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MLGCD

QUARTELY NEWSLETTER

NEWS, VIEWS & HIGHLIGHTS ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ministry hosts Inaugural Local Governance Conference



From left: Acting Permanent Secretary Mrs. Marsha Henry Martin; Mayor of Montego Bay, Councillor Homer Davis; Mayor Glen Ram, Chairman of the Mayaro Rio Claro Regional Corporation in Trinidad; Minister Desmond McKenzie and Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development hosted its inaugural Local Governance Conference at the Jewel Grande Montego Bay Resort & Spa in St. James.

The three-day meeting, which ran from July 17 to 19, is in keeping with the Ministry's focus on improving the effectiveness of governance at the local level.

Hosted under the theme "Strengthening Responsiveness and Accountability within the Local Governance Frame-

work" the event brought together mayors, chief executive officers, chief financial officers and parish disaster coordinators to examine the role of local government in achieving Jamaica's macroeconomic and financial targets for 2030 and beyond. The Ministry is focused on strengthening the capacity of political and administrative leaders in the execution of their functions and increase awareness about the role of local government in achieving the national growth agenda.

Portfolio Minister, Honourable Desmond McKenzie, said the conference, which will be the first in a series of biennial events, will facilitate discussions and presentations on promoting good governance within "a legislative framework that guides the operations of the local authorities, as well as provide tools that will aid in improving service delivery".

"I expect great things from the first staging. I believe that through discussion and decisions over the next three days and beyond, this assembly of minds will bring lasting value to local government," he stated.

Areas for discussion were standardization of the disaster management budget, standard operating procedures, emergency operation centre processes, health and welfare matters, among others.

"My focus on local government has been to bring change to the operations of the Ministry. In this way, the local government system can truly make its full mark on the lives of Jamaicans in areas of disaster management and mitigation," added Minister McKenzie.

#ADVANCINGSTEADILY



PM Holness to examine building approvals process

Prime Minister the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, says he will be examining the procedure for the granting of building approvals by the local government authorities in order to speed up the process.

He argued that "territorial behaviour" by the municipal bodies in the issuance of such permits often results in delays, negatively impacting the country's building approval rating and hindering national growth targets.

"Jamaica is ranked 70, which is second in the region, in the World Banks Ease of Doing Business report. However, with respect to construction permits, which deals with building approvals, the country stands at 98 globally out of 190 countries," the Prime Minister lamented.

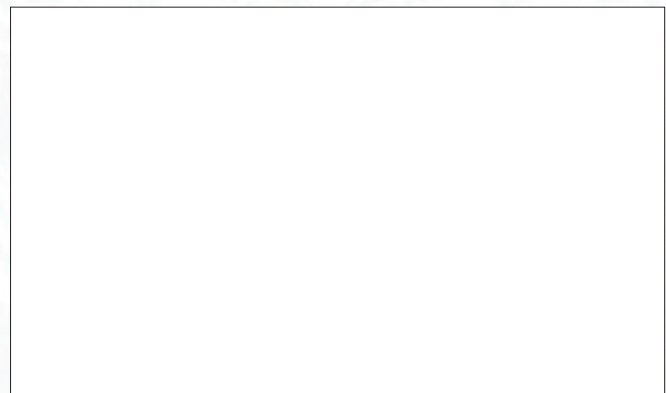
"I am absolutely committed to the process of getting government efficient. So, I am taking this opportunity to raise my concerns to the local government institutions that we cannot allow internal territorial behaviour to slow up national (progress)," he said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the opening ceremony of the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development's Local Governance Conference.

He urged the officers to make use of the Application Management and Data Automation (AMANDA) system,

which is designed to track and manage development applications, in order to speed up the delivery of building permits and approvals.

"I hope that at this conference, when you're discussing responsiveness and accountability... the AMANDA system is on the top of your list. We have spent a lot of money equipping your offices with the relevant tools to yield the results. I'm hoping that you have been training your staff to use it. We can't spend all this money to put in place a system, to use a technology-generated support system and then don't use it."



DELIGHTED: (L-R) Mayor of Spanish Town, Councillor Norman Scott; Deputy Mayor of Lucea, Councillor Andria Dehaney-Dinham and Mayor of Mandeville, Councillor Donovan Mitchell during the inaugural Local Governance Conference 2018.

#ADVANCINGSTEADILY



YSEP widens base for 2018 roll-out

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development rolled out its Youth Summer Employment Programme (YSEP) for a second consecutive year which employed approximately 3590 participants.

"Under YSEP, the selected young people will be among other things, conducting audits, including night audits, of the country's network of street lights. They will be visiting communities to identify the full extent of our vulnerable population, so we can more efficiently deliver care to our indoor and outdoor poor under the Social Protection Programme," said Honourable Desmond McKenzie, Portfolio Minister.

The YSEP, which is implemented through the Municipal Corporations, seeks to utilize data collection, support administrative processes as well as the distribution of critical information to improve service delivery and ensure greater efficiency in the functions of the Ministry and its affiliated agencies. It will run from August 13 to September 18, 2018.

Last year, just under 2500 young people benefitted from the programme.

