

INTERFACE

The Ministry of Transport and Works' Newsletter

MTW HAS A NEW HOME

The soulful line of a popular song says, 'a house is not a home...' If that is the case, the Ministry of Transport and Works has moved out of a house and into a permanent home at 138H Maxfield Avenue.

On Monday, July 26, 2004, the Corporate Office of the Ministry that was housed at 1c-1f Pawsey Road in New Kingston moved to premises at 138H Maxfield Avenue. The 'new' building is really a refurbished and extended structure. Previously, a two storey building existed there and this used to be home to the Finance and Administration Directorates. During the construction, those Directorates remained but were eventually re-located to 140 Maxfield Avenue.

The additions to the building include 3,574 sq. ft of extra space consisting of a third floor and a brand new wing. The new design of the building has seen it being transformed from an 'L' shaped to a 'U' shaped edifice. To the east of the new wing, there is a provision for canteen facilities. The roof of the building provides a spacious and breathtaking wide-angle view of the city as far as to the Kingston Harbour and parts of Portmore.

The ground floor houses a spacious lobby/receptionist area, the Human Resource Directorate, the Registry and Documentation Centre, Finance and Accounts Directorate (not yet occupied) and the soon to be set-up library. On the first floor are to be found the Directorates of Policy, Techni-

cal Services, Corporate Planning and Performance Management, New Initia-



tives and Special Projects, Management and Information Systems, the Office of

the Director of Administration and a secondary conference room being temporarily used as a lunch room. The Offices of the Minister, the Minister of State, the Permanent Secretary (PS), Corporate Services (Legal, Public Relations and the PS' administrative support staff) and the main conference room are all located on the second floor.

The new location boasts adequate parking facilities and the fact that the building is owned by the Ministry will result in considerable savings.

Efforts are still in progress in terms of the landscaping of the grounds and the general enhancement of its aesthetic appeal.

MTW ASSISTS AFTER HURRICANE

Apart from the fact that they are in the Caribbean, what do the Cayman Islands, Grenada and Jamaica have in common? If you said that they all suffered from the effects of Hurricane Ivan, you would be quite correct.

The devastation that Hurricane Ivan wrought on these islands has been nothing short of horrendous. And it does not take a genius to see that the rebuilding process is going to be a costly affair that will run into billions of dollars both in terms of actual cash and other resources with which to do the job.

\$2.79B is the amount it will take to repair the island's road network in addition to the \$220M it is taking to clear them.

Here at the Ministry of Transport and Works, the organization through

the National Works Agency did yeoman service in restoring access to various roads across the island after the hurricane. Up to late September, the National Works Agency had received over 1,050 reports of roads that had problems associated with them. To date, 99% of main roads have

been cleared while a significant number of the others have been either cleared or have single lane access.

One of the areas that was severely affected and in fact was cut off, was the Palisadoes Road leading to the Norman Manley International Airport. In fact, that area became something of an attraction as many persons went to view how the sea deposited loads of sand on the road, making it impassable. Within a day, at least single lane access was

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PORT AUTHORITY TOPS FOOTBALL

Two of the Agencies reporting to the Ministry of Transport and Works excelled in the recently concluded Business House Div. 2 Football competition

Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) and the Jamaica Urban Trust Corporation (JUTC) both reached the finals of the Division 2 Business House Football Knockout competition where Port Authority was crowned champions after defeating JUTC 4-2 on penalties.

Both teams had played to a 2 all scoreline after full and extra time. During the ensuing penalty shoot out JUTC took the lead in the 13th minute when Desmond Walker beat goalkeeper Derrick 'Daddy Fly' at his near post. Port Authority got the equalizer one minute before half time when Jason Brown scored. Dilwick

Williams then sent JUTC in the lead in the 60th minute. As the tempo of the game increased, Port Authority's Jason Brown was given the red card by referee Alwin Plummer for a violent tackle against one of his opponents in the 63rd minute. This assisted JUTC to assume the ascendancy but they were held at bay by goalkeeper Grant who executed some brilliant saves.

In the 80th minute however,



The PAJ Football Team



Mission Challenge

**Ready for the Challenge?
Well, here goes!**

Reproduce the Ministry's Mission and Vision Statements and send them in to the PR Unit. The first correct (right down to the last word and punctuation) entry drawn will be declared the winner.

**A surprise awaits the winner!
Entries close October 31st.**

'GUESS WHO' takes a break this edition. Last edition's winner was Kaydian Small from the Registry. The photo was that of Pauline Montague.

Your Health



Your Most Valuable Possession

HOW TO STORE FOOD PROPERLY

It is amazing how many persons take the proper storage of food for granted. So long as food is placed in the refrigerator, the freezer or in a cupboard, then as far as they are concerned, the particular item of food is safe. Not so at all!

The aim in storing foods is to reduce, eliminate and or control causal agents such as the growth of micro organisms, enzyme action, oxidation and or pests. Since most food spoilage takes place in the presence of moisture and at temperature between 20 to 55°C (68 to 131°F), foods should be stored in a manner to promote longevity.

