



**SECTORAL DEBATE  
2014-2015**

Promises Made, Promises Kept  
**Mission Accomplished**

*Presentation by*  
**The Honourable Richard Azan**  
**Minister of State, Transport, Works and Housing**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014**



# INTRODUCTION

## SECTION I

### SALUTATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Mr. Speaker,**

**Members of this Honourable House:**

A good day to you all!

It was the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, commonly known as Mother Teresa, the Roman Catholic Religious Sister and missionary of Albanian origin, who said, and I quote:

**“People are often unreasonable and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.**

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.**

**If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.**

**If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.**

**The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.**

**Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.**

**For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”**

How profound a statement, Mr. Speaker! Many of us have a hard time being true to ourselves! Allowing someone else to define who we are, we lose our ability to discover and grow inwardly, no longer able to discern a truth from a lie. For many of us, we have accepted lies for so long, that finding out what is true takes quite a bit of time. This journey of self-discovery can be difficult, but not impossible!

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to rise to make my contribution to the 2014 Sectoral Debate and, in this regard, I would like to thank the Most Honourable Prime Minister, for affording me the opportunity to continue to serve in the capacity of Minister of State, in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing.

I also acknowledge you, Mr. Speaker; the Clerk of the House; and its staff on the tremendous job that you have been doing.

My gratitude also to the Minister of Transport, Works and Housing, Dr. the Hon. Omar Davies, for his continued support, his steady leadership of this Ministry, of which I am Minister of State, and for allowing me the latitude in this capacity, to discharge the functions assigned to me with confidence.

To my assistant, Executive Secretary and driver who have been assigned to me, I also extend my appreciation, and thanks.

To the Minister without Portfolio, with responsibility for Housing, the Hon. Dr. Morais Guy; to Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mrs. Audrey Sewell; and to the members of staff at the Ministry who have provided support and guidance, I also give my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation.

I also wish to commend the work of the members of the Advisory Board of the National Works Agency; and also, the Board and staff of the Road Maintenance Fund. In particular, I want to pay special tribute to the hard working director of the fund, Mr. Clement Watson.

Thanks to the CEO of the National Works Agency; Directors; Regional Managers; Parish Managers and other staff members of the National Works Agency, for their support and guidance, especially during difficult periods of the past year.

To the many Agencies which fall under this Ministry and with which I interact from time to time, I say a big thank you.

I also wish to thank Mrs. Lucille Brodber, coordinator of the JEEP Secretariat and members of the Secretariat for the tremendous work that they have been doing.

Mr. Speaker, there are also a number of persons present in the House today, to whom I am grateful and I extend a cordial welcome to them and my thanks for their continued support.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank my immediate family and my extended family, some of whom are seated here in the gallery today, for their unwavering support given to me as I execute my duties as Minister of State.

I extend my sincere thanks to the constituents of North West Clarendon, the Councillors and my management team for the confidence they continue to repose in me as their representative in this Honourable House. Mr. Speaker, without their support, I would not have the privilege of addressing this Honourable House today, in this capacity. They have given me a wonderful opportunity and the honour to represent their interests, and I pledge to continue to do so with the robustness and a level of determination that they have come to expect of me.

Last, but by no means least, I thank the Almighty for His sustaining grace and for blessing me with health and strength.

Mr. Speaker, I declare that I stand here today because of my desire to contribute to the building of a better country, for all Jamaicans; a desire to contribute to a more equitable society; a desire to make a contribution to the welfare of all Jamaicans.

It is based on these desires, Mr. Speaker, that I am honoured to once again stand today in this Honourable House, to report on my performance during the last fiscal year and outline plans for the present year, ending March 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the road I have travelled has been tough – a challenging one. Indeed, when you participate in a process in which your objective is to gain the support of the people, you will face many challenges and endless sacrifices. Despite these challenges and the sacrifices, however, I give daily praises to the Almighty who has blessed me in so many ways.

Mr. Speaker, despite the attempts of the cynics and the naysayers to derail the work that we have been doing, our unbridled sense of nationalism continues to spur us. We will, through this Ministry, keep our promises and accomplish our mission to better the people of this land that we love.

The path that I have chosen is not an easy one, but it has been fulfilling and worthwhile.

## **SECTION II**

### **CONSTITUENCY MATTERS**

Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon on account of the work of the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing. This responsibility is a great one, and would not be possible without my constituents. I must therefore speak to some matters relating to my constituency.