A new component focused on Disaster Risk Reduction has been introduced for this year. Participants will undertake Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Exercise (RAVE) as part of a joint initiative between the Ministry and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM).

"They will be also helping to determine the points of physical vulnerability in communities, in the context of helping the people of those communities to develop and

increase their resilience across the range of disasters from drought to hurricanes," explained Minister McKenzie.

State Minister in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Honourable Floyd Green, gave the keynote address during the 2018 launch ceremony at the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) Gymnasium in Mandeville on August 9, 2018. He designated the YSEP as being "action in motion" and thanked Minister McKenzie and the Ministry for crafting and seeing the programme to fruition.

"It is important that as a government, any additional resources we come across, that we put that into youth development. You and I know that young people just need an opportunity and if they that opportunity they will rise, they will shine and they will make us all proud," Minister Green added.

"This is a significant opportunity that our youth of Jamaica have been given and when you see the crowd here, when you think that almost every single community across Jamaica is represented; you know we are onto something good."

Minister McKenzie noted that the YSEP will also expose the participants - aged 15 to 29 years - to the workings of the Local Government system.

"This is not just about ensuring that young people earn some income. This is also about ensuring that they are exposed to the value of public service and of the ethics and desirability of such things as punctuality, of doing accurate and thorough work, and of a culture of constant learning."

#ADVANCINGSTEADILY



From left: ODPEM's Major Clive Davis; Minister Desmond McKenzie; ODPEM's Board Chair Mrs. Joy Douglas; Mr. Raul Salazar of the UNISDR; Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director at CDEMA and Mr. Nahuel Arenas- UNISDR at a planning meeting in Kingston on September 6, 2018.

Jamaica to host 2020 Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Conference

Jamaica will be hosting the 7th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean in July 2020. In preparation for this event the Honorable Desmond McKenzie chaired the first preparatory meeting at the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) with representatives from Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

The country's invitation to host the event is the first for a Caribbean nation and follows those of Panama, Mexico, Chile, Ecuador, Canada and Colombia in advancing disaster risk reduction.

"We acknowledge the very high consideration and respect shown to us by signatory countries, international and regional agencies, and stand ready to facilitate the next phase of the sustainable development agenda through disaster risk reduction, resilience and climate change adaptation," Honourable Desmond McKenzie, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, said in June as he officially accepted the invitation to host the Conference.

He was at the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas underway in Cartagena, Colombia - organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

The biennial conference allows government, non-government organizations, scientific and academic institutions as well as private sector interests to examine the opportunities and challenges to advance the sustainable development through resilience and disaster risk reduction in the region. It is also focuses on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean which was agreed to in 2015 and to which Jamaica is a signatory.

"Jamaica looks forward to the opportunity to ensure the implementation, monitoring and review of the Sendai Framework through the 2020 Regional Platform," added Minister McKenzie.

"We look forward to your presence in the land of wood and water in two years" time, and to the uniquely Jamaican experience that continues to put our country's name on the lips of the world."

#ADVANCINGSTEADILY



Honourable Desmond McKenzie with (from left) Red Stripe's Managing Director Ricardo Nuncio; Desnoes and Geddes Foundation chairman, Noel Dacosta and Executive Director at the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), Audley Gordon.

Red Stripe gifts \$1 million to NSWMA

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) has received \$1 million to ramp up security at the Riverton City Dump in St. Andrew.

The monies were made possible by Red Stripe through its Desnoes and Geddes Foundation and will go towards surveillance equipment.

Honourable Desmond McKenzie, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, accepted the contribution and thanked the beer company for demonstrating good corporate citizenship.

"This contribution of a million dollars will go towards the enhanced security programme that we are presently working on for the landfill. It is an honour as the Minister with responsibility, to be a part of this presentation. I would urge other well-thinking corporate bodies, not just to be critical of the administration when there is a fire, Honourable Desmond McKenzie with (from left) Red but ask yourself the question, "what it is I can do to help," he said.

Minister McKenzie spoke at the cheque presentation ceremony at Red Stripe's Brewery on Spanish Town Road in St. Andrew in late August.

In July, the NSWMA fought consecutive illicit fires at Riverton; the Retirement Dump in St. James; Haddon

Disposal Site near Moneague, St. Ann and the Church Corner Disposal Site in Morant Bay, St. Thomas.

"Anyone who works or lives in the immediate environs of the landfill was deeply affected but beyond that for nearly three days, all of Kingston was covered in smoke," disclosed Mr. Ricardo Nuncio, Red Stripe's Managing Director. "This was a lesson in the meaning of community and we knew we had to do something."

He said the donation was part of the company's activities to mark its 100th anniversary.

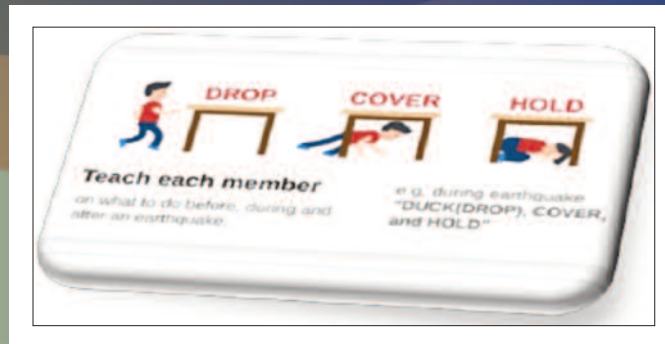
The Minister stated that while these incidents negatively impact workplace productivity; the Government had to expend approximately \$150 million over the last ten weeks to extinguish the fires.

