



MINUTES

OF THE

HONOURABLE JAMAICA HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES

At a meeting of the Members of the House of Representatives held pursuant to adjournment at Gordon House in the City and Parish of Kingston on Tuesday, the

21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2012

The House met at 2:16 p.m. o'clock.

PRAYERS

Prayer was offered by Miss Joyce Denise Daley.

CALL OF THE ROLL

PRESENT WERE:

Hon. Michael Anthony Peart, MP, Speaker

Mr. Lloyd Barnes Smith, MP, Deputy Speaker

Hon. Phillip Feanny Paulwell, MP, Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House

Dr. the Hon. Peter David Phillips, MP, Minister of Finance and Planning

Dr. the Hon. Omar Lloyd Davies, MP, Minister of Transport, Works & Housing

Hon. Robert Dixon Pickersgill, MP, Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change

Hon. Roger Harold Clifford Clarke, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

Hon. Lisa Rene Shanti Hanna, MP, Minister of Youth and Culture

Hon. Dr. Morais Valentine Guy, MP, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works & Housing, with responsibility for Housing

Rev. the Hon. Ronald George Thwaites, MP, Minister of Education

Hon. Luther Bartley Monteith Buchanan, MP, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister

Hon. Julian Jay Robinson, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining

Hon. Ian Dave Hayles, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries

Hon. Sharon Ffolkes-Abrahams, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce

Mr. Edmund Curtis Bartlett, MP, St. James, East Central

Dr. Kenneth Leigh O'Neill Baugh, MP, St. Catherine, West Central

Dr. Lynvale George Bloomfield, MP, Portland, Eastern

Mr. Hugh Carl Buchanan, MP, St. Elizabeth, South Western

Mr. Paul Lennox Buchanan, MP, St. Andrew, West Rural

Dr. Dayton Ricardo Campbell, MP, St. Ann, North Western

Dr. Horace Anthony Chang, MP, St. James, North Western

Mr. Pearnel Patroe Charles, CD, MP, Clarendon, North Central

Mr. Delroy Hawmin Chuck, MP, St. Andrew, North Eastern

Miss Joyce Denise Daley, MP, St. Catherine, Eastern

Miss Olivia Atavia Grange, MP, St. Catherine, Central

Dr. Winston Lloyd Green, MP, St. Mary, South Eastern

Mr. Lester Michael Henry, MP, Clarendon, Central

Mr. Andrew Michael Holness, MP, St. Andrew, West Central and Leader of the Opposition

Mr. William James Charles Hutchinson, MP, St. Elizabeth, North Western

Mr. Andre Mario Hylton, MP, St. Andrew, Eastern

Mr. Fitz Arthur Jackson, MP, St. Catherine, Southern

Mr. Desmond Gregory Mair, MP, St. Catherine, North Eastern

Mr. Desmond Anthony Augustus McKenzie, CD, MP, Kingston, Western

Mr. Richard Antonio Parchment, MP, St. Elizabeth, South Eastern

Mr. Mikael Asher Phillips, MP, Manchester, North Western

Mr. Raymond Franklyn Pryce, MP, St. Elizabeth, North Eastern

Mrs. Shahine Elizabeth Robinson, MP, St. Ann, North Eastern

Mr. Karl George Samuda, CD, MP, St. Andrew, North Central

Mr. Jolyan Craig Ian Silvera, MP, St. Mary, Western

Mr. Derrick Charles Smith, CD, MP, St. Andrew, North Western

Mr. Rudyard Conrad Spencer, MP, Clarendon, South Eastern

Mr. Daryl Wesley Phillip Vaz, MP, Portland, Western

Mr. Keith Anthony Walford, MP, St. Ann, South Western

Mr. Clifford Everald Errol Warmington, MP, St. Catherine, South Western

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The Minister of Transport, Works and Housing, Dr. the Honourable Omar Davies made the following statement on the status of the “*Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP)*”:

Members of this Honourable House will recall that on the 24th of January, 2012, I presented my first report on the status of the Jamaica Infrastructure Development Programme (JDIP). This afternoon I present report No. 2, providing additional information on the project. I will address directly the question of what Members of Parliament, and perhaps more important, members of the general public, can expect in terms of future implementation of the JDIP project.