I made some commitments to my constituents for the past year, and I expect to be held accountable for those commitments. I can declare with confidence that over the last twelve months, with the support of Councillors and the leadership of North West Clarendon, we have worked tirelessly and have accomplished many good things. The reason I can say this, is that our achievements are evident.

Mr. Speaker, we have focused our efforts on education, farming, welfare and training, and have made strides in the following areas:-

- Road Repairs;
- Housing;

- Agriculture;
- Building Construction (Market & Post Office);
- Education;
- Training;
- Sports;
- Water Supplies;
- Street Lighting; and
- Community Beautification.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate both the Edwin Allen High and Spalding High schools, for their achievements in the 2014 ISSA Boys and Girls' Athletics Championships. Edwin Allen has won first place in the girls' championship while Spalding High held the fifteenth place, in the boys' championship.

Mr. Speaker, despite the notable achievements made, there are challenges that the constituency faces. It is my intention, therefore, that during this fiscal year, I will focus on the following:-

- Special Tuition Assistance;
- Back to School Assistance;
- Housing for Athletes;
- Assistance to Indigents;
- Upgrading of Additional Basic Schools;
- Construction of Three Additional Basic Schools;
- Construction of a New Post Office at Thompson Town;
- Programme to Install Water Closets at Primary Schools; and
- Construction of a Transportation Centre at Frankfield.

Mr. Speaker, last year I said that we would double the number of persons for whom we provide special assistance; we said we would increase the back to school financial assistance, including special tuition and book grants, by 25%.

We promised to strengthen infant education and to upgrade as well as build additional basic schools. We also promised to continue the programme to replace pit toilets with water closets at primary schools in the constituency.

Well, Mr. Speaker, today I can happily declare that these commitments which we have made towards the development of education in the constituency of North West Clarendon have been honoured, and we continue to focus on the nurturing and preparation of its human resource. In this regard, we have:

- Doubled to over \$8 million, the special tuition and back to school assistance school fees;
- Increased book grants by 50%;

- Established one (1) new state-of-the-art Early Childhood Institution in Ritchies (Ritchies Basic School);
- Upgraded one (1) Early Childhood Institution in Silent Hill (Walder's Run Basic School);
- Upgraded the Coffee Piece Basic School;
- Completed reroofing of the Tweedside Primary School;
- Replaced pit latrines with water closets at the Kilsyth Primary and Victoria Primary schools.

Mr. Speaker, promises made, promises kept! I also promised that additional effort would be placed on skills training. I declared last year that anyone in North West Clarendon, regardless of age or political orientation, if he or she so desires will be able to acquire a skill in order that they will be able to pursue a decent livelihood and economic opportunities.

I can report to this Honourable House that there is a renewed effort to train youths across the constituency of North West Clarendon.

- Over 500 youths have been trained in partnership with "BARS TO GO" and HEART (Mixology, bartender, cashiering, waiter, etc.).
- Sugar Transformation and HEART have collaborated to train young people in their areas of interest.
- There has also been major improvement of vocational areas at five institutions across North West Clarendon.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the downturn in the world's economy and its impact on the job market in Jamaica, the constituency of North West Clarendon has undertaken a project geared at improving the vocational areas in five schools across the constituency. These schools include: Spalding High, Edwin Allen High, Thompson Town High, Alston High and the C Palmer Project Hope Institution. This project will also allow each school to engage in a partnership with the community, in which the school will be able to allow interested community members to access the school plant in the evenings to attain HEART certification in their desired area of interest. The project will allow the schools selected to have the appropriate equipment and machinery needed to facilitate the acquisition of skills by students and community members, thereby, allowing members of the constituency to be empowered and achieve their full potential. Each school has received \$500,000, making it a total of \$2.5 million for the five schools.

Mr. Speaker, twenty-eight schools have been benefitting from the school garden project and they are currently doing well. We have established a greenhouse at Knox College and we are pleased to advise that they are now selling to the open market.

Mr. Speaker, last year I said that I intended to continue working with our teachers, principals, school boards and parent-teacher associations to build strong schools and improve performance.

There has been a concerted effort to work in partnership with school boards, principals, teachers and parent teachers associations. Consequently:

- Meetings have been held with all basic, primary and high school principals.
- Regular visits have been made to various schools across the constituency.

