**SECTORAL PRESENTATION, FY 2019/20**

**By PHILLIP PAULWELL, CD, MP**

**OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN FOR ENERGY & MINING**

**Theme: Protecting the People – Safeguarding their**

**interests**

**Commendations:** Mr. Speaker, I begin my contribution with thanks to the Almighty for health and strength to continue serving my constituency and our beloved country.

I especially thank my constituents who continue to give me, their love, loyalty and unfailing support.

I also thank my two hardworking Councillors, Lorraine Dobson and Jacqueline Lewis. Despite challenges we continue to achieve significant developments in

infrastructure, education and training, entrepreneurship, employment, health care, care for the less fortunate, and other interventions that impact the lives and welfare of our constituents.

These positive achievements have been made possible through the hard work and dedication of my faithful and committed Constituency Executive and Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you, the Clerk and the hard-working staff of this Parliament; as well all my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

My special gratitude to the President of our great Party and Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Peter Phillips. He continues to inspire and keep us focused on our mission to ensure we have policies and programmes that will keep us steadfast in our covenant to build a Jamaica that works for all our people.

Special thanks to all my family members and close friends who continue to assist me especially during the twists and turns of this political life. You have helped to keep me grounded and steadfast.

**Constituency Matters:** Mr. Speaker, this House failed to schedule the usual Constituency Debate last year, so I will take a few minutes to raise two matters of great concern to me and my constituents:

**1. Windward Road Improvement Project:** I wish to

place on record our dissatisfaction with the road

improvement being undertaken along a section of

Windward Road in the Constituency. Mr. Speaker,

shortly before we demitted office, plans for the

development of an elegant corridor, from the

Norman Manley Airport into the city were in an

advanced stage.

The project was to commence initially with a major focus on the Windward Road for full rehabilitation from Rockfort to Elletson Road. This would have seen upgrading of the pavements, construction of kerb walls and sidewalks, installation of new lighting and signage and a general beautification of the area.

This was also to include Mountain View Avenue.

 To our amazement, the project has been downsized with only road surface improvements from Rockfort to the Mountain View Avenue intersection. In fact, the contract that was signed did not even have provisions for kerb wall and sidewalks. This was partly remedied, only after my strenuous appeals to the Prime Minister. While kerb walls are now being installed there is still no provision for sidewalks despite repeated assurances from the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker, we are not envious of the

improvements currently taking place in Barbican and

Constant Spring, but we must ask; why are the people of downtown being treated differently than those uptown? When you continue to operate in this way you only cement the widely held view that there is classism by this Government. I call on the Prime

Minister, under whose portfolio the National Works

Agency falls, for the full restoration of the original

plans for this project.

**2. Port Royal Development:** When we speak of

strategic, integrated development we mean that

development should be inclusive. The proposed

development of Port Royal, including the Cruise Ship

Port is a case in point.

As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, there have been

many proposals to capitalize on the potential of Port

Royal.

Given its historical, ecological and environmental importance as well as other social and economic factors, successive governments have moved very carefully with implementing plans to exploit the value of this national asset.

In addition, it was recognized that the residents of the community must be an integral part of any

development.

While we welcome the latest initiative by the Port

Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) to develop Port Royal as a

tourist resort, we urge the authorities to proceed in a more consultative manner. We are very concerned

that much is swirling about the project and things are

happening which might prove to be premature and

another waste of effort. We support the role being

played by the government’s regulatory entities

concerned with the cultural and natural resources as

well as the planning and development. However, a

greater effort must be made to involve the people’s

representatives and broad-based stakeholder

interests including residents, youth and the local

business community.

What about those early pioneers in the Port Royal

Development Company, led by Bobby Stephens who

had done much of the developmental work at great

cost to themselves and the Government? Why is this

project being developed in such secrecy?

Over the years, under successive administrations, the citizens of the area have had to contend with

inadequate housing, water and sewage problems,

and other challenges. Because the development plans were in a state of flux, appropriate and permanent solutions were often delayed. Now that the cruise shipping and other tourism potential are being realized, we must not leave the people behind.