(Mr. Keith Walford, M.P., St. Ann, South Western entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of National Security, the Honourable Peter Bunting, entered and took his seat).

(Dr. Andrew Wheatley, M.P., St. Catherine, South Central entered and took his seat).

(The Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller, entered and took her seat).

(The Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, the Honourable George Hylton, entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment, the Honourable Damion Crawford, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Rudyard Spencer, M.P., Clarendon, South Eastern entered and took his seat).

(The Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and Planning with responsibility for the Public Service, the Honourable Horace Dalley, entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Honourable Arnaldo Brown, entered and took his seat).

(The Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, with responsibility for Sports and Deputy Leader of the House, the Honourable Natalie Neita-Headley, entered and took her seat).

However, let me begin this statement by providing an update on two related issues:

1. The search for a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the National Works Agency (NWA); and
2. The selection of a firm to carry out the forensic audit of the JDIP.

On the matter of the recruitment of the CEO, advertisements were placed and the closing date for the submission of applications has passed. We await the completion of the selection process which is being executed by the Office of the Services Commissions and the Public Services Commission.

As regards to the forensic audit, Members will recall that I revealed in my last report that, notwithstanding the announcement by the former Prime Minister (the Member from St. Andrew, West Central) of his intention to conduct such an audit, I discovered, on taking office in January, that absolutely nothing had been done by either the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) or the sector Ministry.

At my request, work was started immediately on the drafting of terms of reference for the audit. These draft terms of reference were reviewed by both the Attorney General and the Auditor

General and their comments were incorporated into the final document. I should indicate that the draft terms of reference were also sent to the Office of the Contractor General. While not commenting on the contents, the Office of the Contractor General advised the Ministry of their intention to monitor the process that will be used to engage the consultants.

(The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, the Honourable Richard Azan, entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of Local Government and Community Development, the Honourable Noel Arscott, entered and took his seat).

(Mrs. Marisa Dalrymple Philibert, M.P., Trelawny, Southern entered and took her seat).

(The Attorney General, the Honourable Evon St. Patrick Atkinson, entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of Labour and Social Security, the Honourable Derrick Kellier, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Audley Shaw, M.P., Manchester, North Eastern entered and took his seat).

(Dr. Donald K. Duncan, M.P., Hanover, Eastern entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr. Fenton Ferguson, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. James Robertson, M.P., St. Thomas, Western entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of Tourism and Entertainment, the Honourable Dr. Kenneth McNeill, entered and took his seat).

The National Contracts Commission approved the request from the Ministry to utilize the limited tender methodology to engage the consultants. Accordingly, the request for proposals was sent to six (6) firms which operate locally and internationally.

The following is a summary of the schedule to select the firm to conduct the audit:

- i) Invitation date – February 12, 2012
- ii) Closing date for receipt of proposals – February 29, 2012
- iii) Evaluation date – March 4, 2012
- iv) Opening of financial proposals – March 15, 2012
- v) Review by various NCC Committees – March 16, 2012
- vi) Contract signing – March 29, 2012

vii) Start date – April 2, 2012

Now to the JDIP project. In my first statement to the House made on January 24, 2012, I indicated that the combination of (i) payments made for work completed; (ii) payments due for work completed and (iii) the value of new work orders issued, totaled US\$398.1M. In simple terms, after just over a year of implementation, were I to accept the situation as presented to me in the first week of January, only US\$1.9M was left to be allocated from the US\$400M loan. Members should recall that this loan was intended to finance a 5-year project. In other words, the new Administration would have had to accept that the US\$400M loan had been fully committed, although theoretically there should have been another three years left on the project.