Mr. Speaker, we promised additional assistance to the indigents and the shelterless. We said we would empower the dispossessed and provide shelter for those without.

I can therefore report that the constituency has embarked on a housing project that seeks to give housing support to those citizens who need somewhere safe and comfortable to put their heads at nights. This has been made possible through a Private Partnership Agreement and Food for the Poor. There has also been a 100% increase in the number of welfare packages given to the elderly and shut-ins.

Mr. Speaker, ***promises made, promises kept.***

For many years, we have supported the Edwin Allen High School medical and feeding programme and we intend to provide additional support by building houses to accommodate these athletes whose performance over the years is simply outstanding.

A new Transportation Centre will be constructed at Frankfield. On completion, it will be named in honour of P.T. McLeod, JLP Councillor and Mayor of May Pen, who was a member of the Clarendon Parish Council for thirty years. Progress has been made on the construction of the Transportation Centre in Frankfield. The lease has been secured from the Railway Corporation and the process of demarcation is in its initial stage.

Mr. Speaker, the success of these activities emerged from frequent consultation with stakeholders of the various communities. It is these individuals, Mr. Speaker, who are best able to describe the development needs and support that they need for their communities.

I credit them for being candid, outspoken and for their level of participation and guidance. Mr. Speaker, without their support and participation, the milestones reached in the constituency that I represent would never have been achieved.

## SECTION III

### SCOPE OF PRESENTATION

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to focus on the National Works Agency, the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP) and projects funded by the Road Maintenance Fund.

Regarding the National Works Agency for which I have direct responsibility, the focus will be on four goals:

- Improved network
- Safer roadways
- Reduced travel time and vehicle operating costs
- Additional capacity and reduced congestion

Mr. Speaker, the successful achievement of these four goals, and their contribution to the fulfilment of our mission of “economic independence”, is based on us vastly improving our levels of productivity as a nation. The awareness of what this means for the growth and development of our productive forces, especially the sustainable development of our country is of paramount importance.

Despite the challenges, we continue to perform well. This is due largely to the commitment of our stakeholders and an outstanding team I have the pleasure of leading. These individuals have been an integral part of the process of leading a sector that is so important to all Jamaicans.

#### **Sector Initiatives**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2013/2014 was an extremely productive year for the National Works Agency. Our major focus and priority remains the safety of our customers and the reliability of Jamaica’s main road network. Accordingly, we continue to place a great emphasis on public safety to provide a safe road environment for all road users.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to road use safety:

- Approximately J\$80 million was spent during the fiscal year 2013/14 on improving pedestrian safety along the Norman Manley Boulevard in Negril, Westmoreland, and around the Papine Circle, St. Andrew.
- Critical breakaways along Oberlin and Mooreland Hill in West Rural St. Andrew were addressed at a cost of some J\$57.3M.

- Road signage was improved through the assistance of Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo.) and the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) with approximately 1,000 new signs being installed.
- Micro-surfacing. Approximately 49,280m<sup>2</sup> of critical micro-surfacing works, costing some J\$32M, were undertaken to improve road safety along sections of the Mount Rosser main road in St. Catherine; Braco main road in Trelawny; White River near Dunn's River in St. Ann; and the Mandeville Town Centre, Manchester, in vicinity of the Caledonia Stoplight.
- Substantially completed and tested the Road Emergency Attention System in the Bog Walk Gorge, St. Catherine. Presently, a live feed from the System has been made accessible to the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), and the Police National Computer Centre. We expect to make the feed accessible to the Water Resources Authority (WRA) during this fiscal year 2014/2015, pending the completion of underground ducts and fibre optic cable installation works along Hope Road. These works are included in the recently tendered Package 'A' Duct Works, which will extend our Fibre Optic Cable Plant to Papine and its environs.

