



FROM GORDON HOUSE

Houses of Parliament, Gordon House, 81 Duke Street, Kingston. Tel#: (876) 922-0200 Fax: 967-0064/1708 Website: <http://www.japarliament.gov.jm>

From the Speaker's Desk

Dear Friends:

This December will be a fitting close to a year marked by dedicated service by the Houses of Parliament to the people of Jamaica. This service has taken several forms, ranging from establishing international linkages that will foster trade and co-operation between Jamaica and other nations, to passing legislation that will facilitate growth and development. Most recently, I led a small delegation to the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) General Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania, the largest gathering of parliamentary officials from the nations of the Commonwealth. Although we were few in number we participated in several group discussions and represented Jamaica with distinction.

We cannot forget, though, that our actions need to directly impact on the lives of those we wish to help. In light of this, I wish to congratulate Ms. Monica Robinson and Mrs. Pamela Brown for once again spearheading the Houses of Parliament's Christmas outreach programme to the less fortunate in the communities around Parliament. I encourage everyone, Members and staff alike, to assist them in any way possible.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and prosperity in the New Year!

Sincerely,
Delroy H. Chuck, MP
 Speaker of the House

Jamaican Parliament Represented at 55th CPC

Speaker of the House, the Hon. Delroy Chuck led a four-person delegation to the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) and CPA General Assembly held in Arusha, Tanzania from September 28 to October 6, 2009. Other members of the delegation were Mr. Derrick Smith, Member of Parliament for North West St. Andrew and Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Member of Parliament for West St. Thomas. Ms. Valrie Curtis, Deputy Clerk, served as Secretary to the Delegation.

The conference, which is the largest conference hosted by the CPA, was held under the theme "*The Commonwealth and the CPA: Meeting Future Global Challenges*". The Jamaican delegation met with representatives from other Commonwealth nations to discuss issues such as the global financial crisis, political and social conflict, and climate change.



The Jamaican Delegation to the CPC:
 Hon. Delroy Chuck, Speaker of the House of Representatives & Head of the Jamaican delegation (left), Ms. Valrie Curtis (3rd left), Dr. Fenton Ferguson (2nd right) and Mr. Derrick Smith (right). Accompanying the delegation are Mrs. Patricia Chuck (2nd left) and Mrs. Karleen Smith (3rd right).

Tanzanian President Visits!



President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (foreground) addresses Parliament. President of the Senate, Dr. The Hon. Oswald Harding and Speaker of the House, Hon. Delroy Chuck look on.

His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of Tanzania, addressed a Joint Meeting of the Houses of Parliament on the 25th November. President Kikwete, who was accompanied by members of his Cabinet spoke about strengthening cooperation between Jamaica and Tanzania.

An e-Savvy Parliament

As part of measures to modernize the Parliament, Mrs. Heather Cooke, Clerk to the Houses and Mr. Ralph Montaque, Personnel Officer/Fourth Clerk recently attended the World e-Parliament Conference at the United States House of Representatives in Washington, DC. The conference was organised by the United Nations, the International Parliamentary Union, the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and the United States House of Representatives. Participants considered such issues as the role of information and communication technologies in fostering transparency and accountability in Parliaments.

E-Savvy Parliament cont'd

Immediately following the conference, Mrs. Cooke and Mr. Montague participated in a workshop on the *Impact of New Technologies in Parliaments' Transformation in Latin-America and the Caribbean* hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

All travel and accommodation expenses for Jamaican and other Caribbean representatives were sponsored by the IDB.

Hello ...



Mr. Cassius Russell, a new member of staff.

We welcome our newest member of staff, Records Clerk in the Library, Mr. Cassius Russell. Mr. Russell joined the staff of the Houses of Parliament at the end of August after working here as a Summer employee under the National Youth Service Summer Programme. Mr. Russell says that he has been made to feel welcome.

... Goodbye

We recently bade farewell to two members of staff who left the Houses of Parliament to take up opportunities for professional development. They are Ms. Kayla Beckford, Committee Clerk, and Mr. David Pottinger, Records Clerk. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

Italian Day!



Mr. Ralph Montague, Personnel Officer prepares to have his meal.

The Food Services Department once again delighted our tastebuds with another day of specialized fare. Last quarter, they gave us Jamaica Day. This time around, they reached across to the Mediterranean to bring us food from Italy. Lasagna, pizza and garlic bread were some of the dishes that adorned our plates. Suffice it to say, the meal was enjoyed by all. We look forward to what the Food Services Department has in store for us next.

T-E-A-M Work



Kaydian Smith, André Jones, Tashana Alcock and Anthony Lloyd represent the Houses of Parliament at the JACISERA Brain Games.

The Houses of Parliament fielded a team for the Brain Games Competition put on by the Jamaica Civil Service Association (JACISERA) during Civil Service Week. Team members participated in five individual and one group event. The first-time entrants had the second highest total in the team section. They are currently awaiting the results of the individual sections to see the Houses of Parliament's overall standings.

Christmas Cheer!



Preparing to share: Members of the Houses of Parliament Choir practise Christmas carols for the treat for the elderly.

The staff of the Houses of Parliament will be hosting two (2) events this Christmas for the residents of Mark Lane and surrounding communities. On Wednesday, December 16, 2009, the elderly will be feted at a luncheon. They will be entertained by the Houses of Parliament's Choir and each person will be given a care package. On Thursday, December 17, 2009, there will be the Annual Christmas Treat for Children. There will be fun, games, competitions, face painting and a Bounce-About. Children will be served refreshments and will receive a Christmas gift. Both events will be held at the Houses of Parliament at 81 Duke Street, Kingston.

The treats are sponsored by private sector entities, Parliamentarians and members of staff of the Houses of Parliament.



Parting Shot

Remember to pick up your copies of the Houses of Parliament Christmas card/2010 calendar from the Public Relations Office!

Do you have a comment or story you would like to see in our newsletter?

Feel free to send feedback to:
tashana.sewell@japarliament.gov.jm