Members will recall that the former Minister of Transport and Works presented to Parliament a listing of projects to be undertaken under JDIP for fiscal years 2010/2011 and 2011/2012. I have learnt that these projects corresponded to work orders 1 – 8 issued by the NWA with a total contract sum valuing US\$287M. Subsequently, work orders No. 9 and No. 10, with a combined value of US\$21.0M, were issued. In summary, work orders No.1 – 10 had a value of US\$308.0M

However, there were other costs associated with the project which were not taken into account by work orders No. 1 – 10. These included:

- a) China Harbour design fees – US\$8.0M
- b) Fluctuations – US\$21.1M
- c) Additional rehabilitation works – US\$36.1M
- d) Routine maintenance programme – US\$20.8M

These “additional charges” combined with the value of work orders No. 1 – 10, to give the figure of US\$398.1M to which I have referred repeatedly.

Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that the final expenditure on “additional rehabilitation works” and “routine maintenance” has not yet been settled, as some of the projects listed on the issued work orders were not implemented. When those figures are finalized, Parliament will be informed.

In the meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, I have sought to probe as to what exactly was involved in the “routine maintenance programme” for which nearly US\$21.0M had been committed. I have discovered that the activities in so far as they actually occurred, took place in December 2012, and mainly involved “bushing”. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing inherently wrong with “bushing”, but the commitment to spend JA\$1.8B on “bushing” in one month is worthy of note. It certainly raises questions about the sincerity of those who now seek to criticize labour intensive activities under the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP).

Furthermore, it is almost unbelievable to realize that, whilst it was found possible to commit JA\$1.8B in this manner, funds were not available to carry out urgently-needed repairs to two

bridges over the Rio Minho. Mr. Speaker, I should mention, in passing, that when the urgency of the need to repair the bridges was presented to me, I gave immediate instructions that the work should take place. Members may have noted an announcement today that the repairs on one of the bridges will begin this week.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I were to omit reference to the fiscal implications of the irresponsible management of this project. The cavalier way in which work orders were issued has had serious implications for the fiscal budget. As we speak, there are outstanding amounts due to contractors, as part of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ's) 15% counterpart funding of the project. On Friday last, I met with the regional representative of the contractor to explain that the full sum owed for fiscal year 2011/2012 cannot be paid, but all efforts will be made to address the arrears in fiscal year 2012/2013. Mr. Speaker, it is projected that the GOJ's counterpart contribution in fiscal year 2012/2013 will amount to US\$60.0M or JA\$5.2B.

Having reviewed the above situation, I asked the Acting CEO of the NWA to disaggregate the full set of projects into three groups:

- a) Work completed
- b) Ongoing projects (started but not completed)
- c) Work not yet started

There is clearly nothing which can be done about the completed projects and I have taken the decision to complete the projects which have been started, as well as to construct the Westmoreland Bridge (located in St. Mary). However, I have instructed that wherever possible, on-going projects should be re-scoped in order to allow for the reallocation of US\$50.0M to fund the JEEP programme. For example, the Westmoreland Bridge, which was originally costed at US\$21.0M, has been re-scoped, by reducing the planned expenditure on the approaches

In summary, my instructions were that the total for (i) payments made, (ii) commitments to pay for work already undertaken and (iii) the cost of completion of projects which have been started, should consume a maximum of US\$350.0M.

The remaining sum of US\$50.0M is earmarked for the JEEP programme, which I will discuss in greater detail in another statement, this afternoon.

However, our attempt to bring order to this example of fiscal irresponsibility has some consequences which spell bad news for some Members. There are 33 projects listed in the matrix provided by the former Minister which have not been started, and for which no funds are available. Consistent with the Administration's policy of transparency, I will be providing every Member of this Honourable House a list identifying each of these projects which cannot be implemented, despite being shown in the matrix provided to this Honourable House by the previous Minister.

Mr. Speaker, this cavalier approach to project management will have seen the expenditure of US\$350 M in two years. The million dollar question remains: Did Jamaica receive value for money? Certainly the view of most road users is that never in our history has the network been in such a state of disrepair.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the situation and although there is presently no funding available for major construction and rehabilitation, we have started a programme of patching, based on greatest need, rather than a selection process based on political victimization. The Minister of Finance and Planning and I have had preliminary discussions which will see this programme expanded island-wide in fiscal year 2012/2013, requiring expenditure of approximately JA\$500.0M as a Capital A project. Further details will be announced as the budget for fiscal year 2012/2013 is finalized.