Mr. Speaker, flood control is critical to a safe and reliable network. Consequently,

- Over J\$100 million was spent on critical flood mitigation efforts (including drain & gully cleaning) islandwide.
- Work on the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) funded Tropical Storm Nicole (Sandy Gully) Drainage Network Construction and Rehabilitation Project was completed at a cost of some J\$2 billion. The six packages were:
  - **May Pen Cemetery Gully**  
Studley Park Road – Spanish Town Road
  - **Grants Pen Ford – MegaMart**  
Grants Road – Cruiser Gully – Church – Washington Close
  - **Sandy Park Gully**  
Upper Norway Terrace – Norbrook Crescent
  - **Dames Road Bridge (Barnes Gully)**  
Deanery Drive  
Glendale Road

- **Lexington Avenue**  
Lilford – Lady Musgrave  
McGregor Gully – 1st Avenue  
Mountain View – Byron Road  
26 Fort Avenue
  
- **Gold Smith Villa**
  
- River training and sea defence works remain the linchpin of strategies towards improving the resilience of the road network to severe climatic events. During the year, some J\$220 million was spent on river training and sea defence works at:
  - Dry River in St. Andrew;
  - Rio Cobre at White Marl in St. Catherine, adjacent to the Lasco Industrial Complex;
  - Roselle in St. Thomas;
  - Castleton and Annotto Bay in St. Mary;
  - Orange Bay/Blueberry Hill in Portland;
  - Black River in St. Elizabeth;
  - Troy in Trelawny; and
  - Ironshore in St. James

## **PRESERVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **The Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)**

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report on the participatory role of the National Works Agency in the overall execution to date of the pioneering Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP). The members of this Honourable House know, JEEP is first and foremost a workforce intervention programme aimed specifically at the 10 per cent of the population who are currently unemployed or under-employed, and whose access to the prevailing social safety-net intervention mechanisms are extremely limited. JEEP is not meant to be the panacea for the country's long-term network problem.

In light of this reality, the MTWH/NWA is targeting participants from the unemployed and under-employed vulnerable groups. These persons were placed in different project related areas for a total period of six (6) months.

The long-term objective is that the participants within the programme, based on performance criteria, will find permanent employment in the areas with which they are affiliated.

- **JDIP/JEEP.** In October 2013, we satisfactorily concluded the JDIP (including JEEP Phases 1 & 2). At the end of March 2014, the value of the measured works performed, was US\$368.2M. A total of 366 sub-projects have been reported as being substantially

completed, with minor works outstanding on three sub-projects. Of this total, 320 sub-projects have been inspected and Taking-Over Certificates issued. In addition, 180 Defects Liability Certificates have been issued to the Contractor, relieving him of any further responsibility for these projects. The performance certificates were issued to the contractors CHEC by the NWA at the end of October 2013, thus closing the JDIP.

- Major Road Projects completed during the fiscal year 2013/2014 include: the Fern Gully, St. Ann, and the deviation at John's Hall, St. James, under JDIP; and the Ferris Cross to Belmont Road Project, Westmoreland, under the IDB 2026 TIRP.
- J\$423M was spent to complete approximately 230,000m<sup>2</sup> of road patching.

**Mr. Speaker, I now turn to Bridge Works.** Work was completed on several bridges during the 2013/2014 fiscal year, including:

- Craigmill (aka White River) Bridge, Portland – J\$26.6M
  - Halls Green Pedestrian Bridge, St. Andrew – J\$2.2M
  - John's Hall Bridge, St. James – J\$545M
  - Kintyre Bridge, St. Andrew – J\$100M
  - Robin's Bay Box Culvert, St. Mary – J\$33.98M
  - Sandy Gully Bridge Repair, St. Andrew – J\$6.1M
  - Southwood Pedestrian Bridge – J\$24.3M
  - Stony Bridge, Westmoreland – J\$19.7M
  - Westmoreland Bridge, St. Mary – J\$1.16B
  - Cave Box Culvert, Westmoreland – J\$22.8M (Work started in last quarter, 2013/14, yet to be completed.)
  - Spanish River – J\$20.3M
- We were also able to substantially complete pipe laying works along the Palisadoes Road, comprising six (6) kilometres of 400mm ductile iron pipe and 15 kilometres of 300mm transmission main. Additionally, all the distribution and service lines along the Scott's Cove – Belmont Main Road were replaced.
  - Completed the Master Drainage Plan Study  
While not as exhaustive as we would have hoped, the study does provide valuable insight regarding the complexity of the existing drainage issues.

## **MAKE DOING BUSINESS EASIER**

Mr. Speaker, we are taking concrete steps in an effort to make it easier and simpler for customers to conduct business with the NWA.

