

Southwest St. Andrew Constituency Report

2021-2022

This Political year 2021-2022 required a considerable effort and rethinking to get back to having our normal activities as we continued the process of recovering from a Global pandemic which caused so many disruptions and changes in the way we operate as individuals, businesses and organizations.

However, despite the many challenges we were able to re establish normal office hours, respond the concerns of residents and increase the level of engagement across the constituency.

This report provides a summary of the activities since September 2021. I would therefore like to start by acknowledging the work of many of our leaders as they made sure that we stayed engaged with persons in the community. We must also pause for a minute silence as we pay tribute to some of our stalwarts who have transitioned since then. We ask the Lord to continue to give comfort and solace to the family in this their time of bereavement.

Economic Empowerment

Economic Empowerment is one of the pillars on which the strengthening of our constituency is based. The Member of Parliament uses all avenues to ensure that available opportunities are circulated as widely as possible. Credible notices for employment opportunities are regularly posted. The success of many of these also depend on the initiative of residents in responding and following through. In a constituency plagued with high levels of unemployment and informal employment opportunities economic empowerment is a pathway to improving the quality of life of many families.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

This is a much sought after program and despite the shortage of chickens during the period, 67 persons were given chickens through collaboration with Rada and the southwest St. Andrew Chicken Farmers Program. We

continue to encourage residents to replenish their stock and participate in the training programs offered to improve their competence in this area.

Royal Cruise Line Programme

Through partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and the Member of Parliament 150 persons were submitted for meaningful employment with the Royal Cruise Line. The MP's office provided coordination and assistance for the interview and follow up process. Although we do not have a firm number of those who have completed we are confident that approximately 100 persons would have received a job offer.

Overseas Employment Program

Eighty new individuals were submitted through the ministry of labour and social Security Overseas Employment Programme. We have seen an increase in the number of persons apply and we are also pleased to report that applicants have welcomed the process and the orientation given prior to their interviews with the Ministry of Labour. We are aware that although recent applicants have been called overseas there is at least one batch of applicants who have already cleared all requirements and were told the next step is to go overseas yet they have been waiting for quite some time. The Member of Parliament has promised to follow up and resolve the issues.

Employment Generation

Through Partnership with the M&M Jamaica Limited over 25 persons will be employed on the pipe laying project on Waltham Park Road. In addition to the 45 who were employed during the pipe laying on Spanish Town Rd.

Summer Work Programmes

Through Partnership with the social Development Commission, 60 young persons have been employed through the Youth Summer Employment Programme. Thirty (30) of them have been employed through the Member of

Parliament office for data Collection and Data Entry throughout the Constituency and another 30 meaningfully employed through the Hope Summer Programme, where they were placed in different organizations throughout Kingston and St. Andrew.

Small Business Grant

Over 90 members of the constituency benefitted from our small business grant. These residents were given an economic grant to aid in strengthening their small businesses including shops, bars, stalls etc. An additional 75 persons were given a financial grant through the short term poverty Reduction Programme.

Welfare & Compassionate Grant

This programme is an ongoing programme through the constituency office. We Continue to help many of our vulnerable residents in the with funeral and medical grants.

In the 2021-2022 political year 53 persons received funeral assistance. 15 persons received assistance with medical expenses. From the requests to support medical expenses this remains one of our greatest challenges. The sum that is required to do many of these medical procedures is astronomical and the assistance from the office hardly makes a real dent. The office has often had to resort to requesting assistance through other agencies with little success. In the meantime we do what we can.

During the year, 300 residents were submitted for compassionate grants through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. From the 300 persons submitted 175 persons have collected thus far. 16 persons were not eligible because they were on PATH. We are therefore looking to fill the spaces in short order.

Care Packages

In December 2021 we distributed approximately 750 care packages to vulnerable residents of the constituency, including seniors, single mothers and individuals who were food poor.

Tank Distribution

We Continue to face water shortages in the constituency. The lack of water supply in our pipelines is a challenge that has been a burden on many of our residents for quite some time. We are grateful to Mr. Delano Williams for his prompt responses to our plea for consistency potable water and trucking of water when required. Though the response has often been prompt, the lack, of consistent supply of water in our pipes continues to be of grave concern.

As a response to alleviate the problem, 40 water tanks were distributed this year through a partnership with RADA.

