

Mayor's Speech

Council Sitting, May 12, 2020

This administration of the Municipality of Kingston has no intention to derail its strategic vision to make Kingston the Pearl of the Antilles, the light of the Caribbean Sea. This administration will not bankrupt the municipality and render it useless. This administration will pursue the path to making Kingston a destination city, building its infrastructure and integrating culture and history into our spaces while generating employment, fostering business opportunities and enhancing commerce.

The Municipal projects go through a rigorous process from concept to implementation. The legacy projects of the municipality arise out of a process that include the administration. There is indeed a projects team that includes Planners, Engineers, other staff members and the CEO. All projects are conceptualized, critique, designed

and implemented with the input of the project team.

It is very clear that this administration is increasing expenditure on municipal capital projects. This is a direction that we have faith in. This is a direction that we believe will serve the interest of the residents and improve the infrastructure of the city's spaces. We need to create resilience, liveability and sustainability within the municipality, and this, demands strategic capital projects some on our own and others with various types of partnerships such as the Shoreline Protection project that is currently underway along the Kingston Harbour spearheaded by JSIF through a World Bank Grant. These are the projects that the municipality has to begin to take on in order to build resilience, sustainability and liveability within our city. The capital and legacy projects of this administration cannot be derailed.

This is so critical to this administration and to the municipality that we intend to engaged the Ministry of Finance in the setting up of a project Unit at the KSAMC.

For the first time in the modern era the municipality is nearing the completion of a strategic Plan that will be presented to Council for its consideration and input.

As I close let us again outline the projects that are ahead of us as legacy and meaningful projects:

- The completion of Louise Bennett-Coverley Square – honouring a legend in the building of our culture but also creating a potential tourism product to drive commerce into that space.
- The completion of Flag Circle. The current Revetment work taking place will include a boardwalk. This was a major request of the KSAMC when the project was being discussed in its concept stage. At the end of the works

the KSAMC will do additional works at Flag Circle to create an attractive space entering the Downtown of the City. The boardwalk and flag circle will enhance recreational spaces within the municipality which is important in improving the quality of life.

- We will complete the first phase of the Kingston Waterfront Project which will see improvement to the sidewalk, seawall and roadway. We are currently working closely with NWA as the Seawall is compromised in some sections and in need of repair. The Waterfront Transformation Project is of major interest to our residents as our residents seek spaces that offer entertainment and relaxation.
- The Kulture Kay project which will include the renovation of roadways and sidewalk improvement works and in some cases drainage improvement. Waterlane has already been repaired and repairs are to take place along Temple Lane and other streets.

This intended purpose is to create a space that offer a variety of recreational experiences while promoting our culture and our cultural history. This will be done in such away as to create business opportunities and generate employment.

- The North/South Parade Renovation Project to include sidewalk and road improvement works and the renovation of St William Grant Park. Again, integrating Culture, history, Tourism, recreation and commerce into city life. Expanding the City's economy and the quality of Life.
- The transformation of Beckford Street and Chapel Lane into specialized commercial spaces which would include sidewalk improvement and road improvement works. Other streets in the vicinity of the market will also be repaired to create a wonderful shopping experience.

- The Harbour View Travel Stop and Lawrence Tavern Square Renovation Projects. Both these projects will be Partnership projects.
- The Walk of Fame
- The municipality having completed the Airy Castle bridge will take steps to repair three bridges in rural St Andrew. One will be in Brandon Hill and the other in Lawrence Tavern. We have already commenced discussion with NWA in terms of technical and other support. These bridges will be done from the PRF allocation. The Airy Castle Bridge has shown us how critical it is to maintain our bridge infrastructure to protect our residents in rural communities across the municipality. These bridges will undoubtedly provide for the safe movement of women, men and children in many rural communities. This will become a feature of this administration budget spend or call on the PRF.
- The municipality will also take on as part of its infrastructural projects the rehabilitation of

roads within rural and urban communities.

The Burnside Road is one such project. This is a joint project with the NWC. The NWC financial Commitment is already with us. The Easton Douglas Drive is also another. This is a man who has served this country well and his legacy still serves to guide the municipality in its planning and urban management.

- This is a time that is special to us. This is a time that requires the municipal leadership not to be cavalier but to be prudent and fiscally responsible. We believe to date this administration has shown the fiscal prudence and responsibility that is critical to grow Kingston into a new Era. The light of the Caribbean and the Pearl of the Antilles.
- Covid- 19 has taught us a serious lesson in terms of being prepared and having the fiscal space to respond. It has shown us that our management of the city must take into consideration all factors. Our management of

the city cannot be narrow. It cannot focus on somethings and ignore others. Managing our spaces to militate against public health risk must become a major feature of our planning. The sanitizing and cleaning of high traffic public spaces must become a feature of the municipal expenditure. It's important for public health, recreation, commerce and aesthetics.

We will build a secured future in the city of Kingston. We will establish sure and immovable foundations. We will do this being fiscally responsible and prudent in our management of the resources.