The Minister of Transport and Works further made the following statement on the status of the “*Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)*”:

Members of the House will recall that in my statement to Parliament on the Jamaica Development Infrastructure Programme (JDIP), I had given the assurance that I would shortly be announcing details of the first phase of the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP), which would begin during the last two months of this fiscal year.

I am pleased to announce in fulfillment of this undertaking, the outline for the commencement of the Programme for the remainder of this fiscal year and some details for the medium terms, which will be outlined fully early Fiscal Year 2012/2013.

To this end, I have tabled a Ministry Paper today, providing the details that I had promised.

The House will recall that in my earlier presentation on JDIP, it was revealed that of the US\$400M four-year programme, some US\$209.6M had been certified for payment up to December 2011. In addition, new Work Orders had been issued amounting to US\$188.5M, thus leaving an uncommitted balance of approximately US\$2.0M.

In order to fulfill our commitment, whereby the Administration had announced that it would be identifying funds under the JDIP, we have re-scoped some of the projects under the JDIP, whereby some US\$50.0M or approximately JA\$4.2 billion have been identified, to partially fund the JEEP programme. This re-scoping has taken place after consultations with the main contractor on the JDIP project.

In addition to the JDIP funding, the Administration had identified projects some new; some existing ones which have been brought forward and expanded, while others are at the concept stage to be implemented in the medium term. Importantly, however, at the core is the need to create/generate employment in the short to medium term.

The Administration realizes that in spite of the high levels of expenditure on social and economic programmes over the years, a large pool of Jamaica’s labour force remains unemployed and

underemployed. The situation has been exacerbated by the prevailing global financial crisis, which in the short term is expected to continue, given developments in the EURO zone.

The unemployed labour force represents an untapped resource which is critical to the country's growth and development. Moreover, unemployment among unattached youth is a potential deterrent to growth, given their propensity to become involved in anti-social activities. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, the stark reality is that no government, anywhere in the world, can sit back and hope that the private sector will provide all the solution. The Private Sector, given current realities cannot be expected to respond to the crisis, in any significant way in the short run, given the depressed state of aggregate demand.

Therefore, in the current situation the government has no option but to act. However, public sector investments to address the current high unemployment levels, must promote growth and development by generating long-term social and economic benefits, build human capital and adhere to the framework for fiscal discipline to which this Administration is committed.

Activities of JEEP

The Objectives of JEEP are, *inter alia*:

1. Provide economic opportunities and employment for vulnerable, unemployed and underemployed groups;
2. Equip targeted individuals and groups with simple marketable skills and employment
3. Create a solid transportation infrastructure that facilitates economic growth and development
4. Strengthen the resilience of the built and natural environments and advance the country's climate change adaptation/mitigation agenda

Jeep Implementation

The Ministry Paper tabled today has provided details on the projects to be implemented under the JEEP. However, I want to highlight a few areas, for the remainder of this fiscal year.

For this period some JA\$1.2B has been identified from the following areas:

JDIP (re-scoped)	\$731.0M
PetroCaribe	\$234.0M
Heart Trust/NTA	\$21.0M
Ministry of Labour and Social Security	\$40.5M

Ministry of Tourism & Entertainment \$150.0M

As can be seen, the lion's share of the funds will be sourced from the re-scoped JDIP in the short term.

Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing

The funds identified will be utilized for:

- Construction of river training structures	\$172.0M
- Repairing and cleaning of gullies and drains	\$197.8M
- Bushing A and B roads	\$157.4M
- Trimming, bushing and repairing sidewalks	\$129.0M
- Installation of traffic signs	\$10.3M
- Kerb painting	\$21.5M
- Repairing potholes	\$86.0M
- Contingency	\$86.0M

Total	\$860.0M

It is estimated that in the short term over 500 jobs will be generated from the above expenditures.

In addition, over the medium term, funding amounting to some JA\$6.2B have been identified to continue the programme. This will include contributions from the National Housing Trust (NHT), PetroCaribe, Ministry of Youth and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Education, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Forestry Department and Ministry of Tourism & Entertainment/Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF).

The numbers however, do not include funding from the European Union (EU) for the Agricultural Sector which is dependent on getting the seal of approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

I repeat, the full details for the medium term will be announced early in the new fiscal year.