During, fiscal 2013/14, we made doing business easier a key priority. In addition to shrinking the size of our development applications backlog, the Agency concluded preparatory work and training towards final implementation of the Application Management and Data Automation (AMANDA) System. Currently, we are working on our register of authorised users, and expect to commence full utilisation of the application in the new fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, we are also pursuing other strategies to streamline and enhance our development applications process. For example, we have begun to utilise GIS to assist in fast-tracking our case review process. We are also reviewing our options towards making the payment of administrative fees hassle free. To streamline the applications review process, a draft review checklist has been developed, and is being reviewed by our Internal Review Committee. Once approved and made public, we hope that it proves useful in guiding applicants towards ensuring that the minimum information requirements are met prior to submitting their applications. This, in turn, will reduce delays arising out of the need for additional client information.

Mr. Speaker, we have several ongoing projects that when completed this year will enhance the country's growth strategy in a significant way.

These are:

- Water Street which is complete with a cost of \$9.29m
- The Santa Maria to Sligoville Road Rehabilitation Project – substantially complete – \$171.2m
- The Bog Walk to Sligoville Road Rehabilitation Project – substantially complete – \$324m
- Road marking exercise (Package B & C)
  - Package A – \$9.316m
  - Package B – \$8.754m
  - Package C – \$4.782m
- Kings Way is ongoing – \$15.5m
- George Lee Boulevard is ongoing – \$68m
- Mona Road to Wellington Drive Intersection Upgrade – project completion was delayed to facilitate drainage works under the planned Blue Castle to Aralia Avenue Project – \$5.5m

Mr. Speaker, our efforts to reduce congestion through effective Traffic Management continue to be focused on the establishment of an Intelligent Transportation System.

During the fiscal year 2013/14, we completed the Underground (Ring) Duct and Fibre Optic Cable installation. Lighting of the Cable will take place this fiscal year as well as the installation of an additional 4,000 metres of underground ducts to extend system coverage to the Papine, Manor Park and Heroes Circle environs.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS

Mr. Speaker, there is the upcoming Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) – J\$4B is to be spent this year, of which J\$1.6B is earmarked for JEEP, J\$1.5B for roadworks; and J\$124M for bridges and structures. This \$1.6 billion allocation includes the first phase of the JEEP under the MIDP which commenced towards the latter part of the financial year with the launch at the Jamaica Conference Centre on March 18, 2014.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, to address the weaknesses highlighted with the JDIP, a Governance Framework has been put in place. Other projects/programmes are also to be executed during this fiscal year.

- Elegant Corridor Lighting. This project which will see street lamps being placed along the stretch from the Sangster International Airport to the Ibero Star Hotel, St. James. This will get underway this year utilising a grid-powered street lighting option. The tender process is well advanced and the contract is expected to be let shortly.
- South Coast Highway Study is significantly advanced and is to be completed this fiscal year. Recall that this study include the road from Port Antonio, Portland to Harbour View, St. Andrew and from Mandeville, Manchester to Negril, Westmoreland.
- Consequent on the replacement of the 15 kilometres of pipeline road rehabilitation, work will resume on Scott's Cove to Belmont roadway in the 2014/2015 financial year.
- North Coast Highway Bushing – Extension (from Negril to Port Antonio 282.91 kilometres)
- Cable Median Barrier System will be introduced
- Replanting of mangroves along the Palisadoes shoreline – \$50M
- Secure legal access and other preparatory works for Toms River to Agualta Vale in St. Mary & Soursop Turn to Chapelton in Clarendon projects
- The long awaited rehabilitation of the Soursop Turn to Chapelton main road in Clarendon. The project will be executed under two (2) packages: package 1, roughly 10.5km begins from Soursop Turn to Chapelton; and package 2, which starts from Chapelton to Trout Hall is about 12.2km.
- A tender was advertised and a contract awarded. Work is expected to commence on 10.5 kilometres long Package 1 this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, we will also be addressing stakeholder collaboration.

Working smarter through improved stakeholder collaboration and partnerships represents an easy win-win for the Jamaican public. One way in which we plan to improve stakeholder collaboration this fiscal year is by way of our new Street-Cutting Permit Application, which will enter Beta Testing Phase.

The application provides comprehensive, Web-enabled permitting functionality and is seamlessly integrated with the city's GIS. With the Street-Cutting Permit Application, utility companies such as the National Water Commission or private contractors need only a standard Mobile Web browser to access and view all street and permit activity online using maps created through our in-house database. With this functionality, contractors and administrators can ensure that projects do not interfere with each other, and that street cuts are undertaken in compliance with applicable guidelines.

