

# **Southwest St. Andrew Constituency Report**

**2022-2023**

This report provides an overview of the current status, challenges, and opportunities within the constituency and provides a concise overview of key programs undertaken since April 2022. These programs represent a diverse range of initiatives aimed at supporting education and training of our residents; providing well needed support for economic activities and entrepreneurial pursuits; maintaining the integrity of the physical infrastructure and amenities in our communities as well the development and empowerment of our community members.

Despite the many challenges, I am pleased that we have maintained normal office hours, been able to respond to the concerns of residents and increase the level of engagement across the constituency.

I would therefore like to start by acknowledging the work of many of our leaders on the ground who have ensured full engagement with community members and those who have ensured that the agencies that serve the community are held accountable for quality service.

I pause also for a minute of 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. Our economic enablement program is designed to foster economic growth and development within our constituency. it is aimed at improving economic

conditions, creating job opportunities and enhancing the over-all well-being of the community. The goal is to empower individuals and businesses to participate more effectively in the economy and contribute to sustainable economic progress.

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.

### **Summer Work Programmes**

Through Partnership with the Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation, 15 young persons have been employed through the Youth Summer Employment Programme and another 20 meaningfully employed through the Hope Summer Programme, where they were placed in different organizations throughout Kingston and St. Andrew.

### **Small Business Grant**

In February 2023 approximately 20 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.

### **Overseas employment programme**

This year we have submitted 10 persons for an overseas landscapers' program. In March of this year we have submitted 20 females for the overseas H2B programme and 50 persons for the Canadian farm work program.

### **Welfare & Compassionate Grant**

The welfare and compassionate grant programme provides financial assistance to individuals and families facing challenging circumstances, such as medical emergencies, sudden job loss, death of a loved one or other unexpected hardships. The program aims to offer temporary relief and support during difficult times and provide a safety net for those in need.

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

In the 2022-2023 political year 51 persons received funeral assistance and 23 persons received assistance with medical expenses. The requests to support medical expenses remain 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 limited success. In the meantime, we do what we can.

### **MLSS Compassionate Grant**

100 individuals received compassionate grants

### **Care Packages**

In December 2022 we distributed approximately 700 care packages to vulnerable families throughout the constituency.

### **Education and Training**

Our education and training program is designed to provide individuals with opportunities to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications. The aim is to enhance personal and professional development, improve employability and foster lifelong learning.

The Education and Training Program is committed to empowering individuals through education, skill development, and ongoing financial support. By offering a diverse range of learning opportunities, it strives to contribute to personal growth and employability, ultimately benefiting individuals and the wider community.

### **Back to school programme**

For the 2022- 2023 academic year we continued with our annual back school programme. \$8M was spent on school supplies including uniforms, stationery and school supplies including exercise books pencils, school bags etc.

**At our back to school health fair** we assisted over 250 children with items for back to school. These items were bags, stationery and books. Over 100 students were helped with seeing the doctor and with the completions of school medical forms. At the same time more than 300 parents were able to do other important medical tests. But we all know that work without play makes jack a dull boy so we provided rides and refreshments for the children. This was a complete success. We look forward to hosting more of these events in the future and hopefully it will get bigger and better. Many thanks to our Corporate Neighbours who provided needed support for the successful event.

### **Back to school dental fair**

Over 300 persons turn out for the back to school dental fair. However, we could not have accommodated all so approximately 200 persons were assisted with dental. The fair consisted of cleaning of teeth, oral examinations, completion of school dental forms, prescriptions,

referrals, fluoride varnish application, extraction and Oral Health Education.

## **Infrastructure and Housing**

The Infrastructure and Housing Program is aimed at the development, maintenance, and improvement of the Constituency physical infrastructure and housing stock. The Infrastructure and Housing Program is a vital initiative aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents, boosting economic growth, and ensuring the community's long-term sustainability. By addressing infrastructure and housing needs, it contributes to the overall well-being and prosperity of the community and the overall constituency. This is one of the most underfunded program thus denying us the opportunity to significantly assist in this are.

### **Housing**

In 2022 we completed our first house at 11 ¾ Seventh Street Kingston 13 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 St. Andrew is no exception. While we would love to be able to make a bigger impact, we are changing one life at a time.

The Constituency benefited from special programme offered by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation through partnership

with the Member of Parliament where 5 members from the constituency receives \$200,000.00 to aid in repairing their homes.

### **Community Signs**

We believe that community signs give residents a sense of pride and gives the community an identity, it improves the aesthetics of a community and so we took the initiative to erect two community signs, the first community sign is the Payneland/ Tavares sign which is located at the entrance of Payne Avenue, off Spanish Town Road. The second sign is the Whitfield Community Sign which is off Maxfield Avenue at the entrance of Whitfield Avenue. Both signs are still Incomplete and we await their completion shortly.

### **Labour Day Projects**

Several labour day projects were done throughout the constituency including:

1. Majesty Gardens- We removed the debris from 5 homes that that were burnt out earlier this year.
2. 22 Alexander Road Kingston- - We aided family that is in need of extensive repairs to their home.
3. Removed/ clean up dump site on Payne Avenue
4. Clean up of the Greenwich Town Community sign
5. Cleaning and painting of the rising Sun Basic School
6. Also gave support to other community bases organization who were doing labour day projects in various communities.

### **Safe Passage project**

We completed our safe passage program where we refurbished the side walk of the St. Peter Claver Primary School and added railings for the safety of the children. This initiative was taken after several complaints were made by the staff of St. Peter Claver and residents in the surrounding areas about the incessant dumping by passersby and businesses in the area. We are pleased that our children and teachers feel safer using the sidewalk now that the changes have been made.

## **Disaster Mitigation**

Our Disaster mitigation programme has the primary goal of reducing the impact of natural or man-made disasters on the community by implementing comprehensive mitigation strategies. The Disaster Mitigation Program is dedicated to safeguarding the community from the adverse effects of disasters by implementing proactive measures. Through risk assessment, planning, and infrastructure improvements. The project aims to create a safer and more resilient environment for residents and stakeholders.

In accordance to the programme we have cleaned several drains across the constituency. these drains are as follows:

1. Marcus Garvey Drain
2. Majesty gardens Drain

## **CDF ALLOCATION**

### **(Constituency Development Fund)**

The constituency development fund allocation is made available to Members of Parliament for expenditures for their constituencies.

Constituency Development Fund allocation for 2023-2024 of \$20,000,000 is earmarked as follows:

<i>Proposed CDF Allocation 2022/2023</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	\$3,000,000.00
Physical Infrastructure	\$2,500,000.00
Sports	\$500,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000,000.00</b>