Education and Training

Back to school programme

For the 2021- 2022 academic year we continued with our annual back to school programme. 2.4 Million was spent for book vouchers, 1.8 million was spent for tuition fees for tertiary education fees, \$400,000.00 was spent on Secondary School fees, \$500,000.00 was spent on Stationery supplies including exercise books pencils etc. and \$600,000.00 used to purchase tablets for vulnerable children in the constituency.

Summer School Programme

In August 2021 and August 2022 we hosted 85 students in our annual Summer School Program. In 2022, with reduced funding we have been able to host one summer camp hosting 76 Children from across the constituency. This summer school saw the teaching of literacy and numeracy as well as the Arts. The Creative Arts programme consists of Speech and Drama, Arts and Craft and Music.

With the learning loss that the Education system sustained over the past two years, we are ecstatic to support these children in particular as they explore their creative side and have fun learning together.

This year saw the official handing over of the Payneland Homework's an Resource Center. We are particularly proud of the group of youngsters who have been volunteering their services to provide support with various subjects and PEP preparations.

Infrastructure and Housing

Housing

This political year saw 169 individuals benefitting from our on-going housing assistance programme where residents are provided with a grant through one of our local hardwares.

In 2022 we completed our first house from the Hope Social Housing Programme. We have also begun construction on our second house located in the Whitfield Town Community. We await the commencement of the third unit shortly. Our first "Big Yard" has been approved and is awaiting finalization of the required legal documents.

Housing is one of the major challenges faced by many inner-city communities and South West Dt. Andrew is no exception. While our we would love to be able to make a bigger impact, we are changing one life at a time.

Road Repairs and Drain Cleaning

During the 2021- 2022 Political year several roads were repaired including:

1. Sections of Brotherton Avenue
 2. Sections of Julian Drive
 3. Section of Waltham Park Road
 4. Section of Payne Avenue
 5. Intersection of Waltham Park Road and Spanish Town Road
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6. The Drains that were cleaned across the constituency include:
 1. The Majesty Gardens Drain
 2. Marcus Garvey Drain
 3. Brotherton Rd Drain
 4. Delacree Park Drains
 5. Section of drain on East Avenue

Christmas Clean-up Programme 2021

For our annual Christmas work programme 1053 persons gained employment under this programme. This beautification project was executed across the constituency and work done in almost every area or community.

Several of our major projects undertaken included:

1. Cleaning and clearing of the Marcus Garvey Drain that has been one of our most problematic drains in the constituency.
2. Cleaning and Clearing of the Greenwich Town Football Field
3. Cleaning and clearing of the Greenwich Town Trainline
4. Cleaning and clearing of the open lot on Bowens Road.

5. Cleaning and clearing of the circle at North and South Anderson Crescent.

Labour Day Projects

Several labour day projects were done through out the constituency including:

1. Clean up of the Greenwich Town Community sign
2. Cleanup along Spanish Town Rd
3. Cleaning and painting of the rising Sun Basic School

Jamaica 60 Spruce Up Jamaica Project

As we embark the important milestone of celebrating 60 years of independence, 50 persons were temporarily employed to clean up, de-bush and desilt sections of Spanish Town Road and Waltham Park Road. Another 50 persons were employed, in Greenwich Town ,through our Zone of Special Operations (ZOSO) Jamaica 60 Clean up in partnership with the Jamaica Social Investment Fund.

Community Wifi Connectivity

In The COVID 19 pandemic forced all of us to recognize that we had entered the technological age an that our communities were just as divided between the haves and the have nots where connectivity and technology were concerned. We spoke earlier about the distribution of devices to help bridge that divide. But stable and consistent access to internet connectivity is just as important. We are therefore pleased to report on the installation of our first community hotspot in the Payneland Community. Our second community hotspot in the Caribbean Palms Community has also been launched.

CDF ALLOCATION

The breakdown of the \$20,000,000.00 Constituency Development Fund allocation is as follows:

<i>Proposed CDF Allocation 2021/2022</i>	
Administration	\$1,500,000.00
Disaster & Mitigation	\$3,000,000.00
Labour Day	\$500,000.00
Education	\$5,000,000.00
Welfare	\$2,000,000.00
Housing*	\$1,000,000.00
Economic Enablement	\$1,000,000.00
Christmas	\$3,500,000.00
Physical Infrastructure	\$2,500,000.00
Total	\$20,000,000.00