First, we need to fix the perennial housing, water and

sewage problems. Then we need to enter consultations with respect to training, entrepreneurship, and the necessary social and

economic adjustment that residents need to make.

We also have to focus on the re-orientation of the

people which will be required for seamless

integration into the developments as partners,

beneficiaries and key stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, it is not too late to involve Port Royalists!

Our people must not be left behind in the process of

development. **We must safeguard the People’s interest**

**Introduction to Sectoral Presentation:**

Mr. Speaker, in this presentation I will focus on Mining and Energy. These two sectors are critical to sustainable national development. Despite encouraging developments, the mining sector remains fragile while the energy sector has been mired in scandals, adverse scrutiny and uncertainty.

The state of affairs in the Mining Sector calls for proactive intervention while in the Energy Sector, the situation requires serious attention and accountability.

**ENERGY**

Mr. Speaker, the concept of energy as the lifeblood of Jamaica’s economy has been embraced by successive administrations. Jamaica’s sustainable development, economic competitiveness and the quality of life of our people depend on access to affordable energy.

During my tenure as minister, we pursued an energy

policy that positioned the sector on a secure and

sustainable development trajectory. The promulgation and implementation of our policies were transparent, the process collaborative and the implementation inclusive.

The national interest was paramount and as far as was possible, stakeholder participation was our preferred practice. Our collective mission was purposeful, our effort strategic and our vision focussed.

We were about our country’s business and national development spurred by affordable energy was our sole objective.

**National Energy Council:** Mr Speaker, the Member from St. Andrew Eastern has been appointed Minister of Science, Energy and Technology during perhaps the most tumultuous period in our energy sector. She has a tough task ahead as I wish her nothing but the best. However, as I did with her predecessor (which fell on deaf ears) I ask her with this Parliament and the nation as witnesses; please restore the National Energy Council. Avail yourself

of the invaluable support, guidance to me as Minister, the Ministry and the energy sector.

Mr. Speaker, I deliberately engaged stakeholder

representatives, (including the then Opposition) in regular consultations. To facilitate this constructive engagement, I established the National Energy Council and held quarterly meetings to accommodate feedback; review developments; set targets; promulgate policies and programmes and ensure the timely and seamless implementation.

Programmes that benefitted from these regular

consultations included: Energy Diversification;

Modernizing Jamaica’s Electricity Sector; Promotion of Renewables; Energy Conservation; Divestment of Energy Assets; Oil and Gas Exploration; the Petroleum Trade; Electricity and other issues of national importance and concern.

The collaborative process worked; constructive

engagement proved beneficial. In addition, the council provided a critical oversight function and contributed to transparency, probity and the

smooth implementation of public policies.

Mr Speaker we must move to complete the energy

transformation we started.

We implemented game-changing developments and we gave momentum to the speed and magnitude of investments in renewables and modernizing the generation of electricity. Not much has happened by way of new initiatives since 2016.

That momentum has slowed significantly because of

misguided policies, mismanagement and bungling. For the country to regain the momentum, the current administration must become more proactive and inclusive. It has to change the haphazard way the portfolio has been managed over the past three years. It must also commit to ensuring that the benefits being realized from the efforts of the last administration are distributed to the people.

**Energy Diversification - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):** Mr. Speaker, after many failed attempts, the PNP brought LNG to Jamaica as the preferred fuel for the generation of electricity.

It was at a price and with conditions to spur

positive developments in the energy sector. Our goal was to ensure that once the economies of scale kicked in, smaller enterprises and institutions would be motivated to access LNG. The introduction of LNG into Jamaica’s energy mix has already opened up prospects for numerous local entities: The construction of the new 190 MW gas-fired, combined-cycle, electricity-generating plant at the JPS facility in Old Harbour is in an advanced stage; a cogeneration plant offering 94 megawatts of baseload capacity to the national grid is being constructed at the Jamalco plant in Clarendon; while the University of the West Indies (UWI) is moving apace with its LNG project and Red Stripe is now reaping the benefits of that process.

In fact, Jamaica’s Energy Policy identified natural gas as an alternative to heavy fuel oil, which at that time accounted for more than 80 per cent of the generated electricity of the country.