Private Sector Participation

The Government intends to implement initiatives to foster private sector participation and work with the MSMEs to expand production and employment, consistent with the 2030 growth strategies and the Tax Reform process.

In addition to the Prime Minister's appeal to firms/companies to employ one additional person, the Private Sector and NGO community will be encouraged/facilitated to offer employment to unemployed persons in several ways including:

- Opportunities will be provided for private sector firms to complement government's activities in creating employment.

- Proposed Tax Reform will provide special incentives to existing firms which create additional employment (JEEP Tax Incentive). Details of this proposal are to be worked out with the stakeholders for implementation during the fiscal year.
- Special emphasis will be placed on MSMEs which have the potential to generate a significant number of jobs, including revisiting the objective of making access to credit easier, and providing the supportive infrastructure. Two programmes are worthy of special note. The first is a major programme of constructing housing units for middle and low-income householders, including young professionals using small contractors. Another is the repair of school furniture using community artisans.
- Arrangements are being explored to take equity positions in MSMEs through a venture capital facility.

Administration and Implementation Arrangements

A highly experienced and skilled Programme Manager has already been identified and will soon be employed. She will be supported by a very small secretariat that will be based in the Ministry of Transport, Work and Housing, to coordinate the programme. The Programme Manager will have responsibility for ensuring that procurement guidelines for the projects are adhered to. Each Ministry participating in the JEEP programme will be required to name an Accountable Officer who will coordinate his/her Ministry's activities.

The Accountable Officers from the Ministries will constitute an inter-agency group which will be chaired by the Programme Manager.

The Project will be reviewed at the end of year one to ensure compliance with stated objectives.

Selection of Participants

Because of the concern about potential political interference and bias, we have widened the selection process for participants.

Participants may be recommended by a broad cross section of persons including the Members of Parliament, representatives from churches, citizens associations and other civic groups in the community. The participants will be selected based on criteria agreed to by the inter-agency group as well as local groups. Efforts will be made to include as many participants as possible using methods such as rotation. It is expected that the arrangements for the implementation of JEEP will be fully in place by the beginning of March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk laid on the Table of the House, a copy of the following:

Ministry Paper No. 16/12

And

Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
of the **Coconut Industry Board**
for the year ended December 31, 2010
(*Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries*)

Ministry Paper No. 17/12

on the

Immediate Phase of the
Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme (JEEP)
in the Financial Year 2011/2012
(*Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing*)

Certified Appropriation Accounts

<u>Head</u>	<u>Ministry/Department</u>	<u>Financial Year</u>
0300	Office of the Prime Minister --	2010/2011
0600	Office of the Services Commissions	2010/2011
1649	Management Institute for National Development	2010/2011
1800 & 1800A	Office of the Prime Minister - Local Government Department	2010/2011
5100	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	2010/2011, 2009/2010 & 2007/2008
5100B	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	2009/2010
5100A & 5100B	- do -	2008/2009 & 2007/2008
5146	Forestry Department	2010/2011
6300, 6300A & 6300B	Ministry of Water and Housing	2008/2009

(*Auditor General's Department*)

The Minister of Finance and Planning laid on the Table of the House a copy of the following:

Second Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure
for the Financial Year ending March 31, 2012
(*Ministry of Finance and Planning*)

NOTICES OF MOTIONS GIVEN ORALLY

Mr. Lester Michael Henry gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

WHEREAS the Slave Trade was barbaric and uncivilized and represented one of the worst examples of man's inhumanity to man and should never be either forgotten or repeated;

AND WHEREAS it was as a direct consequence of this Slave Trade that the African people were scattered throughout the Globe against their will, resulting in the dismantling and destabilization of Africa, so that children who were produced as a result have remained disenfranchised;

AND WHEREAS in direct proportion to the destabilization of the nations of these sons and daughters was the growth of prosperity and power of their colonial masters;

AND WHEREAS nations such as the English-speaking Caribbean, which have evolved through wresting independence from their slave masters, have remained doomed to be forever strangled by mushrooming debt;

