integration among members of staff, our citizens and other stakeholders, the KSAC under the auspices of Her Worship the Mayor Senator Councillor Dr. Angela Brown Burke, J.P., has established an initiative entitled “**Dance in the Park**” with weekly activities inside St. William Grant Park.

Dance in the Park showcases a range of healthy lifestyle programmes which are crucial in promoting increased fitness and health.

Since its inception, the initiative has received growing support from members of the various communities across the municipality and from other stakeholders

It provides an opportunity for entrepreneurship and showcases a different genre of dance each week in a free and safe environment.

Some of the genres so far explored include soca, dancehall, modern folk, chacha, merengue, bachata and kuduro.



KSAC's Enterprise Assistance Programme

In June 2015, the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation (KSAC) awarded \$430,000 in grants to six aspiring entrepreneurs from the Corporate Area at its Grant Handover Ceremony.

The grant assistance was provided under the KSAC's Enterprise Assistance Programme, which was launched in February 2015, as part of a move to encourage economic growth and development.

The initiative aims to provide financial assistance, training, development and technical support to existing and aspiring entrepreneurs in Kingston and St Andrew.

The six recipients are from diverse backgrounds with varied entrepreneurial interests ranging from farming to Internet and printing services.

Awards were presented in three categories: Wage Incentive, valued at \$130,000; Business Improvement, \$100,000 and Start-up, \$50,000.

There were four recipients of the Start-up grant —Akeem Harvey, Kedist Colliard, Racquel Layne and Tashana Radcliffe; Michael-Ann Edwards received the Business Improvement grant; and Verol Moody received the Wage Incentive award.

The entrepreneurs will receive technical assistance from various business development organizations to ensure the success of their operations.



(Group pic. on right)

Enterprise Caption: Mayor of Kingston Dr Angela Brown Burke (centre), and business development officer for Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited, Tresha Hamilton-Marshall (third left), share a moment with grant recipients under the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation’s (KSAC) Enterprise Assistance Programme. The award ceremony was held on recently at the KSAC’s headquarters in downtown Kingston. The awardees (from left) are Michael-Ann Edwards; Kedist Colliard; Akeem Harvey; Racquel Layne; and Verol Moody

St. Ann Parish Council

The St. Ann Infirmary was given a donation of a refrigerator purchased from the proceeds of offering received at the funeral of the late Councillor and Deputy Mayor of St. Ann's Bay Luther Spence, who was also a former Chairman of the Poor Relief Committee of the St Ann Parish Council. The presentation was made by his wife Mrs. Beryl Spence, President of the group Friends of the Infirmary.

The Labour Day Parish Project was held at Widow's Mite Home for abandoned children in Murray Mount, Calderwood Division. The support from the Agencies was overwhelming and a lot of work was accomplished during the day. Additionally, the operator of the home was pleased with the level of work that was undertaken and the general support from the Agencies.

In an effort to foster a direct linkage with the Jamaican Diaspora overseas, the Government of Jamaica has embarked on a Sister City Relationship to enable not only cultural exchange but also transfer of knowledge and assistance towards the further development of the countries involved.

Gloucester, in the United Kingdom is one of our Sister Cities and have been twinned with St. Ann's Bay, St. Ann since 1987.

Persons from Gloucester have visited this Garden Parish and this exchange has been reciprocated on more than one occasions.

Members of the St. Ann Parish Council on Thursday, June 18, 2015 witnessed a special gesture between sisters in the form of a presentation by Her Excellency The Honourable Aloun Ndombet Assamba – Jamaican High Commissioner in the United Kingdom of a cheque in the amount of £1,000.



Manchester Parish Council

The 1.9 kilometre West Road, which serves residents of Cobbla and adjacent Communities in Northeast Manchester was rehabilitated under Phase Four of the Jamaica Emergency employment Programme (JEEP, a component of the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) and the Manchester Parish Council at a cost of \$6.5 million.