"What we are seeing is an institution of indiscipline that exists around the two major dumps in this country.

But it is a sad reflection on us as a country when we have to waste the kind of resources that we have to guard a landfill from people with criminal and devious intent."

Minister McKenzie also noted that the NSWMA have introduced augmented security strategies - some covertly- to prevent illicit fires at its disposal sites across the island.

#BEINTHEKNOW



Earthquake Safety in the Workplace

Maintain a Company Disaster Plan

All companies have an obligation to their employees to maintain a disaster plan. An emergency evacuation area must be designed, a nearby safe area, preferably outdoor, where workers can get together after a fire or earthquake. It should be out in the open away from buildings or powerlines. If there is no open space nearby, designate some other safe place.

Set up a procedure to account for all employees. If there is a register assign someone to take this with them when evacuating the building.

Identify evacuation routes and alternate routes, and keep them clear of any obstructions. Plan assistance for people with disabilities, employees, and people who maybe visiting and conduct drills.

Assign and train teams of employees to handle basic first aid, search and rescue, fire response, evacuation, damage assessment, and security. Train all employees in earthquake preparedness and identify safe places at work. Appoint and train wardens to take leadership in emergencies. Conduct regular evacuation drills.

Conduct a Hazard Hunt

Identify those items in your office that can become hazardous and injure persons during an earthquake.

Common office hazards include:

- Tall shelves
- Bookshelves
- Tall and heavy lamps
- Hanging plants
- Heavy objects on walls
- Windows, air conditioners, PA systems

- Light fixtures
- Desks by windows
- Heavy pictures
- Gas stoves



Unsecured TVs, typewriters and computers. Attach these items to their stands with industrial strength velcro or by bolting them to the stand using a detachable leash attached to the wall file cabinets: these will tip over unless they are bolted to the floor. Bolting them together also increase their stability. Be sure the drawers can lock when they are closed, because if a drawer slides open during an earthquake it can injure someone:

- Ceiling partitions
- Signs
- Fans

Water tanks - on roof can affect the load bearing capacity of the roof causing it to fail.

Submitted by the Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Management Unit.

#BEINTHEKNOW



14 Hurricane Safety Tips For Homeowners

- 1) Check the roof of your house, hurricane shutters, hooks and latches thoroughly and repair where necessary.
- 1) Make sure that galvanized sheeting on the roof of your house is properly fastened.
- 3) Keep in stock extra plastic bags and sheets of plastic. Plastic is essential to prevent important documents, paintings, equipment and furniture from getting wet.
- 4) Keep handy a supply of lumber, plywood, timber, etc. for battening down purposes.
- 5) Trim trees that touch power lines or hang over the house and other buildings.
- 6) Make sure that emergency cooking facilities such as coal stoves are in good working condition as these may be necessary.
- 7) Make sure you have a supply of kerosene and coal. Keep coal dry by wrapping in a plastic bag or other waterproof material.
- 8) Latch down securely all small buildings in the yard such as outdoor kitchens, pit latrines, tool sheds, barns, etc.
- 9) Store extra food, especially things that can be eaten without cooking or which need very little preparation. Electricity may be off during a hurricane, leaving you without refrigeration.
- 10) Place emergency food supply in a waterproof container and store in a closed box, cupboard or trunk.
- 11) Make sure you have emergency equipment in your home. These include waterboots, raincoats, flashlights, batteries, portable radio, kerosene lamps and matches.
- 12) Have simple first-aid equipment such as iodine, band aces, eye lotion, etc. at home.
- 13) Know how to find the nearest shelter. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) or your Parish Disaster Committee (PDC) can give you the location of the shelter nearest you.
- 14) Plan the safest possible route to the nearest safe shelter if you must leave.



“Disasters Do Happen ... Be Prepared”

#SNAPSHOTS



COURTESY CALL: The Hon. Desmond McKenzie accepted an introductory courtesy call from Mr. Jason Fraser (second right), the newly-appointed Country Representative for United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Miss Rebecca Robinson, Supervisory Programme Officer USAID and Mr. Malden Miller, USAID Environmental officer, accompanied Mr. Fraser on his visit with the Minister. The discussions were centered on the existing relationship between the Jamaican Government and the US Government; disaster management and the way forward.



NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR PORTMORE: Minister Desmond McKenzie accompanied by Mayor Leon Thomas and the Technical teams from the Ministry and the Portmore Municipal Corporation, conducted a tour of the new Municipal building being constructed. The building is set to be completed in February of 2019.

The Minister explained that this new building will benefit both staff and residents of Portmore. "It is an investment that the Ministry has made with no regrets because at the end of the day the results cannot be measured...This new building will more than enhance service delivery."

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