AND WHEREAS history is replete with instances where compensation has been paid to nationalities for injustices and violations suffered, to wit, the Jews for the Holocaust, the Maoris of New Zealand and the Japanese after World War II;

AND WHEREAS it was unanimously passed in the House of Representatives on the 20th July, 1948, that all who desire to return to Liberia should be facilitated, and in response thereto, general instructions were issued to the then JLP Government on the 10th June, 1964;

AND WHEREAS the cry for repatriation has been a pursuit of some citizens, and it is now almost eighty years since the Rastafarian brethren of Jamaica, in particular, commenced their struggle for reparation and repatriation:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House, with a view to establishing a united and common position, take a vote acknowledging that reparation is due to the countries of the displaced descendants of the African peoples, and that the Government of Jamaica has the right to pursue such claims from Great Britain on behalf of all citizens of Jamaica;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Great Britain be called upon to provide compensation by way of cash and or debt relief;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government accommodate any citizen or group of citizens who wish to enter into dialogue regarding their repatriation to Liberia and to give consideration to their request in accordance with the 1948 Resolution of this Honourable House;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any or all compensation to be made, which should be equivalent to that made to the former slave owners, be paid to the Government of Jamaica, a portion of which settlement should be used for the repatriation of any citizen so requesting, subject to international treaties;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House appoint a committee to sit jointly with a similar committee of the Senate, in consultation with private and/or governmental bodies to pursue this settlement with Great Britain directly, or if necessary, through the highest international courts.

Mr. Karl Samuda gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

WHEREAS the Jamaica Railway Corporation successfully activated the rail service from Kingston to Linstead, St. Catherine which provided a welcome alternative to the commuting public between Linstead/Bog Walk and Kingston as a result of the closure of the Bog Walk Gorge for several months in order to effect the installation of water mains;

AND WHEREAS it has been reported that this service has been experiencing financial challenges;

AND WHEREAS it is well known that revenues generated from passenger services only are inadequate to cover the cost of maintaining the service;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to engage private sector funding in order to resuscitate on a phased basis at least, the services linking the Cruise Shipping Pier in Montego Bay to Appleton Estate, for example, in order to restore a once successful tourism attraction:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House call on the Minister of Transport, Works and Housing to present to Parliament a comprehensive plan to deal with the reengagement of the rail service on a phased basis and specifically the plan of the Government in respect of the passenger service to Linstead;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister advise the House of his intention to pursue the plans of the previous Administration to utilize the existing rail infrastructure in order to establish a fibre optic backbone across the country in order to create industrial development and expand the communication infrastructure across the centre of the island.

The Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr. the Honourable Peter Phillips gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Second Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year ending March 31, 2012, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 21st day of February, 2012, be referred to the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee for consideration and report.

He further gave notice that at a later stage that day, he would move for the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable him to take the motion.

Mr. Edmund Bartlett spoke on the matter of the Parliament hiring a Technical Assistant for the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee. The Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House, the Honourable Phillip Paulwell and the Minister of Finance and Planning also spoke on the matter.

The time being 5:02 p.m., the Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House, moved for the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable Questions and Answers to Questions to be taken after 3:15 p.m.

Seconded by: Mr. Jolyan Silvera.

Agreed to:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. William Hutchinson asked the Minister of Agriculture the following question:

The Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Hui Liangyu, agreed to a grant of 20 million rmb towards agriculture with emphasis on agro processing.

The former Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Robert Montague, sent a proposal for the expenditure of this money. It consisted of:

- (a) Resuscitation of 500 acres of banana for banana chips costing US\$1M, this against the background that \$4M worth of banana chips was imported into Jamaica between January and June 2011.
- (b) US\$500,000 for the production of turmeric and ginger. This would plant 200 acres.
- (c) US\$500,000 for soil preservation to prevent erosion of top soil especially on hillsides.
- (d) US\$200,000 for the purchase of small tools and tractors.

Part 1

Will the Minister state if he intends to carry out the programmes as outlined by the former Minister or if he intends to make changes to the programme? If he intends to make changes, will the Minister state what will be the changes?

Part 2

Will the Minister state if any funds already earmarked or negotiated by the former Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for the expansion of the agriculture sector, will be reallocated to the Jamaica Emergency Employment Programme?