The roadway, which was completed in March, 2015, was symbolically reopened by Transport, Works and Housing State Minister, Hon. Richard Azan on Thursday, June 11, 2015. The State Minister emphasized the need to effect road repairs, particularly within communities, and to maintain the corridors. To this end, he said there is need for property owners to pay the requisite taxes to assist in facilitating road maintenance programmes. He urged the Parish Council to ensure compliance by property owners.

Meanwhile, Mayor of Mandeville and Chairman of the Manchester Parish Council, Brenda Ramsay encouraged the residents to assist in maintaining the roadway. "Even if we (Council) don't get to it with the regularity that we should, if there was a drain that was blocked . . . take steps to have it cleared, in the interim," she told the residents.

For her part, JEEP' Programme Director, Carolyn Gardner, also welcomed completion of the West Road Project, which she noted started under the tenure of her predecessor, Lucile Brodber.



ST. CATHERINE PARISH COUNCIL SAYS FAREWELL TO MEMBERS OF STAFF

Members and Staff of the St. Catherine Parish Council officially said farewell and thanks to Mrs. Mycola Soulette-Munroe, Acting Director of Administration on Thursday, July 2, 2015 in the Council's meeting room.

Mrs. Munroe's journey with the Council started when she was employed in 1994. Subsequent to her resignation and re-employment in 1996 she was transferred to the Portmore Municipality in 2008 and was seconded to the St. Catherine Parish Council in 2013 to act in the Human Resource Unit as Head of Administration.

Mrs. Munroe will take up office at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Council (KSAC) on secondment in the vacant position of Director of Administration effective, Monday, July 06, 2015.

Miss Camille Bethune former member of staff (Administration) who had gone on to the KSAC just over a month ago was also asked to be present at the official farewell.

The Management and Staff of the St. Catherine Parish Council use this medium to convey thanks and much appreciation to Mrs. Mycola Soulette Munroe and Miss Camille Bethune for having served the St. Catherine Parish Council significantly over the years and wish them all the best as they serve at the KSAC

Effective Monday, July 06, 2015, Mrs. Nicolee Henry-Downy is the new Director of Administration at the St. Catherine Parish Council.



St. Elizabeth Parish Council

A number of schools that are located in drought stricken areas of St. Elizabeth will now be able to store water for their daily consumption. A total of seven(7) 450 gallon water tanks were presented to the following basic and primary schools on June 11, 2015:

Martha Simpson and Barbary Hall Basic Schools; Roses Valley, Fullers wood, Pedro Plains, Top Hill and Warminster Primary are the schools that have benefitted from this school tank project which is an initiative of Sujae Boswell who was the 2013 Junior Mayor for St. Elizabeth.



The first of the seven water tank was presented to Miss. Sonia Reynolds.

The 19-year-old Boswell, who was recently installed as the new Youth Ambassador for the Commonwealth, says that he was very happy to have initiated the project as his Junior Mayor project.

"I feel quite pleased to be helping the schools in this way, because our parish St. Elizabeth continues to be affected by drought and the schools are always being affected", Boswell said.



2013 Junior Mayor Sujae Boswell, (centre) making the first presentation of Black water tank to miss Marcia Reynolds of Fullers Wood Primary School. The presentation took place on the ground of the St. Elizabeth Parish Council on June 11, 2015. Sharing in the moment are Mayor Everton Fisher, Councillors Derrick Sangster and Layton Smith (right). From left are: Miss. Tracy Reynolds, David Gardner, Councillors; Gregory Myers and Cytany Holness

The project undertaken by the former Junior Mayor was funded by the Ministry of local Government in Association with the St. Elizabeth Parish Council.

Obituary

ALGAJ expresses sincere condolences to Audrey Smith-Facey Councillor KSAC and Vice President of ALGAJ who lost her brother Anthony Smith on 11/6/15 and was buried on 4/7/15