The policy established that natural gas should

make up 26 per cent of Jamaica's total energy supply by 2020 and 42 per cent by 2030.

We had put the country on track to achieve this.

**Need for LNG Guidelines & Regulations:**

Mr. Speaker, the potential for LNG use in Jamaica is huge but the government needs to promulgate the appropriate guidelines and regulations to facilitate investments in the sector.

The guidelines and regulations must encourage competition not a monopoly. Competition will lead to new investments resulting in better prices for the consumer and a more robust industry for the country.

**Consumer Must Benefit From LNG:**

Importantly, any legislation/regulation must ensure that the Jamaican consumer benefits directly from the use of cheaper LNG for generating electricity.

The consumer must not be used to subsidize the cost of the LNG infrastructure for the hub which is designed to serve other end users.

**You must safeguard the people’s interest.**

With the introduction of LNG for electricity generation, we wish to emphasize that the gas must continue to be regarded as the pass-through fuel in calculating the cost of electricity. We had established an upper ceiling of US$0.12.89 per kWh, (the price at which the LNG fired plants would sell to JPSCo).

However, we believe that the Jamaican consumer must benefit from any LNG cost-saving.

Mr. Speaker, the Government must disclose whether it has maintained the LNG price ceiling we set.

The people have a right to know the pricing formula

agreed on in the signed Power Purchase Agreement with JPSCo. Today I am tabling questions to get these important answers.

**Accessibility to Electricity:**

Mr. Speaker, the efforts we made to diversify energy was to ensure that we protect the people, especially the poor and vulnerable. Our guiding principle as a party is that no one should be left behind in the process of development. Jamaicans must enjoy the benefits that flow from that process. As a right every Jamaican must have access to affordable electricity, no one should be left in the dark.

That is why we broadened the mandate of the Rural

Electrification Programme (REP) and changed its name to National Energy Solutions Limited (NESol). We mandated the new company to provide electricity to those far removed from the national electricity grid by utilizing renewable sources of energy, especially solar, wind, and biomass.

Mr Speaker, one study showed that 97.5 per cent of the island was connected to the national electricity grid.

The cost to connect the remaining 2.5 per cent using traditional means would be approximately J$9b.

The expanded mandate of the agency was designed to achieve 100 per cent coverage of the island. We must safeguard the interest of the people.

Mr Speaker, in the middle of the recent corruption

scandal, the Agency was arbitrarily closed. Instead of

punishing those who sought to enrich themselves through corrupt means, the poor are left in the dark. They are paying the price for the misdeeds of others. You are punishing the poor people for the bad behaviour of others. How is that justice? How is that fair? Mr Speaker, the poor people never wrote cheques for millions of dollars without a contract so why are they being punished?

The Government needs to tell Jamaica how the functions and policies of NESOL will be managed.

If there are no arrangements, we would have to conclude that the poor of this country do not matter under this government?

**Street Lights:**

Mr. Speaker, while I am happy with the clearing of the street lights arrears, I am concerned with the lack of information on the implementation of the project to lower the bill for street lights.

In 2015, I signed the Amendment to the JPS Licence to replace the 105,000 streetlights across Jamaica with energy-saving LED lamps over a three-year period.

 It was the expectation that with the full roll-out of the programme, the yearly street light bill of some $2.8 billion would be cut by at least a half to about $1.4 billion.

The agreement stipulated that in order to ensure that the taxpayer is not billed for street lights that are not working the new lights would be run on a smart system that would indicate when the lights stop working. **We must protect the people.**

While we continue to get reports of malfunctioning street lights and installation of the LED lamps, we need to get more details and proper accounting of the electricity being consumed and regular updates of the savings being achieved.

Mr Speaker, I have tabled questions at today’s

sitting which will require the government to give a

detailed report on the implementation of this programme.

We need to know how many of the bulbs have been

changed and the financial benefit to the country.

We need to know if the JPS is on track to complete the project within the timeline set. We need to know if there is an updated system to determine the amount of non-functioning street lights.