We expect that over time we will be able to use the application to develop insight into trends and patterns in street-cutting activities that may not have been readily apparent with the existing status quo.

### **MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MIDP)**

Mr. Speaker, work on many projects under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) will definitely commence this financial year. This programme is valued at approximately US\$352.941 million and is being financed by a loan from the China Exim bank (US\$300 million) and by the GOJ's contribution of approximately US\$52 million.

Mr. Speaker, the programme represents another major undertaking by the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) to significantly improve the island's road network in order to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Jamaica, and to stimulate economic development.

The contract with China Harbour Engineering Company will be undertaken over a period of thirty six (36) months, and commenced with the launch of JEEP and will be implemented by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing (MTWH) through the National Works Agency (NWA).

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP) component of the MIDP was launched on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. In the first instance, an allocation of J\$10M has been made to each constituency for undertaking of several projects. The total allocation will be spent on the execution of works and a separate allocation will be provided for CHEC's 10% markup on each project.

Note that this represents a significant saving when compared to the previous markup of 20% on another programme with which we are all familiar.

## **MIDP/JEEP**

Mr. Speaker, five (5) bridges are planned under MIDP/JEEP. These are:

- Silent Hill – Clarendon
- Jacob River – Portland
- Latium – St. James

These are compact 200 modular bridges. These are being built in rural areas to support farming districts.

- Vanity Fair – St. Catherine
- Kupius – Clarendon

These bridges are planned as replacements along the NWA main road system.

Also, there are two structures planned, one as a foot bridge (Duncans, Trelawny) and a box culvert for Mount Charles – St. Andrew.

## **CHALLENGES**

Mr. Speaker, while the National Works Agency continues to engage in a productive and meaningful tripartite partnership with the RMF and MTWH to deliver maintenance solutions across the entirety of the main road network, we remain cognisant of the tight fiscal environment. In this time, hard choices have to be made. The Government has made it. Notwithstanding, the Agency will be operating a conservative budget which will result in reduced operational activity primarily in our:

- Traffic management investment
- Ability to effect clearance of roadway after inclement weather conditions
- Routine and periodic maintenance portfolio

Mr. Speaker, during the 2014/2015 financial year, the National Works Agency will be focused on:

- Delivering its Capital Projects on time and within budget and at accepted quality
- Building on internal strengths and reducing weaknesses
- Forging creative partnerships around Right Of Way (ROW) agreements for win-win solutions.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

***“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”***

***Ephesians 4:31-32***

Mr. Speaker, during the past forty minutes, you and the members of this Honourable House have listened patiently, as I have recounted my stewardship in North West Clarendon during 2013/14 and addressed the key targets to be advanced during the 2014/15 financial year.

Mr. Speaker, in closing my presentation I recognize that there are challenges, but there are also possibilities. I want to reiterate what we are seeking to achieve; building a road network, the benefits of which can resonate across all areas of Jamaican life.

Mr. Speaker, we want to develop our network to First World standards so that all Jamaicans can enjoy our country, travel safely, in comfort and arrive at their destinations on time.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to focus on priority areas for this Ministry now and in the future, an approach that will ensure our objectives are met and the best interests of the Jamaican people are served.

I am acutely aware of the critical role that the works portfolio must play in placing our country on a path of growth and economic development. I am pleased to be afforded this opportunity by the Prime Minister and to continue playing a leadership role in this Ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to state that North West Clarendon is a beautiful constituency with wonderful old time Jamaican people, people whom I think of as being from the good old Jamaica, where respect, courtesy and good manners are all a part of their way of life.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as we navigate the very turbulent waters of State, with challenges such as the continued rise of the price of oil and food in the world market, the scourge of crime, I am confident that this ship called Jamaica has on its deck a competent and capable crew.

Mr. Speaker, it is being led by a Captain, Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, with a very steady pair of hands, a Captain with a clear vision as to where she wants to take us, a Jamaica of peace, love, and equal opportunity. A Jamaica of justice and prosperity; a Jamaica where not everyone has to be rich, but a Jamaica where with hard, honest work, one can be comfortable.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless the members of this Honourable House, may God bless the people of Jamaica as we continue to seek His divine intervention and leadership in moving forward as a nation.

Thank you and may God bless Jamaica, land we love!

# NOTES