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honourable Roger Clarke, replied as follows:

Answer to Part 1

I am advised that the project referred to by the Member from St. Elizabeth, North Western, constitutes a shopping list relating to how the then Minister desired to have the grant of 20 million rmb utilized. I am further advised that the PIOJ has indicated that though the proposed project was laudable and important, it does not fall within the framework of Chinese funded

grant projects. Grants provide by the Chinese Government are essentially used to fund inputs such as machinery and equipment originating from China.

The Ministry will therefore submit a new proposal more in line with the requirements of what the funding will support. If this proposal is accepted it could take up to one year to access benefits. Given the importance of elements of the programme submitted by the former Minister, the Ministry has taken the decision to fast track ginger, turmeric and banana projects from existing resources within the Ministry in collaboration with the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), the Export Division and the Banana Board. All these projects will be launched this month.

Answer to Part 2

This Ministry has formulated a portfolio of projects intended to expand agricultural production and productivity, and in the process create jobs in a sustainable way. This portfolio includes projects that were previously planned, and their implementation is now being accelerated through reallocation of existing resources. There will also be new projects such as farmstead establishment, agro-parks, social and infrastructure projects in sugar dependent areas, expansion of fruit tree crop production and bee-keeping which will be rolled out in the financial year 2012/2013.

Mr. William Hutchinson asked the Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change the following question:

Part 1

Will the Minister state how many Certificates of Compliance have been issued under the Land Access for National Development (LAND) in the parishes of Manchester, St. Mary, St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth and Clarendon?

Part 2

Will the Minister state if there is a targeted number of Certificates of Compliance to be issued by December 2012?

Part 3

Will the Minister state how many persons received titles under the Land Administration Management Programme (LAMP) since January 2011?

Part 4

Will the Minister state the number of titles he hopes to be issued by December 2012?

Part 5

Will the Minister state if there will be any changes made or expansion to any of these programmes, and will there be an expansion of LAND to all parishes during 2012?

The Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change, the Honourable Robert Pickersgill, replied as follows:

Answer to Part 1

No Certificates of Compliance have been issued to date. As at February 10, 2012, a total of 501 applications have been received and such applications are at various stages of processing.

- 471 by Geoland Limited
- 30 by the People's Cooperative Bank

Answer to Part 2

Subject to the receipt of the targeted funding and the receipt of the number of applications from land owners, the target is 1,100 for 2012. Based on the sum of money currently in the fund, six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00), a total of 130 Certificates of Compliance can be financed at this time.

Answer to Part 3

A total of 844 Certificates of Title have been issued from first registration applications between January 1, 2011 and January 31, 2012.

Answer to Part 4

The targeted figure for the remainder of the year is 1000.

Answer to Part 5

There will be no changes to LAND or LAMP and both programmes will be expanded, subject to the availability of resources.

Mr. Desmond McKenzie gave notice that at the expiration of 21 days he would ask the Minister of Local Government and Community Development the following question:

Part 1

Will the Minister state which officer of the National Solid Waste Management (NSWMA) took the decision to seek to terminate the services of the company which currently provide security services to the Authority?

Part 2

Will the Minister state which officer of the NSWMA took the decision to seek to award the contract for the provision of security services to EAP Security Services?

Part 3

Will the Minister state which officer of the NSWMA took the decision to seek to engage EAP Security Services by way of the Direct Procurement Methodology?

Part 4

Will the Minister state whether these decisions had the approval of the Board of the Authority?

Part 5

Will the Minister state who are the principals of EAP Security Services?

Part 6

Will the Minister state on what basis is the NSWMA considering engaging the services of EAP Security Services, including the rates quoted by the said company and its record of providing services to any government agency.

Part 7

Will the Minister confirm whether the Office of the Contractor General has expressed concerns regarding the intention to award the security services contract to EAP Security Services?

Mr. Desmond Mair gave notice that at the expiration of 21 days he would ask the Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining the following question:

Part 1

Can the Minister advise what is the net contribution to the Consolidated Fund of GCT charged to electricity bills, broken down by customer category (i.e. residential, commercial, industrial)?