On a positive note, I wish to cite the general improvement in customer service/relations by the JPS. It appears that its performance is improving as fewer complaints are being filed.

I must also commend them for responding to my

criticism last year of the way the citizens of Windward Courts (Bowerbanks) were being treated. Since then the JPSCO has installed the new system in the community with technology to guard against theft. The residents are now being connected with both prepaid and post-paid meters. They no longer run and hide when they see the JPSco and police teams in the area.

Mr Speaker, the people are accepting their responsibility. This is one of the surest ways to reduce the theft of electricity, the cost of which is borne by paying consumers. Congrats JPSCo.

In relation to renewable energy, not much has happened since 2016. At that time Jamaica was leading the English-Speaking Caribbean in the number of projects that were completed or being implemented.

The pioneering work that we did with the establishment and expansion of Wigton Wind Farm is a shining testimony of how a Government enterprise can be conceived, established, properly run with full transparency and now ready for divestment.

We are equally proud of the other renewable projects, such as the BMR Wind Farm in St Elizabeth, the WRB Solar Farm in Clarendon and the Magotty Hydroelectric expansion in St Elizabeth.

 Of course, we are proud of our Net Billing

policy which saw over 300 licences being granted. The Eight Rivers Energy Company’s 37 MW project which is being constructed was a part of the allocation that was made when I was Minister. We had also completed 10 feasibility studies on our rivers for possible hydroelectric projects. These need to be dusted off now Madam Minister.

We need to see some new initiatives. **We need to protect the interest of our people**

**Wigton Wind Farm Divestment:**

We are pleased that the government accepted our

recommendation that in the divestment of this asset

through an IPO, smaller investors must be given priority with a ‘bottoms up allocation’ method. I am also happy that a significant block of the shares will be allocated to public sector workers, including the current staff at Wigton.

We are concerned that the level of public information disseminated so far is woefully inadequate and does not take into consideration the challenges faced by potential investors who might not be knowledgeable in the business of the acquisition of shares etc. It is important that more

information on how the process works be provided to the small investors. I also urge the potential small purchasers who are unfamiliar with how the markets work to find professionals who can guide them. In this regard I would urge the experts in this area to volunteer and offer free service (like legal aid) to those persons who are seeking such guidance.

Perhaps, the Government should, as it intends

to use this method of an IPO to divest other enterprises, establish a window at DBJ that will offer tuition and guidance to members of the public who need such a service.

My other concern is about how this windfall will be

utilised. It appears that it will be sunk into the Consolidated Fund.

It is our view that some of the funds be used to assist the PCJ in sponsoring research and development studies in renewables. They could also use some of the funds to do feasibility studies and provide business plans for small projects in energy.

**Petrojam:**

Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of great sadness that I speak about the disgraceful scandals at Petrojam. From the fraudulent actions by some in management to the callous way in which we are treating Venezuela which has always been a great friend to Jamaica, the PCJ has become the butt of jokes and a source of concern for well thinking Jamaicans.

The actions by the government of Jamaica to acquire

Venezuela’s 49 per cent stake in the plant are seen as mean-spirited and opportunistic. It is to be noted that the Venezuelans themselves had conducted an audit of the Petrojam Refinery and came back with many adverse findings.

Let us never forget that it was the Venezuelan

Government that bailed us out in our hour of need

through the Petrocaribe arrangement and the debt buy back with a 50% discount. Yet, when they needed our support and understanding, they were rejected by this Government. How could a Jamaican government bun bad lamp for one of our nearest and dearest friends? We have always understood that you don’t step on your friends when they are down. Venezuela will rise again and it is our hope, that for the sake of our country, the mistakes of this government with not permanently damage our

friendship.

There is great uncertainty about the future of Petrojam. We are now told that the Zacca report will be available in June. I hope that the report will be open to public scrutiny.

In the absence of an Energy Council, the Production and Economic Committee of this House should deliberate on it.

In the meantime, we await the outcome of the various investigations being done at both Petrojam and Nesol.

And we again say, let the chips fall where they may.