There are three main ways of storing food:

1. Refrigerated storage for short term holding of perishable and potentially hazardous food items
2. Freezer storage for longer term items and

3. Dry storage for somewhat longer holdings of less perishable items.

REFRIGERATOR STORAGE

- Keep all perishable foods below 45°F (7.2°C)
- Do not overcrowd refrigerators. Leave space between items so that cold air can circulate.
- Keep refrigerator doors shut except when removing or putting in foods.
- Keep shelves and interiors of refrigerators clean
- If raw and cooked foods must be stored in the same refrigerator, keep cooked food above raw foods. If cooked foods are kept below raw foods, they can become contaminated by drips and spills from the raw foods.
- Keep refrigerated foods wrapped or covered and in sanitary containers
- Do not let any unsanitary sur-

face such as the bottoms of other containers touch any food.

- Chill foods as quickly as possible over ice or in a cold water bath before placing in the refrigerator.

FREEZER STORAGE

- Keep frozen foods at 0°F (18°C) or lower
- Keep all frozen foods tightly wrapped or packaged to prevent freezer burn
- Label and date all items; follow the rule, first in, first out
- Thaw frozen foods carefully using any of the following methods – refrigerator; placing in a microwave oven, if the item is to be cooked and served immediately. Do not thaw at room temperature, because the surface temperature will go above 45°F (7.2°C) before the inside is thawed, resulting in bacterial growth.

DRY STORAGE

- Practise the first in, first out method



PAUL CLEMETSON- 'Mr. Road Safety'

He speaks in very measured and quiet tones; hardly above a whisper in fact, but don't ever make the mistake of misinterpreting this stance for weakness.

Paul Clemetson is as formidable a personality one is likely to meet anywhere. Currently, he serves as Director of the Road Safety Unit, a position he has been holding since 1999. But it has not always been 'peaches and cream' for this native of Kingston. He speaks of a time during the '70's when according to him, "I had the challenges of working, studying and problems with my personal finances" "I got some heavy blows", he lamented.

We run ahead of the story however, let us re-wind to the beginning. Having seen the first light of day in the nation's capital, Paul later attended Calabar Primary School. His parents subsequently migrated, at which point he went to live with his grandmother in St. Ann. This move saw him attending the Discovery Bay and later, the Holmwood Technical High School in Manchester. The next stop on the academic ladder for him was the Vocational Training and Development Institute (VTDI) where he obtained a Certificate in Pedagogy. A Mechanical Engineering Certificate from CAST (now Utech) followed; that preceded a BSc. Degree in Management Studies from UWI. And with his constant thirst for learning, it should come as no surprise to learn that he is now in the final year of the MBA programme at UWI.

If you think that that is all there is to Paul Clemetson, however, you would be very wrong! Another important aspect of his existence involves his spiritual outlook. Says he, 'My spirituality is very important to me; it has become my mainstay and

this has enabled me to me to keep my head above water.' Currently, he serves as a senior elder at his church – the New Heaven Seventh-Day Adventist Church. As an extension of his spiritual convictions, Paul's eating habits also reflect his denomination's stance on diet. To this end, his preferred diet consists of nuts, grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables – in short he's a vegetarian.

Outside of his church family, this tall bespectacled gentleman has three brothers and two sisters while in terms of his own family, there is a wife and two adult children, both of whom were born on October 3, three years apart! Talk about perfect planning!

Those same planning skills have served him well in his over twenty-two years in the public service. He embarked on his public service career in 1982 at the then Ministry of Construction and Works. At that time, he started out as a Certifying Officer with the Island Traffic Authority (ITA). During his tenure at the ITA, he rose to the position of Chief Inspector – a feat he copped after only 5 years with the Authority.

Perhaps the environment with which Paul is most readily associated however, is that of road safety. He was part of the Unit when it was established in 1994 – then he worked as an Accident Analyst Statistician. After a stint with the Northern Jamaica Development Project (NJDP), he re-joined the Road Safety Unit in 1999, this time as the head honcho. He lists as one of his major achievements in this capacity, the implementation of the Protective Devices Legislation in 1999.

With such a colourful tenure in the public service so far, I sought to find out from him how he would sum up those years. As he assumed a reflective posture, he noted that it was "dynamic...it witnessed my upward mobility at a rate I would consider desirable." [Go to "Mr. Road Safety"- Page 4]

TRANSITIONS



Welcome Aboard

Christopher James
Carol Lee-Cunningham
Tanya Bedward
Shernette Sampson
Monifa Blake



Enjoy Your Vacation

Cuthbert Hyman
Ina Robinson
Lynette Walker
Natalie Fuller
Elvie Williams
DebbieEscoffery



Welcome Back

Janet Coleman-Howlett
Cecelia Wilson
Loraine McFarlane
Marlene Dowding-Bailey
Dawn Williams-Gordon
Yvonne Robinson
Katarina McGhie
Trudy-Ann Bucknor



Farewell and Best of Luck

Cynthia Haughton
Caroldene McLeggon
Henry Beecher
Oliver Fagan
Briant Fletcher
Norma Blake
Debbie Kerr-Scott
John Orr
Jennifer Craig
Ailene Creighton
Rhona Whyte
Carol Calnick-Simpson
Judith Brown
Joseph Burrell



CONGRATULATIONS

Appointment/Promotions

Jason McPherson
Michelle Brown
Melvin Young



Academic Achievements

Avalyn Solomon—Cert in Admin Mgt/2
Kamoy Douglas— Cert in Admin Mgt/1
Janine Dawkins-Exec. GIS Course
Angella Smith- " " "
Denis Miller- " " "

FEATURES OF THE PENSION ACT

How many times have you heard the comment, 'mi a save as much fi my ole age pension?' Often enough I'm sure, but what exactly is a pension?