Part 2

Can the Minister advise of the total of residential consumers, what number and percentage are below the GCT exempt threshold of 200 KWh/month?

Part 3

Can the Minister advise how many additional residential consumers would benefit if the GCT exempt threshold was increased to 250 or 300 KWh/month? What would be the impact on GCT?

Part 4

Can the Minister advise which customer category will be the main beneficiary if GCT is removed from the consumption of electricity?

Part 5

Would the Minister agree that GCT on electricity should be allocated to a fund to promote and support the Renewable Energy Sector?

Mr. Desmond Mair gave notice that at the expiration of 21 days he would ask the Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce the following question:

Part 1

Can the Minister advise what is the trade balance between Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago for the last 5 years in comparison to other members of CARICOM?

Part 2

Can the Minister advise what is the trade balance of manufactured goods between Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago for the last 5 years in comparison to other members of CARICOM?

Part 3

Does the Minister believe that the manufacturers in Jamaica compete with the manufacturers in Trinidad & Tobago on a “level playing field” within the context of CARICOM?

Mr. William Hutchinson gave notice that at the expiration of 21 days he would ask the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries the following question:

Part 1

Will the Minister indicate the total debt incurred by the government owned Sugar Company of Jamaica prior to its divestment?

Part 2

Can the Minister provide a breakout of that debt, itemizing each area of expenditure?

Part 3

Can the Minister provide a timeline for that debt over the period leading up to divestment and including the portion of the debt incurred before September 2007 and since September 2007 to divestment?

Part 4

Can the Minister indicate what portion of the debt was attributed to the operation of the estates and what portion was directly linked to the divestment process?

Part 5

Can the Minister give a breakout of the portion of the debt attributed to operation of the estates and that portion attributed to the divestment exercise?

Part 6

Can the Minister indicate the levels of private sector expenditure that has been spent on the estates since they have been divested, additional lands cultivated in cane and jobs that are directly and indirectly linked to the now privatized estates?

Mr. Paul Buchanan gave notice that at the expiration of 21 days he would ask the Minister of Transport, Works and Housing the following question:

Part 1

Is the Minister aware that not a single road has been completed under the Jamaica Infrastructure Development Programme (JDIP) in St. Andrew, West Rural?

Part 2

Is the Minister aware that the break-away main roads at both Parks Road/Almond Hill and Mount Ogle in St. Andrew, West Rural have disallowed many children from attending school, as the buses cannot pass over both areas for over one (1) year now?

Part 3

Is the Minister aware that for the past nine (9) months the Brandon Hill community is cut off from the other areas by a massive break-away requiring a by-pass road to allow public usage and the safe passage of children to school?

Part 4

Can the Minister state when will the Parks Road/Almond Hill, Mount Ogle and Mount Horeb break-aways will be addressed?

Part 5

Is the Minister aware that most of the JDIP road contracts have been signed on the basis of “generic” or very preliminary designs leading to numerous variations and fluctuations?

Part 6

Can the Minister state how much of the commitments identified under the programme are based on variations?

Part 7

Will the Minister take steps to ensure that contracts are only signed on the basis of detailed designs and quantities?

Mr. Paul Buchanan also gave notice that at the expiration of 21 days he would ask the Minister of Local Government and Community Development the following question:

Part 1

Can the Minister confirm whether the Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC), as the implementing agency for the St. Andrew, West Rural Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Road Maintenance Programme, approved and made any payments after Parliament was dissolved on the 8th December, 2011?

Part 2

Is the Minister aware that there is a disconnect between the approved figures for the St. Andrew, West Rural Road Maintenance Programme at the Office of the Prime Minister CDF Unit and the payment status at the KSAC, as the implementing agency?

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Minister of Finance and Planning, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Second Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year ending March 31, 2012, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 21st day of February, 2012, be referred to the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee for consideration and report.

Seconded by: Mr. Lloyd B. Smith.
Agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:39 p.m. the Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House moved that the House do now adjourn to Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. o'clock.

Seconded by: Dr. Dayton Campbell.
Agreed to.

The House adjourned accordingly.

Michael Peart, M.P.
Speaker