**Oil and Gas Exploration:**

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the good news that Tullow’s exploration partner, United Oil & Gas has recently disclosed that its Colibri exploration prospect, offshore Jamaica, has been estimated independently to host some 229-million barrels of oil potential. United is confident that the farm-out process will allow it to participate in the Jamaica opportunity with low-cost exposure.

The latest review of the Walton-Morant licence by

consultant ERC Equipoise has upgraded the view of the exploration partnership with Tullow Oil. Colibri is only one of several high impact areas seen within Walton-Morant, and the explorers have noted that the latest assessment is encouraging and is favourable to attracting additional partners to the licence.

Mr. Speaker, while I hope that Jamaica will be blessed with this good fortune, I remain concerned by the persistent reluctance of this administration to facilitate new investors. We actually started negotiations with one of the major oil exploration companies, Repsol Oil Limited, which has an excellent track record and significant investment capital. When we demitted office in 2016, the

negotiations were in an advanced stage. Why have they not yet been concluded?

I claim paternity for the existing initiative. We blazed the trail, despite the many naysayers. Now that the interest is getting stronger, the Government must incentivise the process and become proactive in attracting new investors.

**MINING:**

Mr. Speaker, a major priority of the ministry during our tenure in office was the promulgation of a comprehensive plan to fully develop and expand the country’s minerals sector.

The National Minerals Policy was crafted to create the framework for attracting investments in the industrial and metallic minerals sectors (including prospecting for gold and copper as well as the exploitation of Jamaica’s significant limestone potential.

Jamaica has in excess of 250 billion tonnes of minable limestone of varying qualities.

Our plans included a focus on expanding the sector’s value-added possibilities. Focus was placed on the manufacturing of lime, hydrated lime, cement, grout, thin-set, boulders for coastal protection,

slabs (commercial marble / recrystallized limestone) for cladding, flooring, furniture and other purposes.

The Policy, which was left in an advanced stage of

development, was designed to provide bankable

information and incentives that can facilitate growth

within the minerals sector, particularly the industrial

minerals sector.

I urge the Mining Minister to implement that policy in a strategic and coordinated manner.

The establishment of a National Minerals Council may be a good place to begin.

This body, comprising stakeholder representatives, can provide invaluable guidance and oversight, while ensuring the seamless, timely promulgation and implementation of the country’s minerals policy.

**Bauxite Industry:**

Mr. Speaker, the Bauxite Alumina

industry remains resilient despite challenges. The future looks promising based on the growing global demand.

Aluminium price on the London Metals Exchange remains favourable and global demand for aluminium is projected to increase. It is therefore quite alarming that Jamaica is foregoing the levy at the very point when we should be prepared to reap the benefits flowing from the decisive actions the PNP took as a Government.

We are adamant that this diminishing resource must be managed in the best interest of the Jamaican people.

**We must safeguard the people’s interest**

For the record, I re-emphasize the promise made by the Leader of the Opposition to reverse the policy of

expanding the bauxite reserves of companies that have no intention to process alumina in Jamaica. We need to ensure that greater value is added here.

Our strategic vision for the industry is clearly stated and is underpinned by our desire for responsible operations and the strictest adherence to national and international mining best-practices.

This includes environmental protection and pollution controls, reforestation, issues relating to compensation when accidents occur and appropriate resettling of affected individuals.

**We must protect the people**

**Proactive Interventions – Alpart:**

 Mr. Speaker, when UC Rusal failed to fulfil its operational obligations at Alpart, we were relentless in forcing them to restart the plant or sell to an entity that would do so.

The company eventually decided to sell after immense pressure from our administration. We didn’t just sit and watch. We insisted that the negotiations for the sale be expedited and intervened when talks were faltering.

Today, I am proud that Alpart is open and shining again. I am pleased to see renewed life and energy in the towns such as Nain surrounding the plant. I am proud of the growing levels of employment and the many corporate contributions to the community.

I am happy for the sharing of technology

and training of Jamaicans at Chinese universities.

JISCO is making a difference to the Jamaican economy.