A pension by definition is a system by which regular payments are made by the state to a person upon retirement from working. Here are some things to note concerning your pension:

- Contributions to the Civil Service Family Benefits Scheme (Pension) will be at the rate of 4% of salary or pension and will be payable for a period of 35 years or until the contributor attains the age of 65 years, whichever is first accomplished. Where, however a contributor completes 35 years of contributory service before his retirement from the public service, he may elect to continue contributions up to the date of retirement, providing he has not attained the age of 65 years.
- All Officers (male and female) appointed to a pensionable office in the service after December 30, 1977, will be required to contribute to the Scheme. Beneficiaries under the scheme will be the spouse and children of the contributors, whether they are born in or out of wedlock of pensionable age. Pensionable age in respect of a child means the age of 19 years or where the child is pursuing higher education, 23 years. If the child reaches 23 before the completion of the higher education, then the pension will cease at the completion of the course of study.
- Where a contributor leaves the Civil Service without a pension and at the date of leaving, the contributor had no dependents who would have qualified for a pension if he the contributor had died, the full amount of contributions paid by the Scheme will be refunded to the estate of the contributor.
- If the Contributor never at any time had any dependents under the Scheme, then upon retirement, the full amounts contributed will be refunded to the Contributor.

EDITORIAL



Almost sixteen years to the anniversary of hurricane 'Gilbert' another one, this time, its brother 'Ivan' almost pulverized Jamaica. And while there may be some parallels between the two natural disasters, there are also some interesting differences worth noting. In 1988 when Gilbert hit, citizens could have been grouped in three basic categories: those who wanted the system to hit since they had never experienced one; those who shrugged off the advisories thinking that as usual, the island would have been spared and so did not prepare; and those definitely in the minority who took the warnings seriously, prepared and did not get caught off-guard.

Based on lessons learnt from 'Gilbert', our death toll figure for 'Ivan', was restricted to seventeen while in 1988 when 'Gilbert' struck almost twice that number of deaths (45) was recorded. The category 3 'Gilbert' caused far more damage to the country's infrastructure with water and electricity taking months to restore compared to the mere days and weeks in some cases it has taken to have them restored for the 'Ivan' dispensation. Telephone service (at least fixed lines and at least one Company's cellular phones) was particularly outstanding as they were operational throughout the hurricane. Most schools have re-opened while that was not the case post 'Gilbert'.

For all those positives, we must pay a collective public tribute to the relevant parties/entities but sadly there are still some areas of concern. One such area has to do with the building of houses in areas not approved by the authorities. That must have contributed in a big way to so many structures destroyed during the passage of 'Ivan'. Hopefully, we will be able to get this one right eventually.

Experts will tell you that after any disaster, there are three phases – these being rescue, relief and re-construction. The rescue aspect as it related to hurricane 'Ivan' seems to have been fairly well executed but already there are rumblings that the relief and re-construction efforts are not being properly co-ordinated. In this respect, the Prime Minister must be commended for setting up the Office of Reconstruction as an umbrella entity to co-ordinate the restoration initiative. It may be worth considering keeping this Office as a permanent body since Jamaica is situated in a disaster prone area – it would have more than justified its existence in the aftermath of any disaster, if would-be victims are left satisfied. That will be the ultimate test.

Thought
May you have enough happiness to make you sweet; enough trials to make you strong; enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy

Mr. Road Safety [from Page 3]
'Who if anyone would you consider your role model?' was the next question we posed to this Cancerian. After a reflective moment or two, he stated matter of factly, 'Dr. Martin Luther King... for his moral turpitude and his advocacy for racial equality, rights and justice for all human beings'.

Notwithstanding the hectic life led by this devout Seventh-Day Adventist, he still finds time for his hobbies which he lists as

reading and being involved in social and community service.

It isn't surprising then to find Paul's personal philosophy is encapsulated in the maxim, 'Do good to all you can for as long as you can.' The Golden Rule also finds favour in terms of guidelines which govern his life.

Paul's cool and calm demeanour could almost suggest that he cannot be ruffled - but alas, he does have a pet peeve. Injustice and dishonesty strikes a raw nerve and he will tolerate it in no shape or form.

For his fellow Jamaican, he has some sober words of advice, 'remain focused, set realistic goals...associate with positive persons.'

Words well spoken – obviously he has taken his own advice!

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