As the Opposition Spokesperson on Finance told this

House in March, **“the Planning Institute of Jamaica**

**attributes half of the 1.8% growth this year to a single private sector project. So, without JISCO Alpart, growth this year would have been under 1%, despite all the capital expenditure on road projects.”**

 This Government is reaping the fruits from the orchards planted by the PNP. A solid financial infrastructure, roads, hotels, LNG and the Logistics Hub to name a few.

Mr Speaker, we are pleased that JISCO has honoured its commitments and I wish them well. We are looking forward to the expansion of the refinery and the installation of new energy system.

I want to pay tribute to the outgoing Chairman Chumin Chen and to welcome to new Chairman as he takes over this very significant company.

He is taking over at a time when there are some important issues in the community that need to be

Addressed urgently.

 I will be visiting the area tomorrow to meet with

residents who have been complaining of pollution and other issues affecting their wellbeing. I intend to make representation on their behalf to JISCO for these issues to be dealt with in a timely manner and to facilitate ongoing dialogue with the various stakeholders. **We must protect the people’s interest**

**Proactive Interventions – Windalco:**

Mr Speaker, we are relieved that the threat of sanctions no longer looms large over the operations at Windalco.

I have already acknowledged the important role of consultation that the Minister engaged in during that period of crisis.

It provides an opportunity for the Government and UC Rusal to return to the objective arrived at in 2014 of transforming the company from a swing location to a base location. A swing location is one where, due to high levels of inefficiency, a plant is kept open only when the price of the product is high enough to offset the cost of production. When the price of aluminium falls then such plants are the first to shutter. A base location is where operation is guaranteed because of the low cost of production.

Now that the sanctions have been lifted, the company must provide a clear plan of action to enable Windalco to become a base location. They had already agreed to implement a new energy system and there are other improvements to be done. This must be pursued without further delay.

**CAP/JAMALCO**:

Mr Speaker I must express alarm at the deteriorating

financial position of Clarendon Alumina Production. This is due largely to the escalation in the cost of production at the JAMALCO plant. So, we are coming from a position in 2016/17 when a small operating profit was made to a situation where a loss was made last year and another one is very likely this year.

Mr Minister, we need to know what has caused this

increase in the cost of production. We also need to know whether the difficulty that has been experienced with Noble, the 55% partner, is affecting their ability to focus on the operations here. In any event, you have to be proactive to ensure that the future of Jamalco and Cap is preserved. You have to ensure that a long-term solution is found urgently rather than allowing the process of change at Noble to meander aimlessly and out of your control.

Here is another area where consultation can help

to provide protect the people’s interest.

**Resettlement Issue:**

The resettlement issue cries out for immediate attention. The ease at which citizens are displaced must be matched by ease of resettlement. It is

not beyond us to find a solution to this vexed issue.

Mr Speaker, I will remind this House of a point emphasized by the Leader of the Opposition. He called for the establishment of a special regime to liberate mined-out bauxite lands for productive purposes, including agricultural production and housing.

As the next Mining Minister, this will be my priority.

**We must safeguard the people’s interest**

**Cockpit Country**:

It has been many months since the Prime Minister

addressed this Parliament and announced that the

boundaries of the Cockpit Country were resolved. Since that time not another word has been uttered as to when the process will lead to the long-awaited promulgation of a ban on mining in that area.

Mr. Speaker, since that announcement, which was

greeted with relief by all well-thinking Jamaicans, no

discernible move has been made to give effect to that decision. We have been promised a detailed description of the boundary of the Cockpit Country and the Cockpit Country Protected Area as recognized by the State.

To ensure the effective administration of the Cockpit Country Protected Area, Government must develop of a comprehensive Management Plan.

It should recognise the rights of private landowners, who the Government promised to continue to partner with, local groups and other stakeholders, including the Accompong Maroons.

Mr Speaker it is instructive that no dedicated resources were provided in the national budget as well as donor support, and the plan has not even been tabled in Parliament.

All this now appears to have been a forced response to public pressure and a grand display of public relations.

Meanwhile, all stakeholders including current and

potential investors are waiting for some action.

 **CONCLUSION**

Mr. Speaker, the objective of my presentation is three-fold.

1. To ensure that this administration and the Ministers with responsibility for Mining and Energy return focus on the policy prescriptions that have been designed to grow the Jamaican economy
2. Position our country on a path of sustainable development and;
3. Safeguard the interest of our people.

Mr Speaker, too many scandals and incidents of poor

management emerged during the last financial year. These have setback much of the progress that we

achieved.

I wish to emphasize once again that consultation is the key to the successful promulgation of policies that affect the lives and welfare of our people.

During my stewardship, our successes were achieved through consultation and positive interactions with all our stakeholders.

My introduction of the National Energy Council, which comprised key stakeholder interests as well as the Opposition, stands out as a clear example. The sound policies and the achievements that flowed from this collaboration are a compelling justification for its restoration.

 I call on the new Minister of energy to re-engage that process. I also believe that a similar approach

of wide consultation be adopted for the Mining sector as well.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of our performance, we have

bequeathed to this administration: a clear vision for these critical sectors of the economy; a firm platform on which to build; a clear path to follow and in general, an enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I close this presentation with a call for

a renewed commitment to the implementation of policies consistent with the National Development Plan: Vision 2030. This Plan seeks to make our country "the place to live, raise our families and do business".

Inherent in this plan is the important message that this vision must be based on inclusiveness of all our people: our bright young people, with their enthusiasm and aspirations; our elders with their experience and wisdom; our women, with their strength and resilience; our workers with their energy and skills; our professionals with their talents and knowledge; our business people, with their capital and acumen and all of us who love this beautiful country.

Mr. Speaker, this is my 24th presentation in the Sectoral Debates.

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity

to serve my country and the people of East Kingston and Port Royal.

I am also grateful for the almost 15 years of

service in the Cabinet of this land making me one of the few with such experience in this parliament.

Mr Speaker, I am very proud of my achievements on behalf of the people. Every single policy was created with one aim, the growth and development of this great little place called Jamaica.

At all times I fought for what was best for the people of Jamaica. And I did it, in the words of my school motto; **Age Animo - Do it with all my might**.

So, Mr Speaker, I am proud of the Liberalization of the Telecommunications sector. I am proud that Jamaica has moved from one of the countries with the lowest teledensity levels in the world to one of the highest.

I am proud that the Jamaican model of how to introduce competition in the telecoms sector has been followed across the Caribbean

I am proud that more and more Jamaicans have access to smart devises and the internet.

I am proud that we had the vision and were brave enough to take the risk of establishing a Universal Service Fund which has accumulated over $14b and seen over 400 community access points, eLearning and tablets in schools.

I am proud of my role in liberalizing the motor vehicle

industry so that access to a motor vehicle is no longer

restricted to a privileged few.

I am proud that I helped to establish Jamaica as a leading Caribbean state for the use of renewable energy.

I am proud that we have been able to achieve energy

diversification with the introduction of LNG with a ceiling price of US$0.1289.

I am proud of the pivotal role I played in the development of Petrocaribe, the Petrocaribe Development Fund and the debt buy-back negotiations with Venezuela.

I am proud of the reforms that I lead to modernize our companies’ law and to promulgate modern legislation in intellectual property protection.

I am proud to have implemented reforms and laws to protect our manufacturers such as Anti-Dumping and Subsidies and Safeguard legislation.

I am proud to have promulgated far reaching Consumer Protection legislation.

I am proud of the creation of the Spectrum Management Authority, eGov Jamaica. Elearning Company, Nesol, Jipo, Consumer Affairs Commission, the Energy Council, Wigton

Wind Farm etc etc

I am proud of my pioneering role in the creation of a BPO industry and the creation of thousands of jobs in this sector.

And, of course, I am proud of my role in getting JISCO to Jamaica to reopen Alpart, for the jobs being created and its contribution to the growth in the economy.

***I am proud that my first priority has always been Protecting the People*****and Safeguarding their interests.**

Yes, I am proud Mr Speaker of these achievements and I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to achieve them for the people of this great nation.

May god bless Jamaica Land We Love and all our people!!

-30-